

Archaeological monitoring at Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JF

March-April 2021



by **Laura Pooley**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton
figures by Laura Pooley and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Alec Wade

commissioned by **Kim Jesney**
on behalf of **The European Consortium for Political Research**

NGR: TM 01471 24651 (centre)

Planning ref.: 181964

CAT project ref.: 2019/08d

ECC code: ECC4365

OASIS ref.: colchest3-362103



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1733

November 2021

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	3
5	Results	3
6	Finds	11
7	Environmental assessment	13
8	Conclusion	14
9	Acknowledgements	15
10	References	15
11	Abbreviations and glossary	16
12	Contents of archive	17
13	Archive deposition	17
Appendix 1 Context list		18
Appendix 2 Pottery list		23
Appendix 3 CBM list		23

Figures after p23

CAT wsi
OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: Trench 3, looking north

Photograph 1	Nos 4-5 Hythe Quay (left) and nos 98-99 Hythe Hill (right), c 1897, kindly provided by local resident Mr Terry Lloyd.	2
Photograph 2	Trench 1 east-facing section, L1, L2, L3, F1 and F2, looking west	3
Photograph 3	Trench 2, brick plinth F3, looking east	4
Photograph 4	Trench 2, brick plinth F4, looking east	5
Photograph 5	Trench 2, brick plinth F5 with F6 and F7, looking south	5
Photograph 6	Trench 3, granite setts F9, cobbles F8 and brick border F10, looking east	6
Photograph 7	Trench 3 part excavated, including F8, F11, F12, F13, L6 and L7, looking west	7
Photograph 8	Trench 3 part excavated, including possible hearth F15, looking north	7
Photograph 9	Trench 3 part excavated, with cobbles L16, slot F18, and post-holes F19 and F20, looking north	8
Photograph 10	Trench 3 fully excavated, looking north	9
Photograph 11	Trench 4 fully excavated, showing wall F24 to far right, looking south-east	9
Photograph 12	Trench 5, looking south-west	10
Photograph 13	Trench 5 showing wall foundation F22, looking west	11
Table 1	Summary of the pottery and CBM	11
Table 2	Building material by period and type	12
Table 3	Quantities of CBM by features and layers	12
Table 4	Approximate dates for the ceramics from the individual contexts	12
Table 5	Small finds and miscellaneous finds listed by context	13
Table 6	Samples presented for assessment	13
Table 7	Plant macro-remains	14

Fig 1	Site location
Fig 2	Results. See Fig 3 for detailed plans of Trench 3.
Fig 3	Trench 3 results.
Fig 4	Sections
Fig 5	Sections

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out in the car park for Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for new walls and a gate. Located within the Hythe Conservation Area facing the River Colne, the development site is at the centre of the medieval port of Colchester. Harbour House is a Grade II listed building built c 1720, and the car park was previously the site of a 15th-century house of two tenements (nos 4-5 Hythe Quay) before the building was demolished in the early 20th century.

Monitoring revealed four brick plinths on the site of the 15th-century house, all four of which dated from the 18th to the 19th century and must therefore have been inserted into the earlier building. These plinths would have raised the wooden ground-plates of the timber-framed building off of the ground to stop them from rotting and effectively underpin the structure.

Also revealed was part of the 19th- to 20th-century pavement of Hythe Quay and an associated cobbled passageway leading from the road through to the rear of the property. Underneath the cobbles was evidence for at least three phases of earlier activity/occupation dating from the early 11th to early 13th century onwards. The earliest remains included a metalled surface along with a slot for an earlier ground-plate and post-holes. These remains were later sealed by a possible hearth and floor layers.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex from 2nd March to 7th April 2021. The work was commissioned by the Kim Jesney on behalf of the European Consortium for Political Research and took place during groundworks for new walls and a gate.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Investigation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2019).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background (Photograph 1)

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>)).

Harbour House is located within the Hythe Conservation Area facing the River Colne at the centre of the medieval port of Colchester. It is a Grade II listed building built c 1720 (NHLE no. 1123580; CHER MCC21, MCC3407). It has an early Georgian red brick frontage with some late 18th- to early 19th-century additions and alterations, but includes some early 17th-century panelling and an early 16th-century beam in the cellar. The development site is however specifically located within the car park to the north of Harbour House, formerly nos 4 & 5 Hythe

Quay. Before being demolished (c 1922-1941) the 15th-century house of two tenements was located here (MCC20). To the north of the car park nos 98 & 99 Hythe Hill are recorded as a 16th-century house of two tenements and a shop (MCC19), and are also Grade II listed (NHLE no. 1123576).



Photograph 1 Nos 4-5 Hythe Quay (left) and nos 98-99 Hythe Hill (right), c 1897, kindly provided by local resident Mr Terry Lloyd.

The Hythe has been the port for Colchester probably since the Norman period. The name derives from an Old English word for landing place, and the area was originally known as 'New Hythe'. This appears to be with reference to an earlier landing place at Old Heath (*Ealdehythe* – the old landing place), located closer to the mouth of the River Colne, which New Hythe superseded. The earliest reference to Old Heath, implying the existence of the New Hythe, is in 1272. The nearby Hythe parish church of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe (MCC24, MCC3402 & MCC9031) is referenced in 1237, and the earliest reference to the Hythe itself appears to date from 1276 (CAR 1, 47). There are numerous references to private quays, wharfs and warehouses from the 14th century onwards, and by 1823 the quays at the Hythe extended along both sides of the river (CAT Report 232, 21). Other historic buildings within close proximity to the site include the 15th-to-16th-century Queens Head Inn (MCC15), 97 Hythe Hill (MCC18 & MCC3398), a waterfront building opposite the current site (MCC36), site of a waterhouse (MCC22) and under the Neptune in is the site of a halled building (MCC23). 17th-18th-century buildings include 95-96 Hythe Hill (MCC3397) and 106 Hythe Hill (MCC3404).

There is also the possibility of a Roman quay or bridge close to this area, as a Roman road can be traced to within half a mile of the Hythe, from the direction of Mistley. The projected line of this road suggests a crossing point on the river close to the bottom of Hythe Hill.

Many of the archaeological investigations at the Hythe have been small and carried out on sites some way back from the present river frontage. These include 79 Hythe Hill (Brooks 2000) and the evaluation (ECC2627 and MCC2663-6; Shimmin 2004; CAT Report 36) and subsequent excavation (ECC2590; Benfield 2004; CAT Report 125) at 64-76 Hythe Hill.

Adjacent to the current site at 9-11 Hythe Quay, CAT excavated two 7m long evaluation trenches which revealed evidence of 15th- or 16th-century activity cutting Roman levels (CAT Report 100, MCC5310, MCC5311 & MCC5312). In 2006 CAT monitored four test-pits being

machine dug at 28 Hythe Quay (c 70m NNE; CHER MCC5461; CAT Report 388), next to the retaining quay wall. They were mostly dug through 18th- to 19th-century brick rubble which included some post-medieval pottery. There was no evidence of Roman or medieval activity but a large timber located at the base of one of the concrete structures is thought to have possibly have been part of an earlier quay.

At an evaluation undertaken in 2018 at Bridge House, Hythe Quay (c 80m N; CAT Report 1264), CAT excavated four medieval pits and a linear dating from the late 11th to the 13th/14th centuries. In addition, there was a late 12th- to 14th-century wall foundation of medium to large compacted stones, and a looser patch of compacted medium stones and chalk which may have represented a 15th- to 17th-century wall foundation, plinth or surface. These structural remains were likely associated with medieval activity at Hythe Quay.

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to identify and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-5)

5.1 Trench 1 (wall foundation trench) (Fig 2 and 4; Photograph 2)

Trench 1 was 1.5m long, 0.4m wide and 0.65m deep (Photograph 2). It cut a layer of tarmac on sand (L1) and levelling layers (L2 and L3). Brick drain F1 cut L2 at the northern end of the trench. Levelling layer L2 and drain F1 both sealed a large feature (F2) which had been cut into L3 and was recorded along most of the trench. Too little of F2 was uncovered/excavated to determine what it was.



Photograph 2 Trench 1, east-facing section, L1, L2, L3, F1 and F2, looking west

5.2 Trench 2 (wall foundation trench) (Fig 2 and 4; Photographs 3-5)

Trench 2 was 8.12m long, 0.4m-0.55m wide and 0.6m deep. It cut through tarmac (L1) and levelling layers beneath (not numbered, up to 0.2m thick) into a thick deposit of silty-clay (L4) which extended beyond the base of the trench. Four brick plinths (F3, F4, F5 and F6) had been cut into L4, each made of courses of brick set in a soft sandy yellow mortar. Brick plinths F3, F4 and F5 were aligned NNW/SSE (Photographs 3-5) and were recorded for a depth of five/six courses of brick (0.35-0.50m deep). Plinth F3 was 1.4m long, F4 was 2.3m long and F5 2.6m long. The full width of the plinths could not be established within the limits of the trench. At the southern end of the trench, brick plinth F7 was at a right angle to F3, F4 and F5, on a ENE/WSW alignment (Photograph 5).

There is little doubt that brick plinths F3, F4, F5 and F7 are part of the remains of 4-5 Hythe Quay, the 15th-century building which was demolished in the early 20th century. However, brick samples taken from F3, F4 and F5 all dated from the 18th to the 19th century. The most-likely explanation is that the plinths were inserted underneath the 15th-century timber-framed building to raise the wooden ground-plate of the timber-frame off of the ground to stop them from rotting and underpin the building. The structural remains butt against nos. 98-99 Hythe Hill to the north, and extend for 8.7m along the street frontage.

Abutting F7 was slightly later wall F6, probably dating to the 19th/20th century.



Photograph 3 Trench 2, brick plinth F3, looking east



Photograph 4 Trench 2, brick plinth F4, looking east



Photograph 5 Trench 2, brick plinth F5 with F6 and F7, looking south

5.3 Trench 3 (soakaway) (Fig 2, 3 and 4; Photographs 6-10)

An area approximately 9.5 square meters was stripped of tarmac (L1) (Photograph 6). This uncovered a layer of granite setts (F9) from the pavement of the historic street frontage. Immediately behind was a layer of cobbles (F8) set within a border of yellow bricks (F10 and F24) which date from the 19th to the 20th century. The far left-hand edge of Photograph 1 shows that the cobbles are likely part of a passageway leading from the road through to the rear of the properties. All these layers were stripped out to allow for resurfacing at the front of the site and for the continued excavation of Trench 3.



Photograph 6 Trench 3, granite setts F9, cobbles F8 and brick border F10, looking east

A small area within Trench 3, 2m long by 1.4m wide, was excavated to a depth of 1.2m for a new soakaway. Service trench F12 cut across the trench from east to west (and cut cobbles F8 which had been subsequently reinstated) through to natural. Service trench F11 (probably associated with brick drain F1 in Trench 1) was also located on the far southern edge of the soakaway.

Cobbles F8 sealed levelling layer L24, which itself sealed cut feature F16 aligned ENE/WSW across the northern edge of the soakaway. Too little of F16 was revealed to determine what it was but it did include a band of pale yellow mortar (L15) in the backfill.

The rest of the soakaway was cut through numerous layers of sandy-silt, silty-clay, clay, charcoal, mortar and fired clay, many of which were difficult to interpret. These were layers L6-L11, L14, L18-L23 and L25-L35 (see section on Fig 4; Photographs 7-10). Of these: L6, L7 and L14 are possible floors; L8, L9 and L11 are possible levelling layers; and L10 may be an occupation layer or area of trample.



Photograph 7 Trench 3 part excavated, including F8, F11, F12, F13, L6 and L7, looking west



Photograph 8 Trench 3 part excavated, including possible hearth F15, looking north

Cut into these layers were post-holes F13, F14, F19 and F20, possible hearth F15, irregular cut or depression F17, and a slot for a burnt-out timber ground-plate F18 (0.2m wide by 0.14-0.18m deep). Possible hearth F15 and possible floor/occupation layers L6, L7, L10 and L14 are likely to be broadly contemporary (identified c 0.65m below current ground level) (Photograph 8). Even earlier are post-holes F19 and F20, slot F18 and metalled surface L16 which had been laid on natural (L13/L17) (0.8m below current ground level) (Photograph 9). Together these features represent at least two earlier phases of occupation on the site.

Medieval pottery (early 11th to early 13th century) was recovered from the earliest of these deposits, metalled surface L16/F21, with pottery dated c AD 1200-1550 also recovered from the backfill of slot F18.



Photograph 9 Trench 3 part excavated, with cobbles L16, slot F18, and post-holes F19 and F20, looking north



Photograph 10 Trench 3 fully excavated, looking north



Photograph 11 Trench 4 fully excavated, showing wall F24 to far right, looking south-east

5.3 Trench 4 (cantilever pit) (Fig 2 and 5; Photograph 11)

Trench 4 was 2.4m long by 1.2m wide and 0.4-0.65m deep. It was excavated through tarmac L1 which revealed a strip of yellow frogged bricks (F24), one course deep, along the far southern edge. This could be the same brick border recorded in Trench 3 (F10). However, this border is located too far to the north, which would mean that the passageway extended into 4-5 Hythe Quay, and is therefore likely to be a separate feature.

Trench 4 also cut through levelling layer L38, a layer of concrete, levelling layers L36 and L37, and into L4 (also recorded in Trench 2). Service trench F25 was ran through the centre of the trench, and pit F23 and cut feature F26 were also present.

5.4 Trench 5 (service trench) (Fig 2 and 5; Photographs 12-13)

Trench 5 was 5.1m long by 0.35m wide and 0.3m deep (Photograph 12), and cut through tarmac L1 on a bedding layer of orange sand, cobbles L39 and levelling layer L40. A small section of another brick wall foundation, F22, was exposed as the western end of the trench, butting the north-east corner of Harbour House (Photograph 13). Four courses of unfrogged red brick (18th-19th century) were set in a cream-coloured sandy mortar, and the wall was aligned roughly NNE/SSW (in line with Harbour House). A short length of wall may be visible in this location, joining the NE corner of Harbour House, in a photo from the “Britain from the air” website dated 1950 (www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW032321), and may originally have been part of a boundary wall.



Photograph 12 Trench 5, looking south-west



Photograph 13 Trench 5 showing wall foundation F22, looking west

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Monitoring uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) from 13 contexts. Nine pottery sherds (46g) were recovered along with 25 pieces of CBM (Table 1). The mean sherd weight for the CBM is high (at 507g) due to the presence of several complete bricks in the assemblage.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
Pottery	9	46	5	0.00
CBM	25	12,671	507	-
All	34	12,717	374	0.00

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM

Pottery

Residual Roman pottery consisted of one sherd (4g) of BB1 black-burnished ware, category 1 (fabric GA) from L8 and two sherds (2g) of locally-produced grey ware pottery (fabric GX) from F18 (CAR 10).

Four sherds (37g) of early medieval sandy ware (fabric F13) and early medieval sandy ware transitional (fabric F13T) came from F15, F18, F21 and L9, and date from the early 11th to early 13th century (CAR 7). Two sherds (3g) of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) dating to c AD 1200-1550 also came from F18.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Twenty-five pieces of CBM weighing 12,671g (Table 2) came from nine features (Table 3). Most of the CBM was unfrosted bricks, including three complete examples from F3 (220mm x 110mm x 60mm), F4 (230mm x 105mm x 53mm) and F5 (220mm x 110mm x 60mm) dating to the 18th-19th century. A floor brick in a dense yellow coloured fabric (150mm x 62mm x 35mm) also came from F10, with two fragments of residual or reused Roman brick (1,008g) from F18 and F20.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW
<i>Roman</i>				
RB	Roman brick	2	1,008	504
<i>Post-Roman</i>				
PT	Peg-tile	3	505	168
BR	Brick	6	10,452	1,742
FT	Floor tile	1	597	597
<i>Undated</i>				
	Baked clay	13	109	8
Total		25	12,671	507

Table 2 Building material by period and type

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Brick drain	1	1,811	1,811
F3	Brick plinth/wall	1	2,504	2,504
F4	Brick plinth/wall	1	2,256	2,256
F5	Brick plinth/wall	1	2,466	2,466
F10	Boarder of bricks around cobbled surface F8	1	597	597
F13	Post-hole	3	505	168
F18	Beam slot	14	1,001	72
F20	Post-hole	1	116	116
F22	Wall foundation	2	1,415	708
Total		25	12,671	507

Table 3 Quantities of CBM by features and layers

Conclusion

Table 4 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which produced dateable ceramic finds. The majority of features are modern dating from the 18th-19th/20th century.

Context	Feature type	Roman	Post-Roman	CBM	Overall spot date
F1	Brick drain	-	-	Brick	18th-19th century
F3	Brick plinth/wall	-	-	Brick unfrosted	18th-19th century
F4	Brick plinth/wall	-	-	Brick unfrosted	18th-19th century
F5	Brick plinth/wall	-	-	Brick unfrosted	18th-19th century
F10	Boarder of bricks around cobbled surface F8	-	-	Floor tile	19th-20th century
F13	Post-hole	-	-	Peg-tile	Medieval/post-medieval
F15	?Hearth	-	F13	-	Medieval, early 11th-early 13th century
F18	Beam slot	GX	F13, F21	Roman brick	Medieval, c AD 1200-1550
F20	Post-hole	-	-	Roman brick	-
F21	Part of L16	-	F13	-	Medieval, early 11th-early 13th century

Context	Feature type	Roman	Post-Roman	CBM	Overall spot date
F22	Wall foundation	-	-	Brick unfrogged	18th-19th century
L8	Levelling/ patching	GA	-	-	-
L9	Levelling	-	F13T	-	Medieval, early 11th-early 13th century

Table 4 Approximate dates for the ceramics from the individual contexts

6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

A late 19th- or early 20th-century penny came from L4 along with a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem. An incomplete iron nail was also recovered from L10 and a large fragment of limestone slab came from L16. From hearth F15 was a fragment of slightly burnt sandstone pebble and a fragment of limestone.

Context	Finds no.	Description
L4	3	Coin: Copper-alloy penny, in very poor condition and completely illegible. Size suggests it is a penny of either Victoria (later issues, 1860s onwards) or Edward VII, c 1860-1910. 31.5mm diameter, 10.2g.
	13	Clay tobacco pipe: stem fragment, 1.7g, post-medieval.
L10	10	Iron nail: Incomplete iron nails with lower shank missing. Square-sectioned shank, flat round head, 19.7g, undated.
L16	15	Stone: Large fragment of limestone slab, all edges broken, 230mm by 116mm by 38mm thick, 1.98kg.
F15	8	Stone: Fragment of sandstone pebble, slightly burnt pink around part of one edge, 267.6g; fragment of limestone with traces of mortar on two edges, 850.5g.

Table 5 Small finds and miscellaneous finds listed by context

7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray, Archaeobotanist

Three samples (Table 6) were taken during monitoring. Sample 2 produced no environmental remains after processing, so only samples 1 and 3 were sent for assessment.

Sample	Feature No.	Feature Type	Sampling notes	Provisional date	Sample Volume (L.)
1	F15	Hearth	-	Post-medieval/early modern	10
2	L10	Occupation layer/trample	VOID – produced no environmental remains	Post-medieval	10
3	F18	Burnt out beam slot or gully	-	Post-medieval	10

Table 6 Samples presented for assessment

Sampling and processing methods

Samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 45x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once, and the common names used thereafter.

At this stage, to allow comparison between samples, numbers have also been estimated but where only a low number of items are present, they have been counted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been separate from charred wood flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Charred wood flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

Results (Table 7)

Quality and type of preservation

The sample from post-medieval occupation layer/trample L10 (sample 2) produced no environmental remains. For the remaining two samples the plant remains were preserved by charring. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman & Jones 1990, 2; Campbell *et al.* 2011, 17). There was no evidence of waterlogging or mineralisation. One uncharred anaerobically preserved elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.) endocarp was found in the samples from post-medieval burnt-out beam slot F18 (sample 3).

Bioturbation and contamination

No evidence of faunal or floral bioturbation was evident and at the time of writing the author is not aware of any contamination issues.

The plant remains

Charcoal fragments were the dominant plant macro-remains in these samples. Fragments of charcoal of identifiable size were found in both flots. Grains of oat (*Avena* sp.) and bread/club/riquet wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*) were found in low numbers in hearth F15 (sample 1) and moderate numbers in the sample from burnt-out beam slot F18 (sample 3).

Sample	Feature No.	Feature type	Sample volume (Litres)	Flot volume (Litres)	CPR – Grains	CPR – Seeds	CPR – Charcoal flecks <4mm Ø	CPR – Identifiable charcoal > 4mm Ø	UPR – Seeds	Additional information
1	F15	Hearth	10	0.002	1	-	3	1	-	CPR – 4 oat grains, UPR – 1 elderberry seed
3	F18	Beam slot	10	0.015	2	1	3	2	1	CPR – free-threshing type wheat and oat grains, 1 thistle seed

Table 7 Plant macro-remains

Key: Abundance 1 = 1-10, 2 = 11-100, 3 = >100, CPR = charred plant remains, UPR: uncharred/dried waterlogged plant remains

8 Conclusion

Monitoring on land to the north of Harbour House revealed the remains of nos. 4-5 Hythe Quay, a 15th-century timber-framed building demolished in the early 20th century. These remains are unusual though, as they consisted on four brick plinths dating from the 18th to the 19th century.

These plinths were probably inserted underneath the timber-framed building to raise the ground-plate of the timber-frame off of the ground to stop it from rotting and to underpin/consolidate the structure.

Photograph 1 from c 1897 shows a passageway to the south of this building, leading from the road through to what was probably a rear yard. Granite setts F9 represent part of the historic pavement for Hythe Quay with cobbles F8 (with brick border F10) forming the passageway.

To the south of the passageway was a gap of c 3.2m before the front garden of Harbour House. The only features present in this area were an 18th- to 19th-century brick wall foundation abutting the north-east corner of Harbour House, and a cut feature along the street frontage. Several aerial photographs of the area (on the Britain from Above website), taken in the 1950s show a short stretch of brick wall leading into the site from the north-east corner of Harbour House. It was possibly originally part of a boundary wall.

Underneath the cobbles of the passageway was evidence for at least two phases of earlier occupation. Producing pottery dating from the early 11th to early 13th century, the earliest remains were a metallised surface which was likely contemporary with a slot for a burnt-out wooden ground-plate and two post-holes. The backfill of the slot produced pottery dating to c AD 1200-1550. Overlaying these remains was a possible hearth and floor layers, presumably of later medieval or early post-medieval date.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Kim Jesney and the European Consortium for Political Research for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by A Wade. Figures were prepared by A Wade, L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Dr Richard Hoggett and Dr Simon Wood.

10 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|---|
| Asouti, E | 2006 | 'Factors affecting the formation of an archaeological wood charcoal assemblage.' Retrieved on 13th February 2015 from World Wide Web: http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~easouti/methodology_application.htm |
| Beijerinck, W | 1947 | <i>Zadenatlas der Nederlandsche Flora</i> . Veenman and Zonen, Wageningen. |
| Benfield, S | 2004 | 'An archaeological excavation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester, in 1999', <i>Journal of the Colchester Archaeological Trust</i> 2 , 34-59. |
| Boardman, S & Jones, G | 1990 | 'Experiments on the effect of charring on cereal plant components', <i>Journal of Archaeological Science</i> 17 , 1-11. |
| Brooks, H | 2000 | 'Excavations at 79 Hythe Hill, Colchester, Essex, 1994-95', <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 31 , 112-24. |
| Campbell, G, Moffett, L & Straker, V | 2011 | <i>Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)</i> . Portsmouth: English Heritage. |
| Cappers, RJT, Bekker, RM & Jans, JEA | 2006 | <i>Digital Zadenatlas Van Nederlands - Digital Seeds Atlas of the Netherlands</i> . Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4. Groningen: Barkhius Publishing, Groningen. |
| CAR 1 | 1981 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 1: Aspects of Anglo-Saxon and Norman Colchester</i> , by P Crummy, CBA Research Report 39 . |
| CAR 7 | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J P Cotter. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAR 10 | 1999 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds & S Wade. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAT | 2019 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at the European Consortium for Political Research, Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, C02 8JF</i> , by E Holloway |
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |

CAT Report 36	1999	<i>An Archaeological evaluation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester: October 1999</i> , by D Shimmin
CAT Report 125	2001	<i>An Archaeological excavation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester: 1999</i> , by S Benfield
CAT Report 100	2000	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 9-11 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex: October 2000</i> , by H Brooks & C Crossan
CAT Report 232	2003	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains in and around the site of the proposed Colne barrage, Colchester, Essex – June 2003</i> , by M McDonald & P Crummy
CAT Report 388	2006	<i>Archaeological watching brief at 28 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex: August 2006</i> , by C Lister
CAT Report 1264	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex – April 2018</i> , by L Pooley
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, CO2 8JF</i> , by J Tipper
Charles, M	1984	'Introductory remarks on the cereals', <i>Bulletin on Sumerian Agriculture</i> 1 , 17-31.
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Revised June 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated October 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised October 2019
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Jacomet, S	2006	<i>Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites – second edition</i> . Basel: Basel University Archaeobotany Lab IPAS.
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.
Shimmin, D	2004	An archaeological evaluation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester, in 1999', <i>Journal of the Colchester Archaeological Trust</i> 2 , 58-61.
Smart, TL & Hoffman, ES	1988	'Environmental interpretation of archaeological charcoal', in Hastorf, CA & Popper, VS, <i>Current Palaeobotany</i> Chicago and London. University of Chicago Press.
Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles</i> , 3rd edition, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	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	O nline A cces S to the Index of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1773)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (context sheets, plans, sections)

Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1669)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

13 Archive deposition

The 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 reference number ECC4365.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2021

Distribution list

Kim Jesney, European Consortium for Political Research

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 25/11/2021

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Tarmac	Trench 1 & 2 Tarmac car park on bed of coarse orange sand. Cut by a modern service trench, seals F1 and L2. F8, F9, F10 and F25.	Modern
L2	-	Levelling layer	Trench 1. Multiple levelling layers of moist orange/grey/brown silty-sand. Sealed by L1, cut by a modern service trench and F1, seals L3 and F2.	Post-medieval
L3	-	Levelling layer	Trench 1. Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, brick, tile and chalk. Not fully excavated. Sealed by L2, cut by a modern service trench and F2.	Post-medieval
L4	3, 13	Silty-clay layer	Trench 2 & 4 Soft, moist, dark grey/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal, brick/tile, mortar, and 1% stone. Rare fragments of animal bone and peg-tile were not retained. Sealed by L1, surrounds F3, F4, F5, F6 and F7.	Post-medieval
L5	-	Part of L4	Probably part of L4 (see above)	Post-medieval
L6	-	Possible clay floor	Trench 3. Firm, moist, medium orange/brown clay with rare chalk inclusions. Sealed by L26 and L27, cut by F13, seals L7.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L7	-	Lime layer/ chalk surface	Trench 3. Soft, moist light white lime or chalk. A compacted horizontal layer of crushed soft lime/chalk with rare oyster shell. Sealed by L6, cut by F12, seals L8, L14 and F17.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L8	7	Levelling/ patching	Trench 3. Soft, moist, medium orange/grey/brown sandy-silty clay with common chalk flecks and 1% stone. Sealed by L7, cut by F14, seals L9, F15 (possible levelling or filling in of depression), F17	Medieval/ post-medieval
L9	9	Levelling	Trench 3. Soft, moist, medium orange/brown/grey sandy-silty clay with rare charcoal flecks. Sealed by L8, cut by F12, F15, F16 and F17, seals L10 and L11.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L10	10 <2>	Occupation layer / trample	Trench 3. Soft, moist, dark grey silty-clay with common charcoal flecks and occasional oyster shell. Sealed by L9, cut by F12 and F17, seals L11.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L11	-	Levelling	Trench 3. Friable, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with rare charcoal flecks and occasional to common oyster shell. Sealed by L9 and L10, cut by F12 and F17, seals L12, L16, L17, F18 and ?F21.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L12	-	Band of silt / charcoal	Trench 3. Moist, dark grey/black silty with common charcoal. Sealed by L11, seals L17, possibly upper part of F18.	Medieval
L13	-	Natural river deposit	Trench 3 (same as L17) Soft, moist, medium brown silty-clay. Sealed by L16, L17, cut by F12, F18 and F21.	Natural

L14	-	?Floor	Trench 3. Firm, dry orange/brown clay. 0.08m thick. Sealed by L7, cut by F12, seals L35	Medieval/ post-medieval
L15	-	Fill of F16	Trench 3. Strip of pale yellow mortar.	Post-medieval
L16	15	Metalled surface	Trench 3. Crude metalled surface of common to frequent large angular and rounded pebbles up to 0.12mm in size, set in a matrix of medium-dark grey/brown silty-clay with pockets of yellowish/brown plastic clay. Sealed by L11, cut by F12, F16 and F18, seals F21.	Medieval
L17	-	Natural river deposit	Trench 3 (same as L13). Sealed by L12, cut by F18.	Natural
L18	-	Mortar layer	Trench 3. Yellowish mortar layer. Within L23.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L19	-	Silty-clay layer	Trench 3. Brown silty-clay. Sealed by L23, cut by F12 and F16, seals L20.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L20	-	Silty-clay layer	Trench 3. Grey silty-clay with charcoal. Sealed by L19, cut by F12 and F16, seals L21	Medieval/ post-medieval
L21	-	Silty-clay layer	Trench 3. Mid brown silty-clay. Sealed by L20, cut by F12 and F16, seals L22 and F19.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L22	-	Silty-clay layer	Trench 3. Mixed dark grey silty-clay and mid brown silty-clay. Sealed by L21, cut by F12 and F19, seals L9.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L23	-	Silty-clay layer	Trench 3. Mixed mid-dark brownish grey silty-clay with brick rubble. Sealed by F9, cut by F12 and F16, seals L19.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L24	-	Levelling for F8	Trench 3. Firm, dry, light brown sandy-silt with frequent brick and chalk inclusions. Sealed by F8, seals F16.	Post-medieval
L25	-	Mortar	Trench 3. Pale brownish-orange mortar with occasional brick rubble. Sealed by L24, cut by F12 and F16, seals L26.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L26	-	Sandy-silt layer	Trench 3. Mid/pale brownish-grey hard sandy-silt with frequent pale grey/white mortar flecks. Sealed by L25, cut by F12 and F16, seals L6 and L27.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L27	-	Sandy-silt layer	Trench 3 Mixed pale/mid yellowish-brown sandy-silty clay with pale off-white mortar fragments. Sealed by L26 and F16, seals L9 and F17.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L28	-	Silty-clay layer	Trench 3. Dark grey silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Sealed by F11, cut by F12, seals L7.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L29	-	Clay layer	Trench 3. Orange/brown clay. Cut by F12, seals L30.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L30		Silty-clay layer	Trench 3. Mixed mid yellowish-grey silty-clay with very occasional small stones and charcoal.	Medieval/ post-medieval

			Sealed by L29, cut by F12, seals L31.	
L31		Charcoal layer	Trench 3. Thin band of charcoal. Sealed by L30, cut by F12, seals L32.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L32		Fired clay	Trench 3. Reddish orange fired clay. Sealed by L31, cut by F12, seals L33.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L33		Silty-clay layer	Trench 3. Thin band of dark grey silty-clay with occasional charcoal fragments. Sealed by L32, cut by F12, seals L13.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L34		Clay layer	Trench 3. Pale grey plastic clay. Sealed by L35, seals L33	Medieval/ post-medieval
L35		Silty-clay layer	Trench 3. Mixed dark grey and mid orange brown silty-clay with occasional chalk fragments and very occasional charcoal. Sealed by L14, cut by F12, seals L33 and L34.	Medieval/ post-medieval
L36		?Levelling layer	Trench 4. Very soft dark brownish-black silt with decayed wood. Sealed by concrete, cut by F26, seals L37 and F23.	Post-medieval
L37		?Levelling layer for concrete above	Trench 4. Dark brownish grey sandy-silty clay with frequent small- to medium-sized CBM fragments including peg-tile. Sealed by L36, cut by F23 and F25, seals L4.	Modern
L38		Silt layer	Trench 4. Hard mid grey mortar and brown/grey silt. Sealed by L1, cut by F25, seals a layer of concrete.	Modern
L39		Cobbled surface	Trench 5. Medium-sized rounded pebbles in a dark grey sandy-silt. Sealed by L1, seals L40.	Post-medieval/ modern
L40		Levelling layer	Trench 5. Soft, moist dark grey sandy-silt with occasional brick inclusions. Over 0.2m thick. Sealed by L39	Post-medieval/ modern
F1	1	Brick drain	Trench 1. Damaged brick drain, 0.2m deep, aligned east/west at the northern end of the trench. It projects approximately 0.17m into the trench. Built of brick fragments of at least ½ brick size and curved/arched bricks. Sealed by L1, cuts L3, seals L3 and F2.	Post-medieval
F2	-	Cut feature	Trench 1. Friable, moist, dark grey/brown silty-clay with brick/tile inclusions and 1% stone. Sealed by L2 and F1, cut by a modern service trench, cuts L3.	Undated
F3	2	Brick plinth	Trench 2. A large, very solid pad of bricks. Six courses of brickwork were visible, bonded in a soft sandy yellowish mortar. Sealed by L1 and unnumbered levelling layers, surrounded by L4, contemporary with F4 and F5.	18th-19th century
F4	4	Brick plinth	Trench 2. Large brick structure. Above the course of brickwork in the base of the trench were another seven courses bonded with yellowish/cream sandy mortar with chalk inclusions.	18th-19th century

			Sealed by L1 and unnumbered levelling layers, surrounded by L4, contemporary with F4, F5 and F7.	
F5	5	Brick plinth	Trench 2. Large brick structure. Above the course of brickwork in the base of the trench were another six courses bonded with yellowish/cream sandy mortar with chalk inclusions. Sealed by L1 and unnumbered levelling layers, surrounded by L4, contemporary with F4, F5 and F7.	18th-19th century
F6	-	Brickwork	Trench 2. Two courses of modern looking brickwork set in a hard grey mortar. Appears to be bonded onto the top of F5. Sealed by L1, seals F5.	Modern
F7	-	Brick plinth	Trench 2. Two courses of brickwork set at right angle to F5 and running west beyond the trench. Possibly a wall return. Sealed by L1 and unnumbered levelling layers, surrounded by L4, contemporary with F4, F5 and F7.	18th-19th century
F8	-	Cobbled surface	Trench 3. Single layer of large rounded pebbles set in a matrix of blackish-brown sandy-silt. Some areas have been filled in/levelled up with tarmac suggesting the surface was in use until quite recently. The southern edge of the surface had been lined with yellow bricks (F10). Sealed by L1, cut by F11 and F12 (but then reinstated), contemporary with F9 and F10, seals L24.	19th-20th century
F9	-	Granite setts	Trench 3. Surface (15 blocks long by 10 blocks wide) made from a single layer of granite blocks (200mm long, 100mm wide, 90mm thick) fronting onto the street. Commonly seen in Colchester. Sealed by L1, contemporary with F8 and F10, seals L23 and L24.	19th-20th century
F10	16	Boarder for F8	Trench 3. Boarder of yellow bricks set on edge on southern side of F8. Sealed by L1, cut by F11, contemporary with F8 and F9, seals ?F12	19th-20th century
F11	-	Service trench	Trench 3. Cut for a water pipe (not excavated) – hard, dry, medium to dark orange/grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional to frequent brick inclusions. Sealed by L1, cuts F10 and F12.	Modern
F12	-	Service trench	Trench 3. Cut for sewer – firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silty clay with frequent brick and occasional tile. Sealed by L1, cut and sealed by F8 (cut through F8 but then F8 was reinstated above it), cuts everything.	Modern
F13	6	Post-hole	Trench 3. Loose, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silt with common tile fragments. Sealed by L27, cuts F17.	Post-medieval/ modern
F14	-	Post-hole	Trench 3. Soft, moist, medium green/grey/brown sandy-silt. Sealed by L7, cuts L8.	Post-medieval/ modern
F15	8 <1>	Possible hearth	Trench 3 Firm, hard, dry, medium to dark orange/red/black/brown silty-clay with occasional to frequent charcoal flecks. Sealed by L8, cut by L12, L14 and F17, seals L9.	Post-medieval/ modern

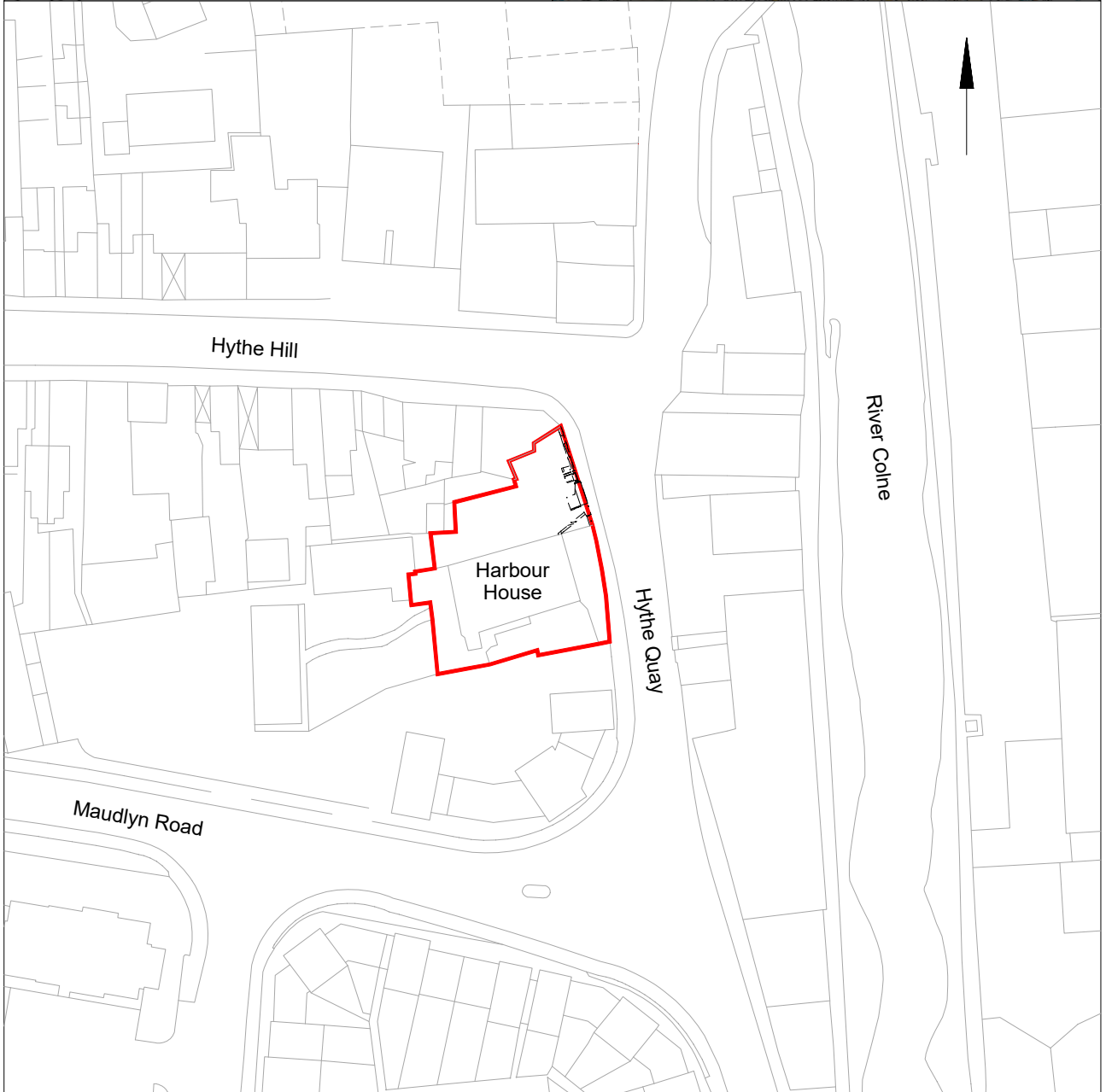
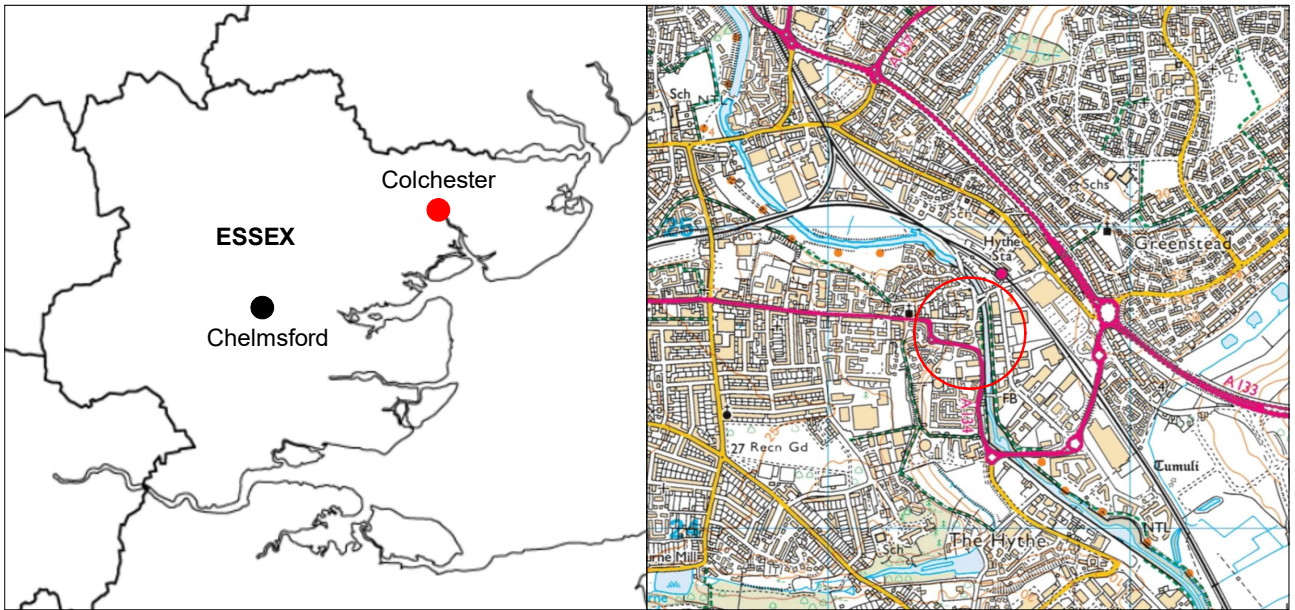
F16	-	Unidentified cut feature	Trench 3. Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with occasional brick and tile inclusions. Sealed by L24, cuts L9, L16, L19, L20, L21, L22, L23, L25, L26, L27 and F19	Post-medieval/ modern
F17	-	Cut/depression	Trench 3. Soft, moist, medium to dark orange/grey/brown sandy-silty clay with some chalk flecks. Sealed by L8 and L27, cuts F9, L10 and L11.	Post-medieval/ modern
F18	12 <3>	Slot for burnt-out ground-plate	Trench 3. Soft moist, medium to dark grey/ brown/black silty-clay with frequent charcoal	Medieval
F19	-	Post-hole	Trench 3. Soft, moist, medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay. Sealed by L21, cuts L9 and L22.	Medieval
F20	11	Post-hole	Trench 3. Soft, moist, dark orange/grey silty-clay, 10% stone. Sealed by L11, cuts L16.	Medieval
F21	14	Part of L16	Trench 3. Firm, moist, dark grey/brown silty-clay containing flecks of daub/fired clay and frequent charcoal.	Medieval
F22	17	Wall foundation	Trench 5. Four courses of unfrogged brick (110mm wide and 65mm deep) bonded with a cream coloured sandy powdery mortar. Sealed by L1.	18th-19th century
F23	-	Pit	Trench 4. Loose, dry, grey/brown silty-clay with 80% brick/tile. Vertical sided and packed with broken unfrogged red brick fragments. Sealed by L36, cuts L4 and L37.	Post-medieval
F24	-	Brick course	Trench 4. Yellow bricks set on edge of F8. Sealed by L1, seals a layer of orange sand which sits above ?L4.	19th-20th century
F25	-	Service trench	Trench 4. Firm, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silty clay. Sealed by L1, cuts everything.	Modern
F26	-	Cut feature	Trench 4. Firm, dry, medium to dark yellow/grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional charcoal, brick and chalk. Sealed by L1 and L38, cut by F25, cuts L4.	Modern

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Sample no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wind	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Residue	Resin Lin.	Gritted	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	Vessel function	EVE	Diam.	Vessel H.	Comments	Date
F15	Hearth		1	1	11	11	X										X													F13							11TH-EARLY 13TH CENTURY	
F18	Slot	12		1	18	18	X	0	0	1							X													F13							11TH-EARLY 13TH CENTURY	
F18	Slot		3	2	3	2	X																							F21							c.AD 1200-1550	
F18	Slot		3	2	2	1	X																							GX							ROMAN	
F21	Part of L16	14		1	2	2	X																							F13							11TH-EARLY 13TH CENTURY	
L8	Levelling/ patching	7		1	4	4	X								X															GA							AD 110/125-350/400	
L9	Levelling	9		1	6	6	X								X															F13T							EARLY 12TH-EARLY 13TH CENTURY	

Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Sample no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL CORN.	MINI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. Vt.	Rect. Vt.	Bl. vt.	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phs	Blind	L	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date
F1	Brick drain	1		1	1811	1811	X	BR			0																																ORANGE, CURVED HOLE 160 MM DIAM	20TH CENTURY
F3	Brick plinth	2		1	2504	2504	X	BR	UN-FROGGED		0																							220	105	60	X						BROWN	18TH-19TH CENTURY
F4	Brick plinth	4		1	2256	2256	X	BR	UN-FROGGED		0																							230	105	53	X		X				PURPLE	17TH-18TH CENTURY
F5	Brick plinth	5		1	2466	2466	X	BR	UN-FROGGED		0																							220	110	60	X						ORANGE	18TH-19TH CENTURY
F10	Brick boarder	16		1	597	597	X	Floor tile			0																						150	62	35							YELLOW, DENSE	19TH-20TH CENTURY	
F13	Post-hole	6		3	505	168	X	PT			0																															MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL		
F18	Slot	12		1	892	892	X	RB			0																															ROMAN		
F18	Slot		3	13	109	8	X	Baked clay			0																																?	
F20	Post-hole	11		1	116	116	X	RB			0																																ROMAN	
F22	Wall foundation	17		2	1415	708	X	BR	UN-FROGGED		0																							?	107	65	X						RED/OR SANDY	18TH-19TH CENTURY
F22	Wall foundation	17					X	BR	UN-FROGGED		0																							?	109	65							PURPLE	18TH-19TH CENTURY



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

Fig 1 Site location.



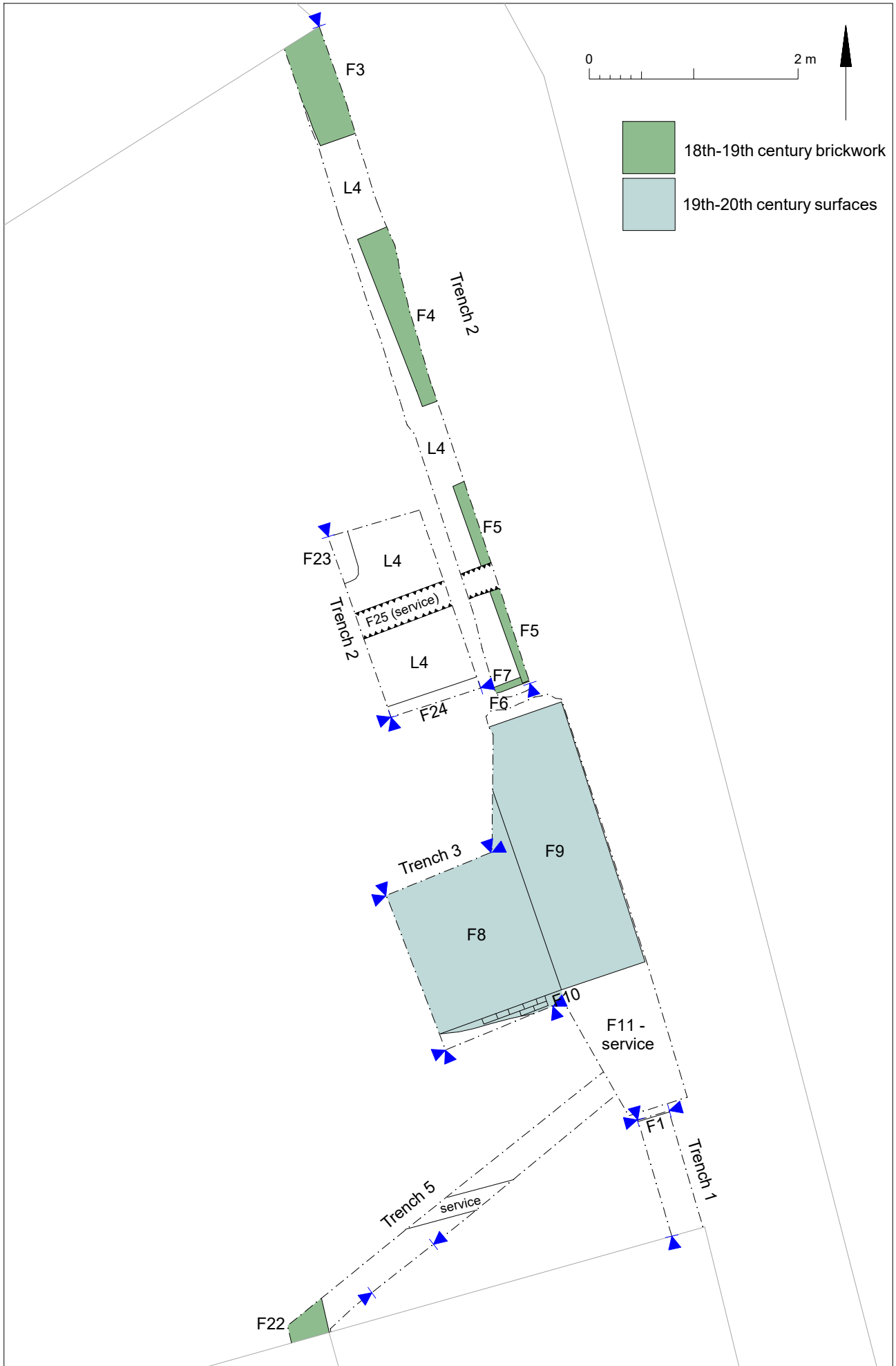


Fig 2 Results. See Fig 3 for detailed plans of Trench 3.

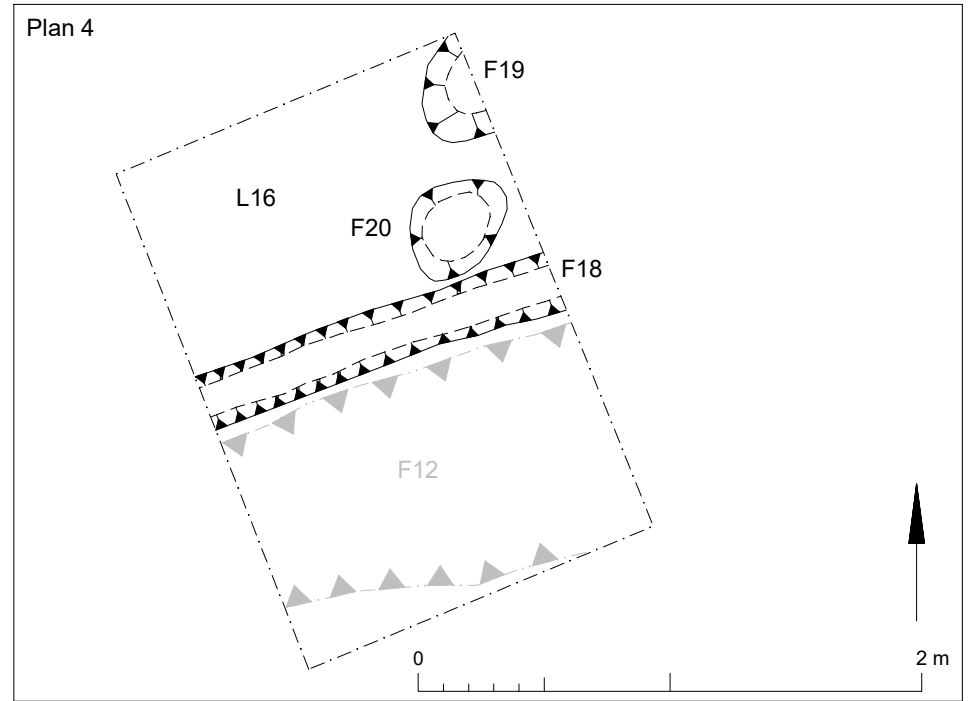
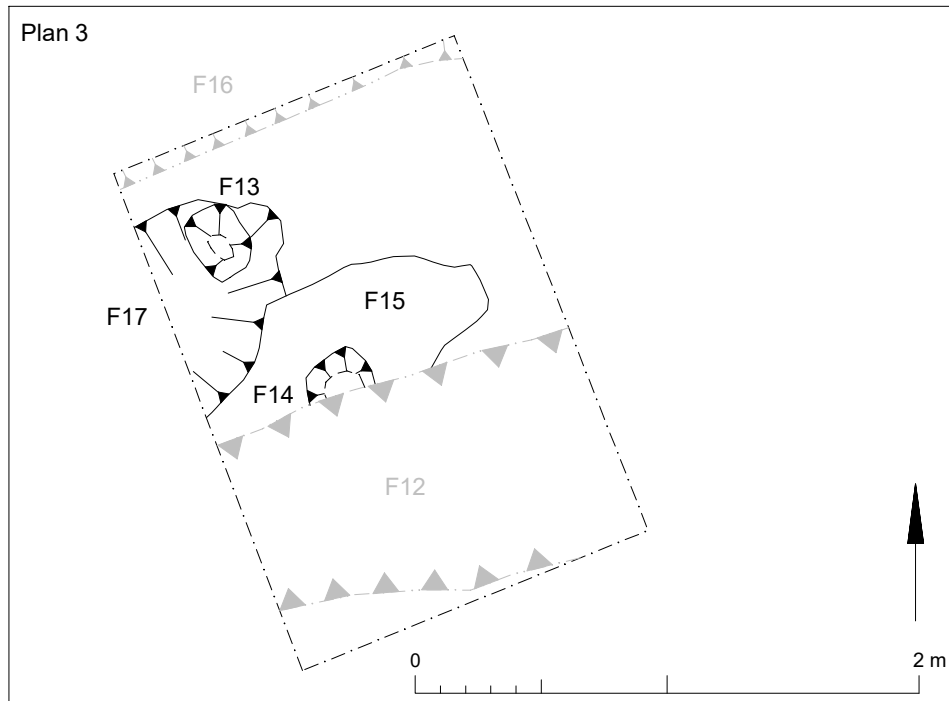
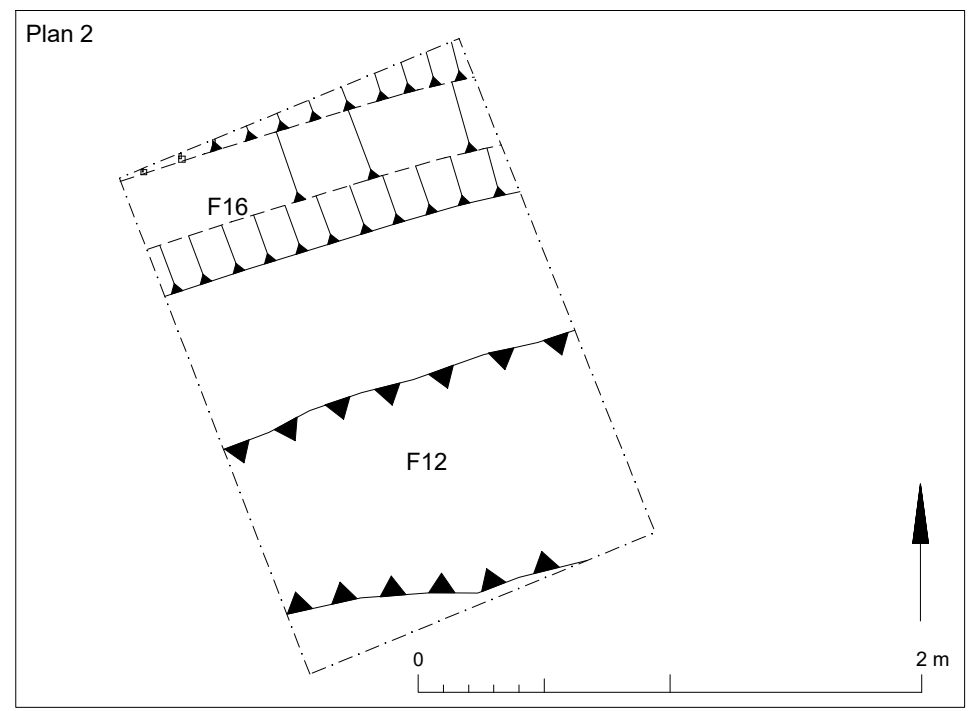
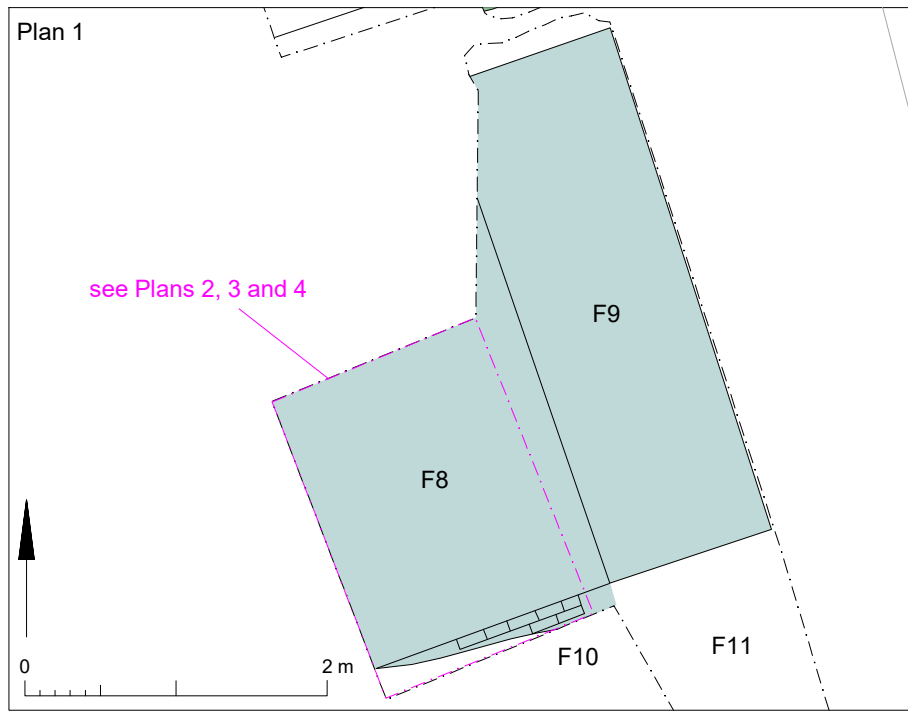


Fig 3 Trench 3 results.

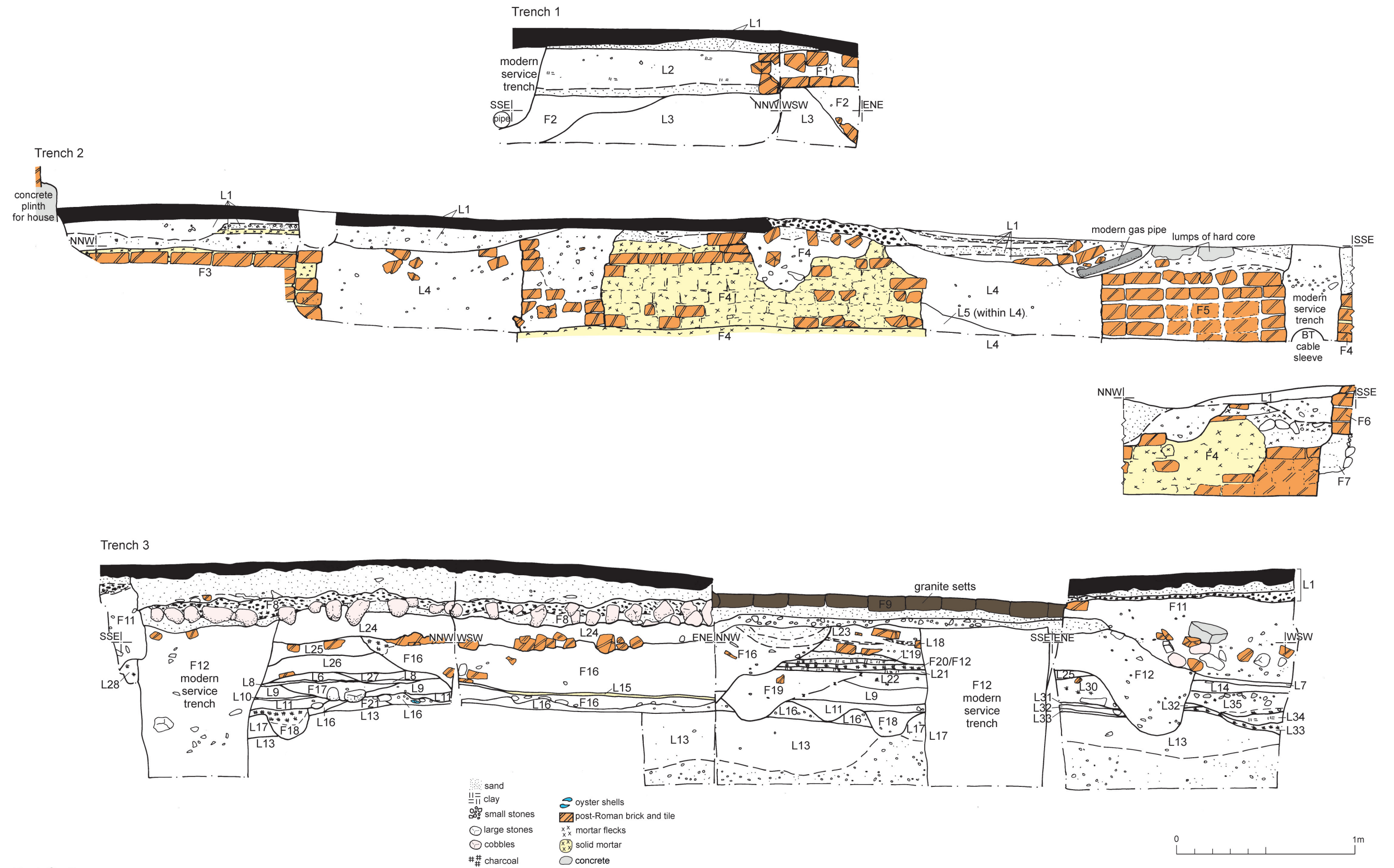


Fig 4 Sections.

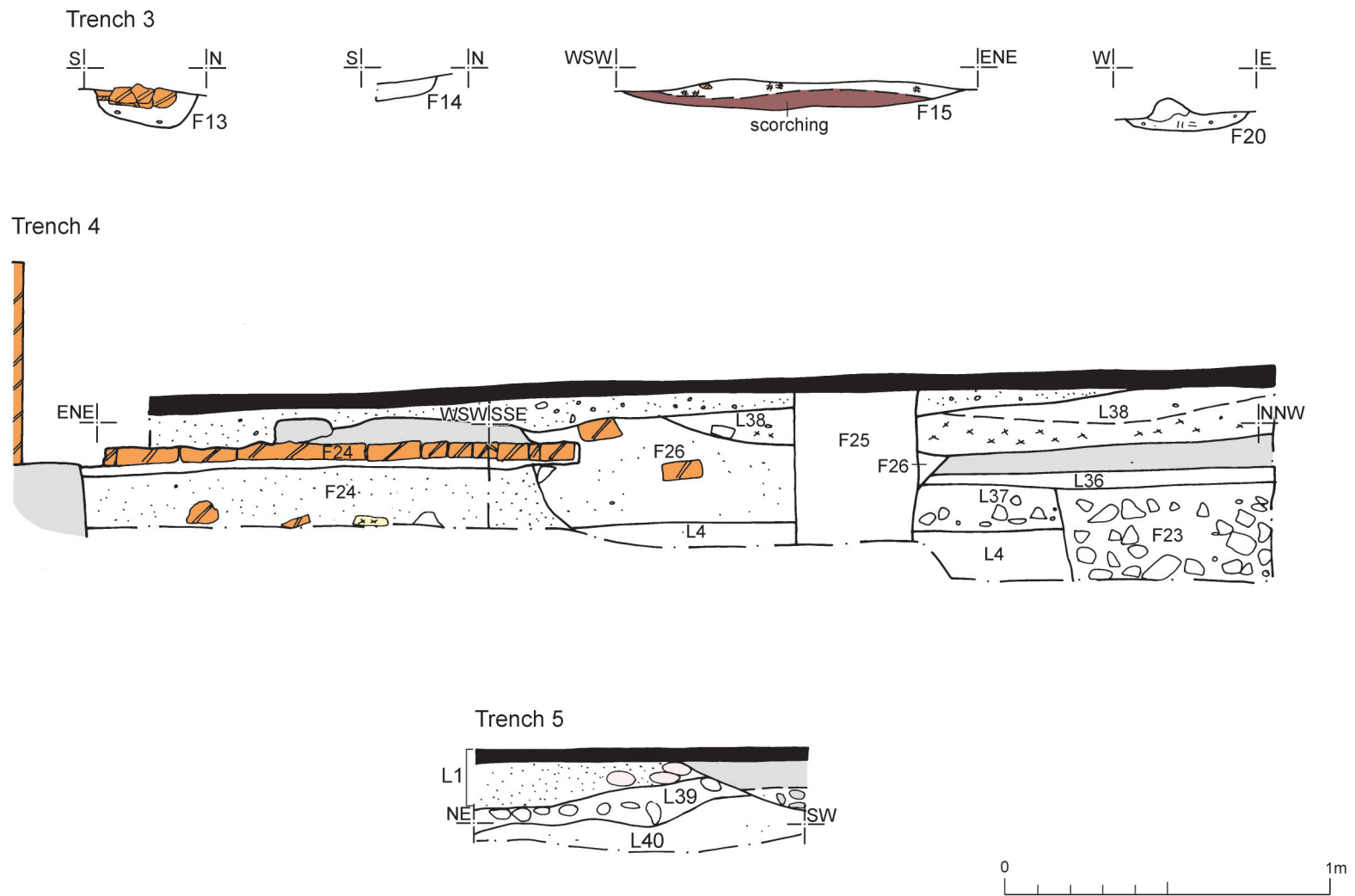


Fig 5 Sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JF	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 01471 24651 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2019/08d CHER ref: ECC4365 OASIS ref: colchest3-362103
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 2nd March – 7th April 2021	Size of area investigated: 0.07 hectares
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC19, MCC20, MCC21, MCC3407. NHLE no. 1123580, 1123576
Final report: CAT Report 1733	
Periods represented: Medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was carried out in the car park for Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for new walls and a gate. Located within the Hythe Conservation Area facing the River Colne, the development site is at the centre of the medieval port of Colchester. Harbour House is a Grade II listed building built c 1720, and the car park was previously the site of a 15th-century house of two tenements (nos 4-5 Hythe Quay) before the building was demolished in the early 20th century.</p> <p>Monitoring revealed four brick plinths on the site of the 15th-century house, all four of which dated from the 18th to the 19th century and must therefore have been inserted into the earlier building. These plinths would have raised the wooden ground-plates of the timber-framed building off of the ground to stop them from rotting and effectively underpin the structure.</p> <p>Also revealed was part of the 19th- to 20th-century pavement of Hythe Quay and an associated cobbled passageway leading from the road through to the rear of the property. Underneath the cobbles was evidence for at least three phases of earlier activity/occupation dating from the early 11th to early 13th century onwards. The earliest remains included a metallated surface along with a slot for an earlier ground-plate and post-holes. These remains were later sealed by a possible hearth and floor layers.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay; 4-5 Hythe Quay	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: November 2021

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for an archaeological investigation at
the European Consortium for Political Research,
Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester,
Essex, CO2 8JF.**

NGR: TM 01471 24651 (centre)

Parish: Colchester

Planning references: 181964

Commissioned by: Kim Jesney (ECPR)

On behalf of: European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: ECC4365

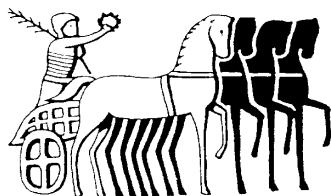
CAT project code: 2019/08d

OASIS project number: colchest3-362103

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 02/08/2019



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

tel: 01206 501785

email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located 1.94km southeast of the historic centre of Colchester, at the European Consortium for Political Research, Harbour House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JF (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 01471 24651.

Proposed work

The development comprises installation of new railings, construction of a new dwarf wall, piers, new gates and car park resurfacing and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

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

The current site is a building of historical interest dating back to at least 1720 with a Georgian red brick frontage with additions and alterations added in the late 18th- to early 19th-century. (MCC3407). The building is Historic England Grade II Listed (no. 1123580) and is located within the Hythe conservation area.

The Hythe area has been the port for Colchester probably since the Norman period. The name derives from an Old English word for landing place, and the area was originally known as 'New Hythe'. This appears to be with reference to an earlier landing place at Old Heath (*Ealdehythe* – the old landing place), located closer to the mouth of the River Colne, which New Hythe superseded. The earliest reference to Old Heath, implying the existence of the New Hythe, is in 1272. The nearby Hythe parish church of St Leonard-at-the-Hythe (MCC24, MCC3402 & MCC9031) is referenced in 1237, and the earliest reference to the Hythe itself appears to date from 1276 (*CAR* 1, 47). There are numerous references to private quays, wharfs and warehouses from the 14th-century onwards, and by 1823 the quays at the Hythe extended along both sides of the river (*CAT* Report 232, 21). There are numerous records of current or demolished historic houses and shops within close proximity of the site including the 15th-to-16th-century Queens Head Inn (MCC15), 97 Hythe Hill (MCC18 & MCC3398), 98-99 Hythe Hill (MCC19 & MCC399), 4-5 Hythe Quay (MCC20), site of a waterfront building opposite the current site (MCC36), site of a waterhouse (MCC22 and under the Neptune in is the site of a halled building (MCC23. 17th-18th-century buildings include 95-96 Hythe Hill (MCC3397 and 106 Hythe Hill (MCC3404).

There is also the possibility of a Roman quay or bridge close to this area, as a Roman road can be traced to within half a mile of the Hythe, from the direction of Mistley. The projected line of this road suggests a crossing point on the river close to the bottom of Hythe Hill.

So far most of the archaeological investigations within the Hythe area has been small sites and carried out on areas some way back from the present river frontage. These include 79 Hythe Hill (Brooks 2000); 64-76 Hythe Hill evaluation (ECC2627 and MCC2663-6, Shimmin 2004 and *CAT* Report 36) and subsequent excavation (ECC2590, Benfield 2004 and *CAT* Report 125).

Adjacent to the current site at 9-11 Hythe Quay *CAT* excavated two 7m long evaluation trenches. T2 revealed evidence of 15th- or 16th-century activity cutting Roman levels (*CAT* Report 100, MCC5310, MCC5311 & MCC5312)

In 2006 *CAT* watched four test pits being machine dug at 28 Hythe Quay (c 70m NNE, *CAT* Report 388, *CHER* MCC5461), next to the retaining quay wall. They were mostly dug through 18th-19th-century brick rubble with some post-medieval pottery. There was no evidence of Roman or medieval activity but a large timber located at the base of one of the concrete structures is thought to have possibly have been part of an earlier quay.

At an evaluation undertaken in April 2018 at Bridge House, Hythe Quay (c 80m N, CAT Report 1264), CAT excavated three medieval pits in trench T1 with a medieval pit and linear in trench T4, dating from the late 11th to the 13th/14th-century. In trench T4 there was a medieval (late 12th-14th century) wall foundation of medium to large compacted stones. Looser patches of compacted medium stones and chalk may represent a second later wall foundation (15th-17th-century) but could also be the remains of either a plinth or surface. These structural remains are possibly associated with medieval activity at Hythe Quay

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in August 2018 (application No. 181964) for the *installation of new railings on south elevation and across the front east elevation including the existing car park with new wall and piers to the end of the east elevation.*

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. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

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 and WSI are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

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 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

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

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine 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.

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 investigation 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 investigation, 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.

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

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups)

project osteologist (human remains): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design

Services / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

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

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

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

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, absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice on this.

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

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

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Benfield, S | 2004 | <i>An archaeological excavation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester, in 1999</i> , in <i>Journal of the Colchester Archaeological Trust</i> 2 , 34-59. |
| Brooks, H | 2000 | 'Excavations at 79 Hythe Hill, Colchester, Essex, 1994-95', <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 31 , 112-24. |
| Brown, D | 2011 2 nd
ed | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAR 1 | 1981 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 1: Aspects of Anglo-Saxon and Norman Colchester</i> , by P Crummy, CBA Research Report 39. |
| CAT | 2018 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 36 | 1999 | <i>An Archaeological evaluation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester: October 1999</i> . By D Shimmin |
| CAT Report 125 | 2001 | <i>An Archaeological excavation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester: 1999</i> . By S Benfield |
| CAT Report 100 | 2000 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 9-11 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex: October 2000</i> . By H Brooks & C Crossan |
| CAT Report 232 | 2003 | <i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains in and around the site of the proposed Colne barrage, Colchester, Essex – June 2003</i> . By M McDonald & P Crummy |
| CAT Report 388 | 2006 | <i>Archaeological watching brief at 28 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex: August 2006</i> . By C Lister |
| CAT Report 1264 | 2018 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex – April 2018</i> . By L Pooley |

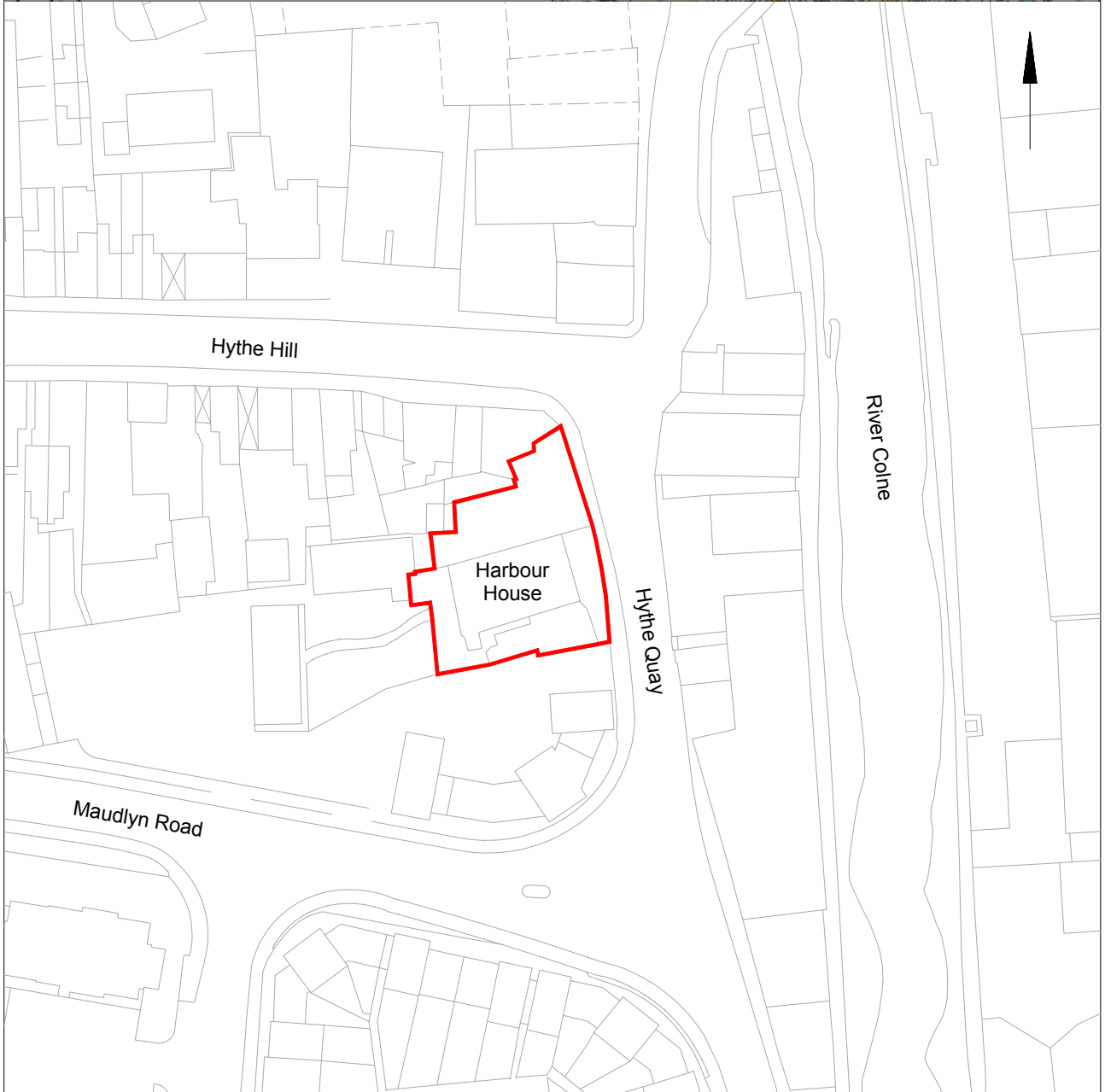
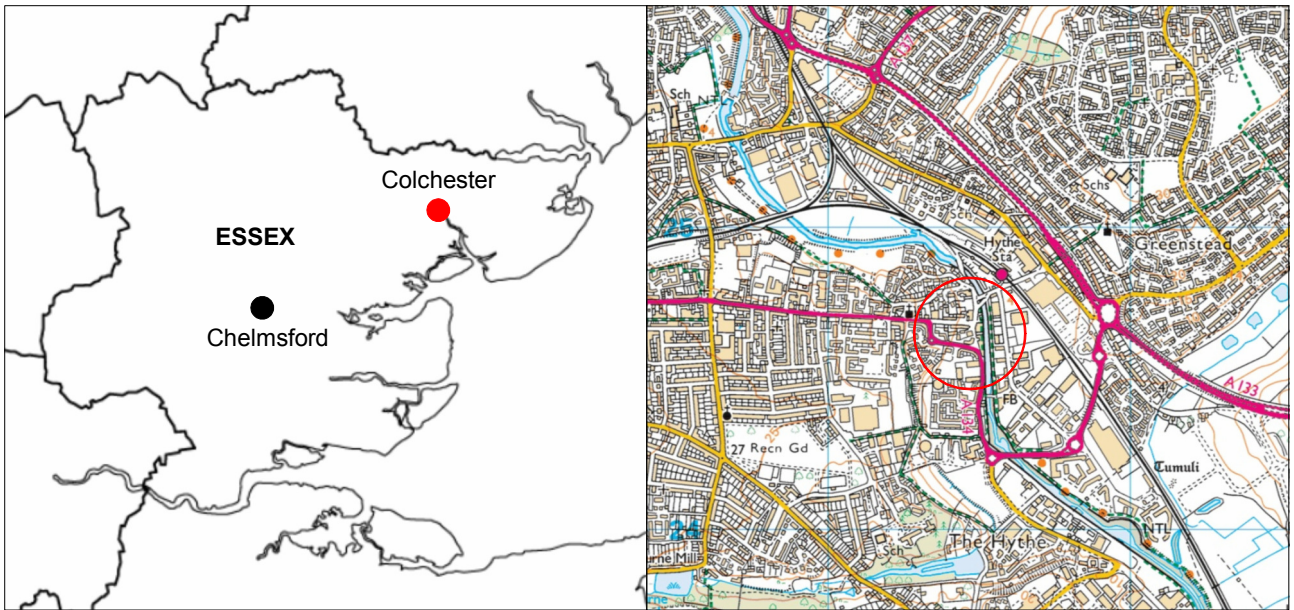
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at European Consortium for Political Research, Harbour House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, CO2 8JF.</i> By J Tipper
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, 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
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.
Shimmin, D	2004	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester, in 1999', in Journal of the Colchester Archaeological Trust 2, 58-61.</i>

E Holloway



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

tel: 01206 501785
 email: eh@catuk.org



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

Fig 1 Site location.



Summary for colchest3-362103

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-362103
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JF
Activity type	WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	2019/08d
Planning Id	181964
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	02-Mar-2021 - 07-Apr-2021
Location	European Consortium for Political Research, Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex NGR : TM 01471 24651 LL : 51.8840034545868, 0.925982542395979 12 Fig : 601471,224651
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Monitoring of all contractor groundworks. Excavation and recording of all archaeological remains impacted by the development.

Project Results	<p>Archaeological monitoring was carried out in the car park for Harbour House, 6-8 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for new walls and a gate. Located within the Hythe Conservation Area facing the River Colne, the development site is at the centre of the medieval port of Colchester. Harbour House is a Grade II listed building built c 1720, and the car park was previously the site of a 15th-century house of two tenements (nos 4-5 Hythe Quay) before the building was demolished in the early 20th century.</p> <p>Monitoring revealed four brick plinths on the site of the 15th-century house, all four of which dated from the 18th to the 19th century and must therefore have been inserted into the earlier building. These plinths would have raised the wooden ground-plates of the timber-framed building off of the ground to stop them from rotting and effectively underpin the structure.</p> <p>Also revealed was part of the 19th- to 20th-century pavement of Hythe Quay and an associated cobbled passageway leading from the road through to the rear of the property. Underneath the cobbles was evidence for at least three phases of earlier activity/occupation dating from the early 11th to early 13th century onwards. The earliest remains included a metalled surface along with a slot for an earlier ground-plate and post-holes. These remains were later sealed by a possible hearth and floor layers.</p>
Keywords	<p>Timber Framed Building - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Hearth - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Beam Slot - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Post Hole - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Floor - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Floor - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p>

HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	ECC4365
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive