

**FINAL REPORT
OF
DBA & WATCHING BRIEF
AT
CHURCH HOUSE, 63 HIGH STREET, MALDON,
ESSEX CM9 5EP**

PLANNING REF: MAL13 01137

REPORT REF: CH14

OASIS NUMBER: 189674

BY ZOE ALLVEY SCHOFIELD

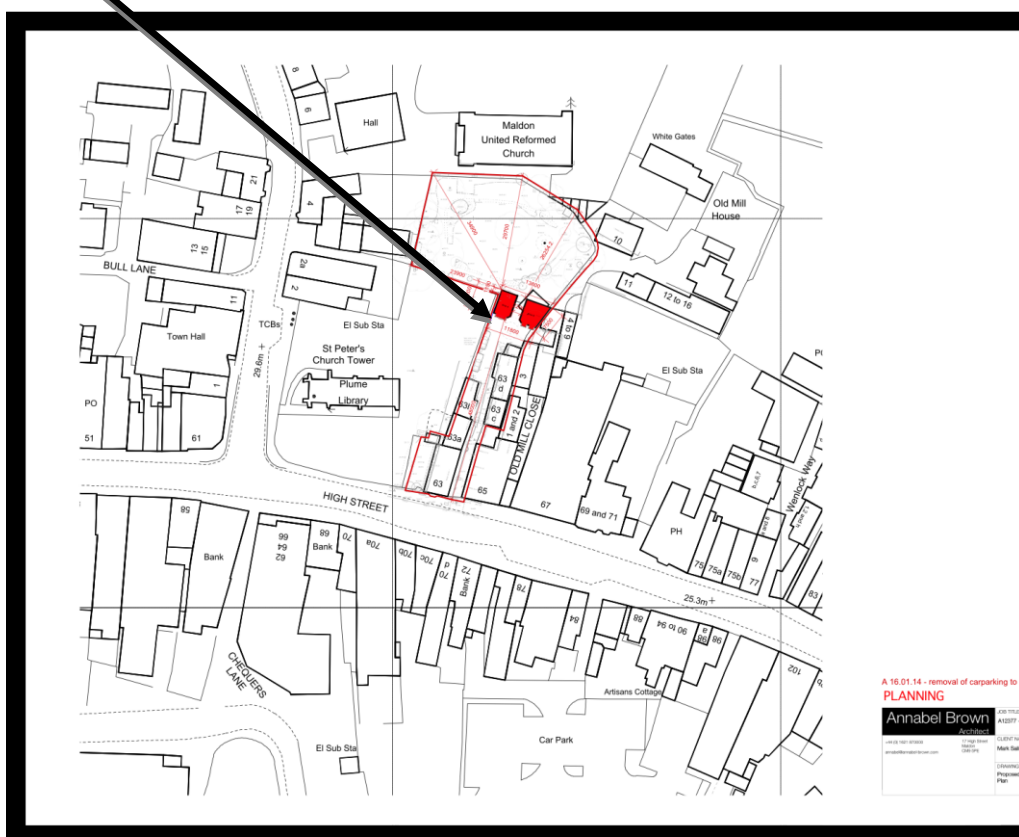


Allvey Schofield Archaeology, The Ridings, White Elm Road, Danbury, Essex CM3 4LR

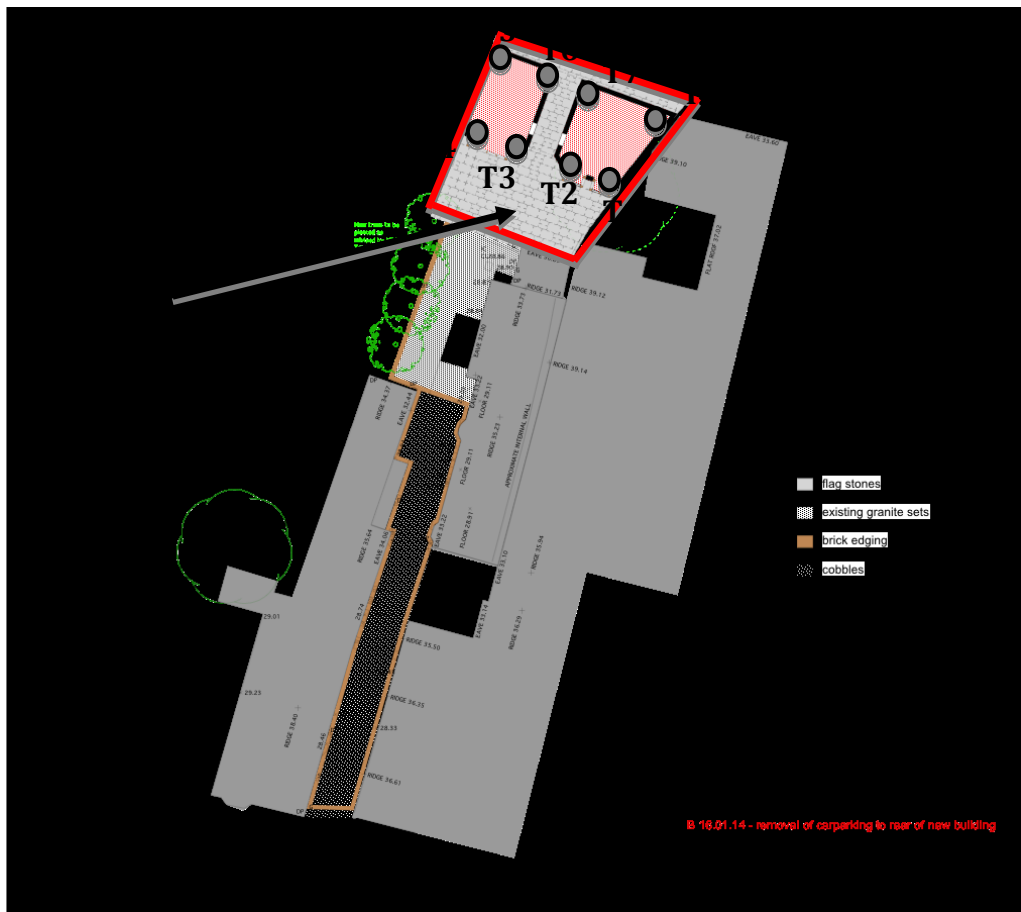
T: 07976 275180 E: zoeschofield1@gmail.com

Plans

Area 1



Plans



**Area Plan 2 –
Area 1 outlined in red.
Pile Foundation shafts 1 – 8 plotted on proposed development.**

Site Report

Site Code: CH14
Name: Church House
Address: 63 High Street, Maldon, Essex CM9 5EP
Parish: St Peters
District: Maldon
NGR: TL8511007043
Elevation: 12m AOD

Description:

The proposed development is part of the historic settlement of Maldon. It is within the parish of St Peters, close to the High Street and is located to the rear of Church House 63, 63a & 63b on the site of a demolished garage constructed in the 20th Century and accessed via Bright's Path.

History of site:

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lays within the extent of an area of historical interest, to the rear of Church House and 63a High Street, both listed buildings (EHER 38345/38346). Adjacent on one side to the Maeldune Heritage Centre, Plume Building and St Peter's Tower and on the other side to Old Mill Close, where trial trenching revealed

archaeological deposits dating to the 12th Century (EHER 46220).

The history and archaeology of the historic town is summarised in Medlycott (1999).

Related EHER No: 38345, 38346 & 46220

Archaeological Potential:

The proximity of the site to Saxon, Medieval and post Medieval sites and finds.

1. Planning Application:

Planning number: MAL 01137/13

Applicant: Mr Mark Salisbury (E: rockitpizza@msn.com T:07977 233418)

Architect: Ms Annabel Brown, 17 High Street, Maldon, Essex CM9

E: info@annabel-brown.com T:01621 827000

Application:

Maldon District Council 2013

The Proposed development of a two storey building on the site of an existing garage.

Planning recommendation:

Archaeological monitoring and recording will take place on all groundworks (foundations and landscaping).

2. Brief:

MAL 01137 13 63 High Brief issued on 20th February 2014 by the Historic Environment Officer: Maria Medlycott, Place Services, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1QH

E: maria.medlycott@essex.gov.uk T: 03330 136853

3. Desk Based Assessment:

DBA issued on 25th March 2014 by Zoe Allvey Schofield, The Ridings, White Elm Road, Danbury, Essex CM3 4LR

E: zoeschofield1@gmail.com T:07976 275180

4. Written Scheme of Investigation:

WSI issued on 25th March 2014 by Zoe Allvey Schofield, The Ridings, White Elm Road, Danbury, Essex CM3 4LR

4. Archaeological Survey:

Date of work: 22nd July 2014

Area Investigated: 32 SQM

Type of Investigation:

A Desk Based Assessment was completed prior to the fieldwork confirming that there was evidence of Saxon, Mediaeval and Post Mediaeval occupation within close proximity of the site. Monitoring and Recording of groundworks comprised of a visual survey of the machine cleaned surface and the 8no Piled shafts/caissons.

Description:

Examination of the machine-cleaned surface revealed a sub soil with brick-dust, mortar and stone deposits, but no evidence of archaeological features or deposits.

Examination of the open shafts/caissons revealed that there were three stratigraphic layers:

001 – Sub-soil – To a depth of 40cm - A damp, grey-brown, silty, soil of a loose consistency with deposits of oyster shells, small natural stones, charcoal and construction debris.

002 – Clay – To a depth of 1m - A clean light brown clay.

003 – Silt – To the limit of excavation - Wet, grey silt.

There were no archaeological features or deposits.

Examination of the spoil heap revealed a mixture of silty soil, clay and modern construction debris.

Conclusion:

The piled shafts/caissons in Shaft 1 & 2 contained modern concrete padstones to a depth of 50cm supporting a steel girder and the deposits on the machine-cleaned surface and in the spoil heaps suggested that the site had suffered significant disturbance, probably due to past construction activity when the garage was built.

The continued historic use of the site raised expectations for the discovery of archaeological evidence, however, while the oyster shells and charcoal are evidence of occupation, they were within the first 40cm and there was no dating evidence from any period other than modern 20th Century.

Periods represented: 20th Century

Museum: Colchester Museum T: 012992 716882

5. EHER Summary Sheet:

ESH issued on 22nd August 2014

Oasis No: 189674

Archive Type & Location:

Photographic, Digital, Hard copy

Zoe Allvey Schofield Archaeology

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E: zoeschofield1@gmail.com T:07976 275180

The Site – Area 1 of 1

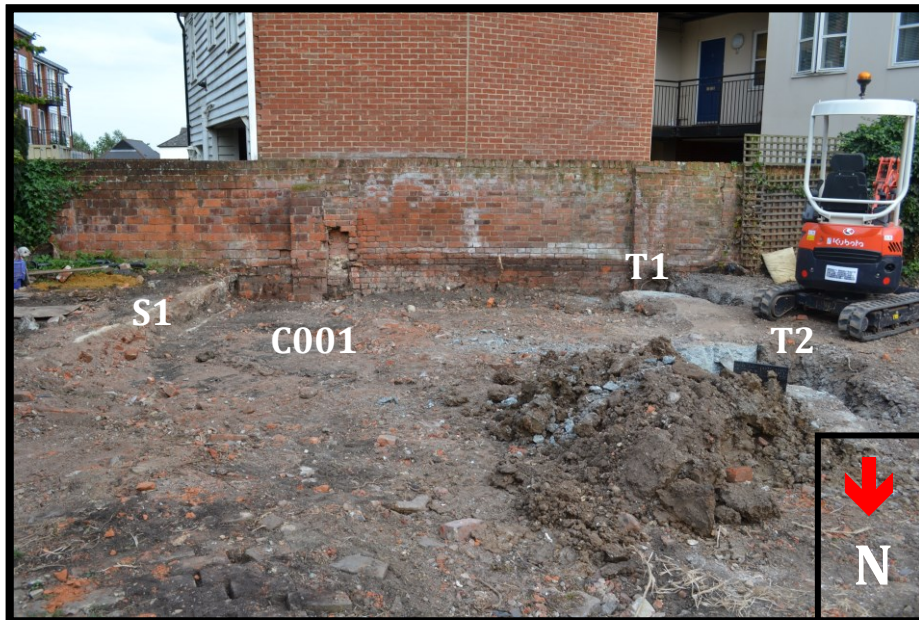


Area 1 viewed facing North with Pile shaft T2 and Spoil Heap in view



Area 1 viewed facing West with Machine-Cleaned Surface, Pile Shaft T1 & T2 and Spoil Heap ♦ in view

The Site - Area 1 of 1



Area 1 facing South with Machine-Cleaned Surface, Context 001, Section1, Pile Shaft T1 & T2 and spoil heap in view



Area 1 - Machine-Cleaned Surface trowelled to level surface context 001. Sub-soil with charcoal, brick dust and mortar deposits. Spoil heaps with modern construction debris in view

A1 – Machine-Cleaned Surface - Section 1



A1 – Machine-Cleaned Surface – East – Section 1 – Context 001

A1 – Pile Shaft T2 - Section 1



A1 – Pile Shaft T2 – West
Size: 0.5m Width x 1.2m Length x 1.3m Depth
With steel and concrete pad-stones from previous construction still in situ

A1 – Pile Shaft T2 – East - Section 1

**Strata 001
Sub-soil
0.40m**

**Oyster
Shells**

**Strata 002
Natural Clay
0.60m**

**Strata 003
Natural Silt
0.30m**



**Area 1 – Pile Shaft T2
Section Detail 1 facing east
Context 001 – Strata 001/002/003**