

# Archaeological evaluation at White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD

May 2019



by **Laura Pooley**

figures by Emma Holloway and Robin Mathieson

fieldwork by Mark Baister and Ziya Eksen

commissioned by **Brett Lord, Lord Residential Ltd**

NGR: TM 00909 12562 (centre)

Planning reference: 181198

CAT project ref.: 2018/07e

Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2018.67

CHER ref: ECC4246

OASIS reference: colchest3-337518



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**CAT Report 1415**

May 2019

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CAT WSI  
OASIS Summary

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench and two test-pits) was carried out at the White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex in advance of refurbishments and extensions to the existing building. The White Hart possibly dates from the 18th century and is located in an area rich in Roman and medieval remains. Evaluation revealed post-medieval and modern layers sealing natural sands. A post-medieval brick-lined soakaway/cesspit, a 19th-century brick wall foundation and an undated pit were excavated and are likely to be associated with the existing building.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation at White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex, which was carried out on 9th May 2019. The work was commissioned by Brett Lord of Lord Residential Ltd and undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). It took place in advance of refurbishments and extensions to the existing building.

As the site lies within an area identified by the Colchester Historical Environment Record (CHER) as possessing a high potential for archaeological deposits, following consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), 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 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*, written by Jess Tipper and detailing the required archaeological work (CBCPS 2018). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was subsequently 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 English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background 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 Hotel

The White Hart is a large building which was more recently used as a public house and restaurant but was originally an inn with accommodation. The construction date of the building is uncertain. However, a building visible on the Chapman and André map of 1777 (see Map 1 below) in the approximate location of the site could suggest it has a post-medieval origin or is situated on top of an earlier building. The building has seen some redevelopment work. For example around 1910 alterations were carried out, including the removal of the false Georgian frontage (Marriage 1999).



Map 1 Extract of Chapman and André map 1777 plate XIV

### High Street

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically within an area of Roman occupation revealed by multiple sightings of wall foundations and floors, and medieval remains related to the adjacent church and priory. Archaeological investigations along the High Street have included a small excavation at Bonheur in 1922, which revealed a Roman stone wall set in *opus signinum* (CHER MCC8837). Further work by Hull in 1927 revealed Roman pottery, a bone pin and an iron knife (CHER ECC3540, **VCH** vol 3 p161). A possible Roman wall was also found on land from the High Street to Captains Lane (CHER MCC8860). Adjacent to this in 2016, a Roman ditch was recorded during a watching brief by Britannia Archaeology (CHER MCC10065). CAT carried out a photographic survey of Hall Barn in 1985 prior to conversion into a country club (CAT Report 1000, vol 3).

### Church Road

The site lies adjacent to West Mersea parish church (Church of St Peter and St Paul). The church is constructed of re-used Roman Kentish ragstone walls with Roman and later brick. The earliest evidence (the lower part of the tower) appears to be 11th century (CHER MCC8909 & MCC4666). Around the churchyard, Cromwell Mortimer recorded seeing a mosaic and Roman remains in 1730 (**VCH** vol 3 p158-9). In 1896 Henry Laver observed a Roman wall (CHER MCC8858). CAT also excavated three trial pits in 1991 prior to extensions to the church, but only residual Roman finds were recorded (CAT Report 1000, vol 3).

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

On land to the north of Church Road, CAT was called out by the curator of Mersea Museum to record human remains in a service trench for a new bungalow. Although the workmen had removed all the bone (?3 partial skulls, some limb and vertebrae bones) before the first visit, on the second visit the location of a human skull was

recorded. The skeletal remains were interpreted as medieval in date. It was also noted fragments of daub as well as Roman tile/brick fragments were seen in the backfill (CAT Report 1000 vol 3). The bungalow is approximately 50m northwest of the White Hart.

#### **Yorick Road**

A Roman mausoleum (CHER MCC8355 scheduled monument no. 1002195) is located to the rear of 20 Yorick Road. An exploratory trench was undertaken in 2003 to assess the exact location and condition of the mausoleum (CHER MCC2973, CAT Report 255) and part of a Roman wall foundation was exposed during subsequent monitoring (CHER MCC5406, CAT Report 330).

Archaeological investigations at 6 High Street (CAT Report 576), 4 Meadow Lane (CHER MCC5553, CAT Report 420), 6 Meadow Lane (CAT Report 629), The Blackwater Hotel, Church Road (CHER MCC5291, CAT Report 223), Howard's Cottage, 12a Church Road (CAT Report 1000, vol 3) have not revealed any significant archaeological remains. It has been noted in some of these reports however that the land appeared to have comprised of made-up ground thought to be dated to the 1960s (8 High Street, CAT Report 118).

## **4 Aims**

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

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

A trial-trench (Trench 1) and two test-pits (Test-pits 1 and 2) were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench 1 was located within the proposed new car park and Test-Pits 1 and 2 within the footprints of the two planned extensions.

#### **Trench 1** (9m long by 1.8m wide)

Excavated through modern topsoil (L5, 0.35-0.51m thick) and post-medieval accumulation (L6, 0.24-0.42m thick) onto natural (L4). Cut into natural was a small and undated shallow pit (F3).

#### **Test-pit 1** (1.5m by 1.5m)

Excavated through concrete (L1, 0.16m thick) which sealed a round, brick-lined, post-medieval soakaway/cesspit (F1). Approximately 0.9m in diameter and recorded to a depth of at least 1.05m, the soakaway/cesspit had been partially backfilled and sealed/capped by a layer of flat bricks. The remains of brickwork around the top of F1 suggests it originally had an arched roof. Samples of bricks taken from this arched roof are of 19th- to 20th-century date, but it is uncertain if the whole structure is of the same period or earlier.

#### **Test-pit 2** (1.5m by 1.5m)

Excavated through modern concrete (L1, 0.15m thick), buried topsoil (L2, 0.16-0.24m thick) and post-medieval accumulation (L3, 0.13-0.26m thick) onto natural (L4). A modern (19th-century) brick wall foundation (F2) made of London Stock bricks had been cut into L2. It was aligned northeast to southwest and was 0.4m northwest and parallel to one of the existing walls of the White Hart.





**Photograph 1** Trench 1, looking east



**Photograph 2** Test-pit 1, view inside soakaway/cesspit F1, looking southeast



**Photograph 3** Test-pit 2, looking southeast

## 6 Finds

*by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley*

Three brick fragments with a weight of 3,471g were recovered from the remains of an arched roof at the top of soakaway/cesspit F1 (finds no. 2). Two bricks are represented.

Brick 1: A dense, hard fired, yellow coloured brick, with voids and white (limestone) and black inclusions. This has dimensions of ? x 112mm x 65mm with a broad frog (60mm wide). According to Ryan's Essex brick typology this is probably a London Stocks brick, which dates from the late 18th to the first half of the 20th century (Ryan 1996, 95).

Brick 2: An unfroged red/orange coloured brick with dimensions of ? x 110mm x 65mm. Possibly a Soft Reds brick in Ryan's Essex brick typology, which dates from the 19th to the 20th century (Ryan 1996, 95-96).

A fragment of clay pipe consisting of part of the stem, foot and base of the bowl came from L2 (finds no. 1). The shape of the foot suggests it dates from the 18th century onwards (CAR 5).

## 7 Conclusion

Evaluation at the White Hart Hotel revealed post-medieval and modern layers sealing natural sands. The post-medieval/modern brick-lined soakaway/cesspit, a 19th-century brick wall foundation and an undated pit are likely to be associated with the existing building. If a cesspit, it is possible that F1 marks the location of the outside toilet, although this would be quite close to the White Hart building and rather pungent at



times. No evidence was found during this evaluation for earlier activity or structures on the development site.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Brett Lord and Lord Residential Ltd for commissioning funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by M Baister and Z Eksen. Figures were prepared by E Holloway and R Mathieson. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

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

- |                  |              |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| Brown, D         | 2007         | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>   |
| CAR 5            | 1988         | <i>The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by Nina Crummy  |
| CAT              | 2014         | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT              | 2019         | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a Historic Building Recording and an archaeological evaluation by trial-trench at White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD.</i>   |
| CAT Report 118   | 2001         | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 8 High Street, West Mersea, Essex: December 2000.</i>   |
| CAT Report 223   | 2003         | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Blackwater Hotel, Church Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: March 2003.</i>  |
| CAT Report 255   | 2004         | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: November 2003.</i>  |
| CAT Report 330   | 2005         | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: July 2005.</i>  |
| CAT Report 596   | 2010         | <i>An archaeological watching brief on land to the south of 'Serentivity' 6 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester: July 2010.</i>   |
| CAT Report 629   | 2012         | <i>Archaeological monitoring (watching brief) At 6 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex: September 2011 – February 2012.</i>  |
| CAT Report 1000  | forth-coming | <i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997): Volume 3: Projects beyond Colchester Borough (including X Series list).</i> |
| CBCPS            | 2018         | <i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, CO5 8QD.</i> J Tipper   |
| CifA             | 2014a        | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| CifA             | 2014b        | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>  |
| English Heritage | 2006         | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>  |
| Gurney, D        | 2003         | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).   |
| Marriage, J      | 1999         | <i>Britain in old photographs: Mersea Island p11</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            | 2018         | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.  |
| Powell, WR       | 1963         | <i>Victoria County History, Essex, Vol III (VCH).</i> Vol 3, p161.   |
| Ryan, P          | 1996         | <i>Brick in Essex from the Roman Conquest to the Reformation.</i> Chelmsford: Pat Ryan.  |

## 10 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
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1415)

CBC brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, sections)

Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

Inked section drawings

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1415)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM: 2018.67.

**Distribution list**

Brett Lord, Lord Residential Ltd  
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 22.5.2019

## Appendix 1 Context list

Location	Context no.	Finds no.	Context	Description	Date
TP1, TP2	L1	-	Concrete	Concrete	Modern
TP2	L2	1	Buried topsoil (same as L6)	Soft, moist, dark brown/black sandy-silt, 10% stone.	Modern
TP2	L3	-	Accumulation (same as L5)	Soft, moist, medium brown/black sandy-silt, 30% stone.	Post-medieval
T1, TP2	L4	-	Natural	Natural sands	Post-glacial
T1	L5	-	Topsoil (same as L2)	Soft, moist, dark brown/black sandy-silt.	Modern
T1	L6	-	Accumulation (same as L3)	Soft, moist, medium brown/black sandy-silt. Peg-tile fragments were observed within L6 but not retained for post-excavation analysis	Post-medieval
TP1	F1	2	Soakaway / cesspit	Round brick-lined soakway/cesspit, c 0.9m diameter and excavated to a depth of 1.05m deep. Sealed/capped by a layer of bricks measuring 200x110x50mm each. The bricks forming the structure were thinner, c 30-40mm thick.	Post-medieval / modern
TP2	F2	-	Wall foundation	Brick wall foundation made of London stock bricks (230x100x50mm), the depth of the foundation is 0.15 m.	Modern, 19th century
T1	F3	-	Pit	Soft, moist, medium brown/black sandy-silt.	Undated

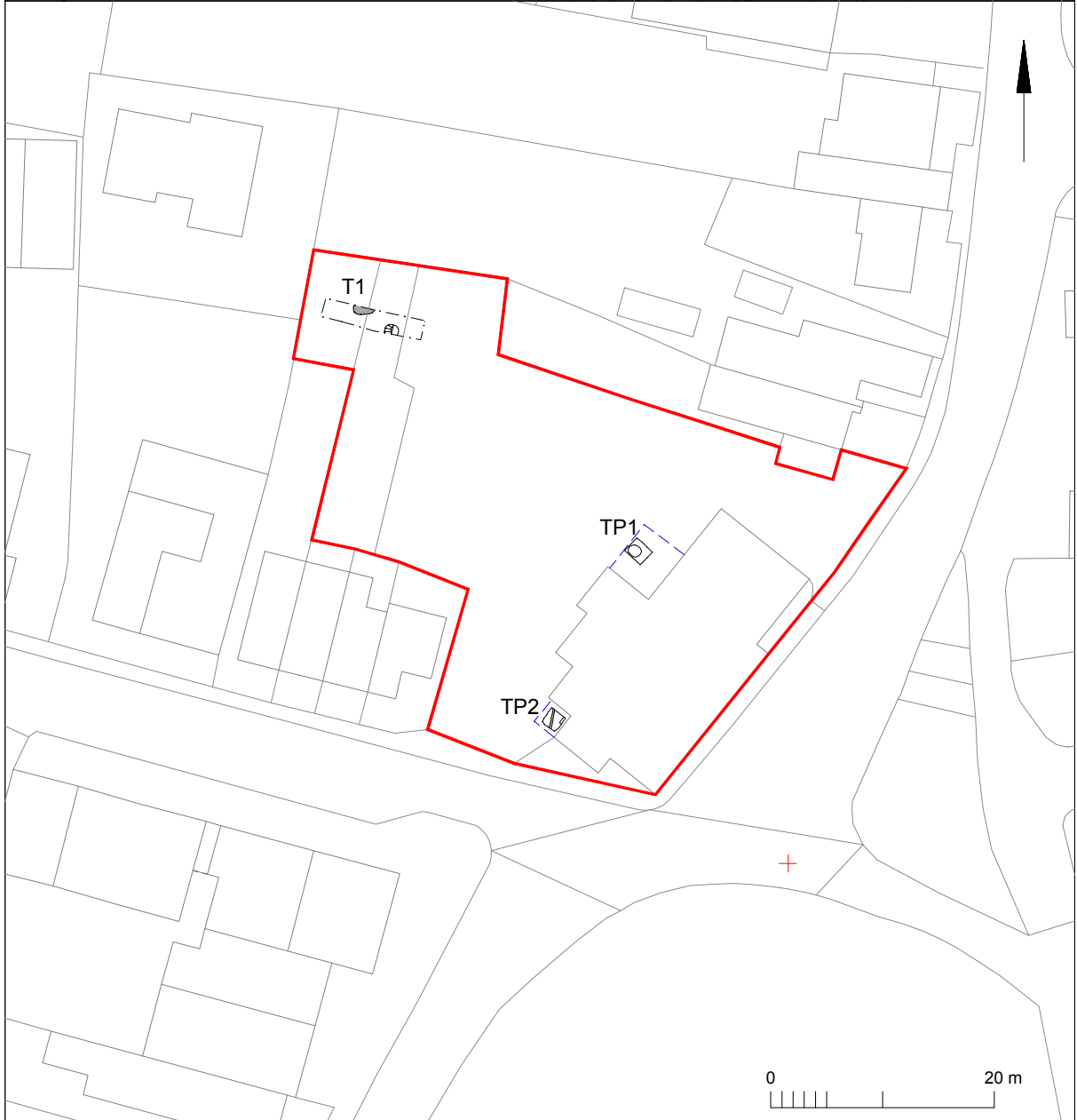
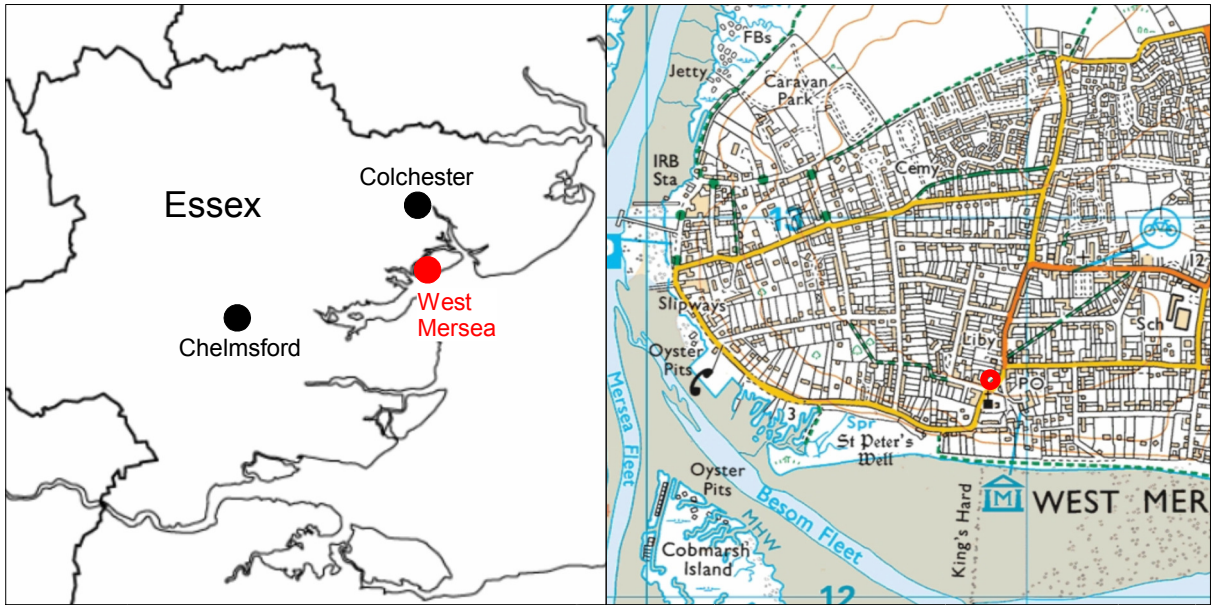
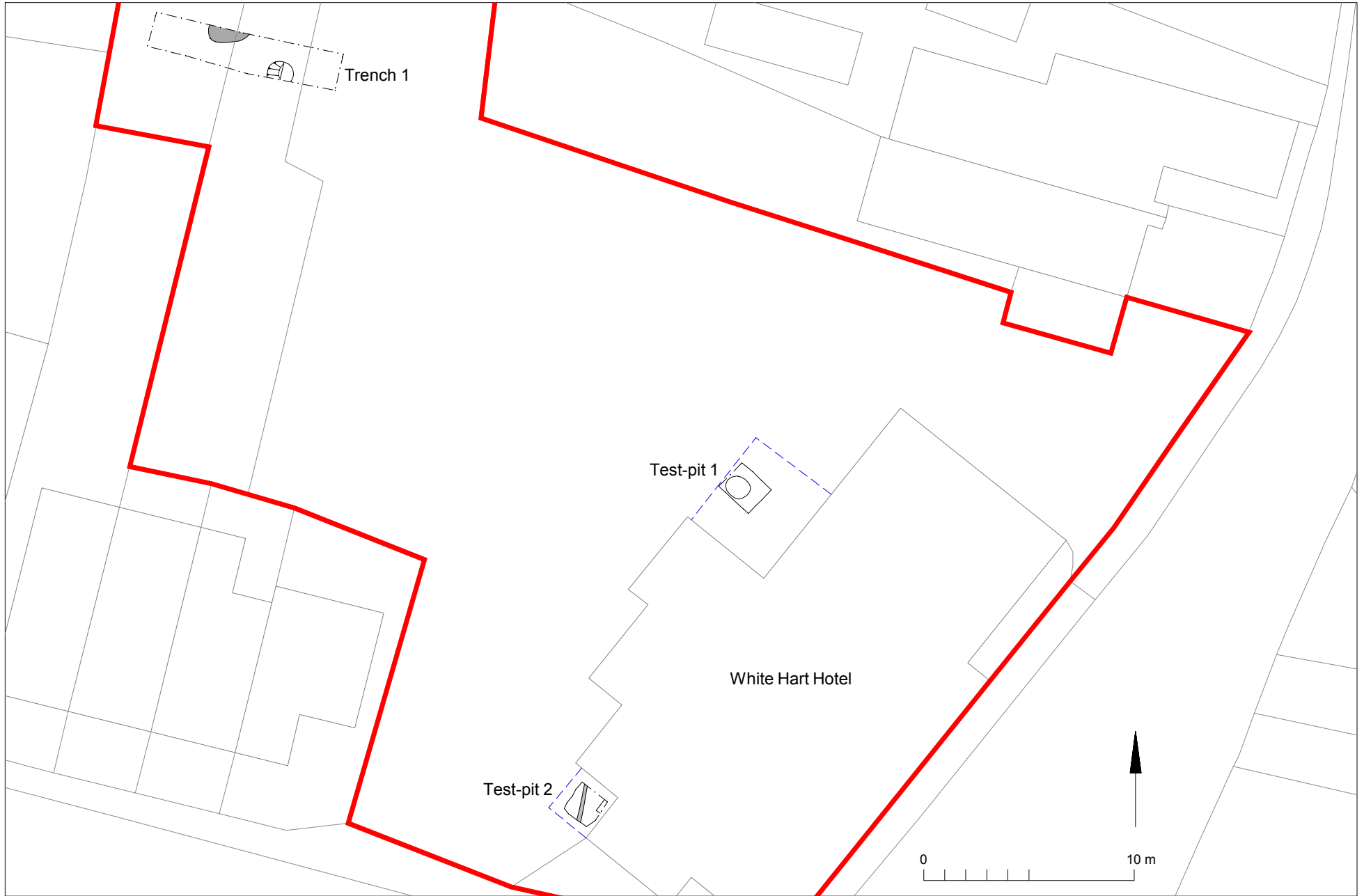


Fig 1 Site location.

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Fig 2 Results (proposed extensions dashed blue)

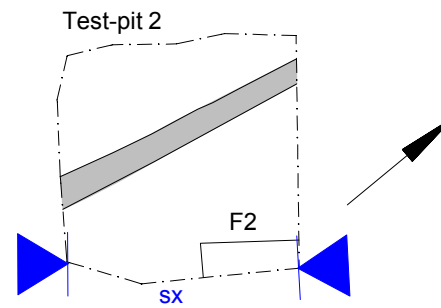
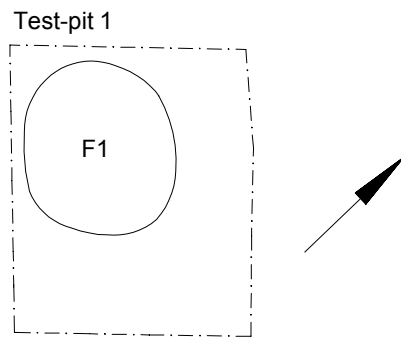
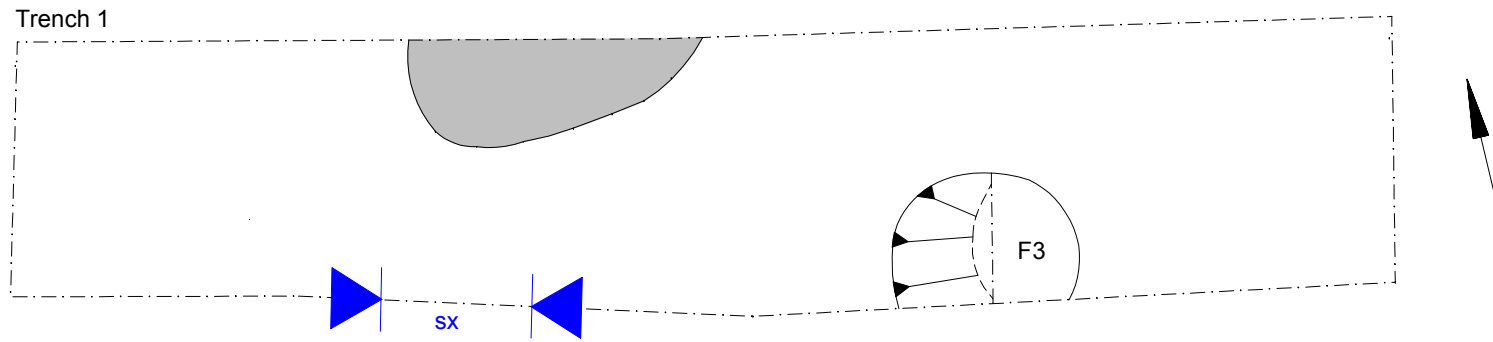


Fig 3 Trench and test-pit plans



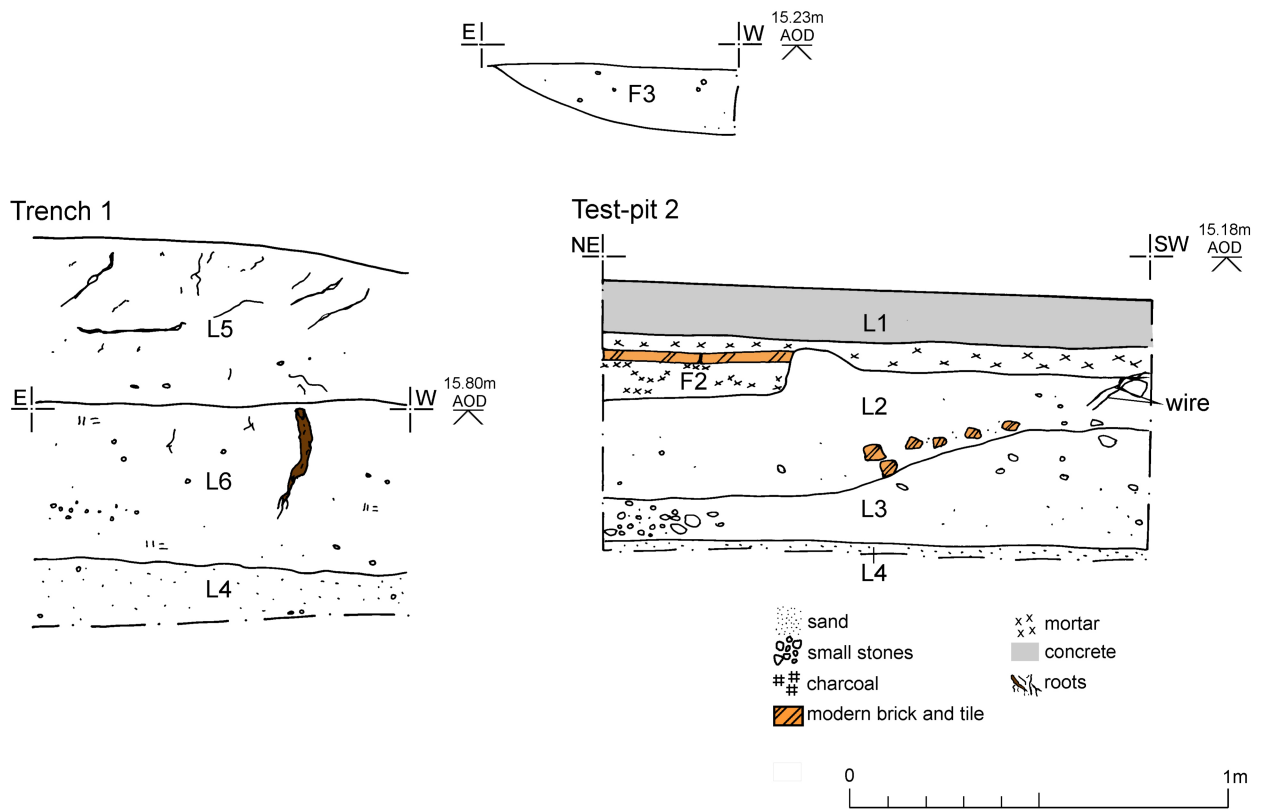


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD	
<b>Parish:</b> West Mersea	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 00909 12562 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2018/07e CHER ref: ECC4246 OASIS ref: colchest3-337518
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 9th May 2019	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.13ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.67	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER ECC3540, MCC2973, MCC4666, MCC5291, MCC5406, MCC5553, MCC8355, MCC8835, MCC8837, MCC8858, MCC8860, MCC8909, MCC9356, MCC10065
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1415	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern, post-medieval	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench and two test-pits) was carried out at the White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex in advance of refurbishments and extensions to the existing building. The White Hart possibly dates from the 18th century and is located in an area rich in Roman and medieval remains. Evaluation revealed post-medieval and modern layers sealing natural sands. A post-medieval brick-lined soakaway/cesspit, a 19th-century brick wall foundation and an undated pit were excavated and are likely to be associated with the existing building.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> May 2019



**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for a Historic Building Recording and an  
archaeological evaluation by trial-trench at  
White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea,  
Essex, CO5 8QD.**

**NGR:** TM 00909 12562

**Planning references:** 181198

**Commisioned by:** Brett Lord (Lord Residential Ltd)

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** COLEM2018.67

**CHER number:** ECC4245 (BR) & ECC4246 (Eval)

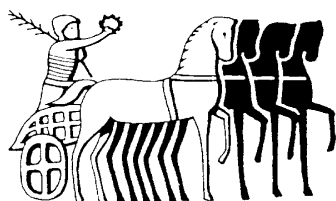
**CAT project code:** 2018/07d (BR) & 2018/07e (Eval)

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-322390

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 16.04.2019 (revised)



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TM 00909 12562.

## Proposed work

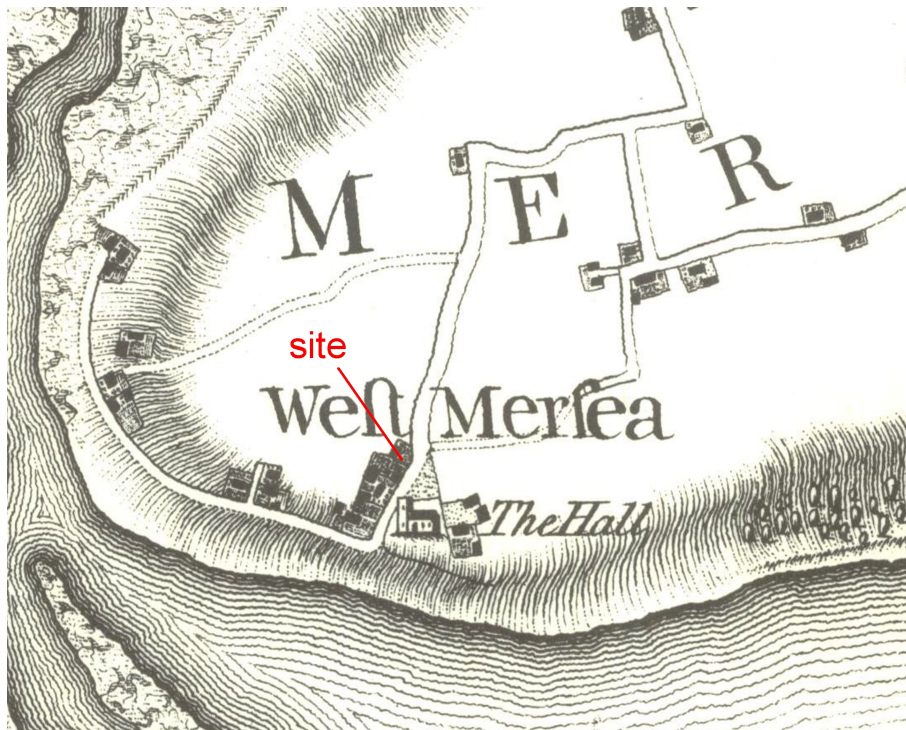
The development comprises of refurbishment and extension to create a wine bar/cafe, offices, nine holiday letting rooms, car parking, demolition of ancillary structures and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)), and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed by Heritage Gateway.

### The Hotel itself

The White Hart is a large building which was more recently used as a public house and restaurant but originally an Inn with accommodation. The construction date of the building is uncertain, however, a building visible on Chapman and André map of 1777 (see Map 1 below) in the approximate location of the site could suggest it has a post-medieval origin or is situated on top of an earlier building. The building has seen some redevelopment work, for example around 1910 alterations were carried out including the removal of the false Georgian frontage (Marriage 1999).



**Map 1** Extract of Chapman and André map 1777plate XIV

### High Street area

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically, within an area of Roman occupation revealed by multiple sightings of wall foundations and floors and medaeval remains related to the adjacent church and priory. Development along the High Street have included a small excavation at Bonheur in 1922, which revealed a Roman stone wall set in *opus signinum* (CHER MCC8837). Further work by Hull in 1927 revealed Roman pottery, a bone pin and an iron knife (CHER ECC3540, **VCH** vol 3 p161). A possible Roman wall was also found near the land from the High Street to Captains Lane

(CHER MCC8860). Adjacent to this in 2016 a Roman ditch was recorded during a watching brief by Britannia Archaeology (CHER MCC10065). CAT carried out a photographic survey of Hall Barn in 1985 prior to conversion into a country club (CAT Report 1000 vol 3).

#### Church Road area

The site lies adjacent to West Mersea parish church (Church of St Peter and St Paul). The church is constructed of re-used Roman Kentish ragstone walls with Roman, and later, brick. The earliest evidence (the lower part of the tower) appears to be 11th century in date (CHER MCC8909 & MCC4666). The area around the churchyard has had a number of sitings of finds. Cromwell Mortimer recorded seeing a mosaic and Roman remains in 1730 (**VCH** vol 3 p158-9). In 1896 Henry Laver observed a Roman wall (CHER MCC8858). And CAT excavated three trial pits in 1991 prior to extensions to the church. Only some residual Roman finds were recorded (CAT Report 1000 vol 3).

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

On land to the north of Church Road CAT was called out by the Curator of West Mersea Museum to record where workmen had uncovered human remains in trenches for a sewerage trench for a new bungalow. Although the workmen had removed all the bone (?3 partial skulls, some limb and vertebrae bones) before the first visit, on the second visit the location of a human skull was recorded. The skeletal remains were interpreted as medieval in date. It was also noted fragments of daub as well as Roman tile/brick fragments were seen in the backfill (CAT Report 1000 vol 3). The site of the bungalow approximately 50m northwest of the White Hart.

#### Yorick Road area

CAT carried out a series of work at 20 Yorick Road. The rear of the property includes the location of a Roman *mausoleum* (CHER MCC8355 Scheduled Monument no. 1002195). An exploratory trench was undertaken to assess the exact location and condition of the *mausoleum* (CHER MCC2973, CAT Report 255). Followed by a watching brief exposing part of a Roman wall foundation (CHER MCC5406, CAT Report 330)

Several sites CAT have overseen during watching briefs in the area have proven devoid of any archaeological features or finds, including 6 High Street (CAT Report 576), 4 Meadow Lane (CHER MCC5553, CAT Report 420), 6 Meadow Lane (CAT Report 629), The Blackwater Hotel Church Road (CHER MCC5291, CAT Report 223), Howard's Cottage, 12a Church Road (CAT Report 1000 vol 3). It has been noted in some of these reports however that the land appeared to have comprised of made-up ground thought to be dated to the 1960s (8 High Street, CAT Report 118).

#### **Planning background**

The original planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 2018 (application No.181198) proposing the refurbishment and extension to form Wine Bar/Cafe (A3 and A4); Offices (B1) and 9 Holiday Letting Rooms (C1), car parking and associated works including demolition of ancillary structures. As of February 2019 the proposed work has now been scaled down to smaller extensions to the rear.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as a potentially undesignated heritage asset as well as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, therefore a historic building recording condition and 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 2018 and the Colchester Borough Adopted Guidance titled *Managing Archaeology in Development* (2015)).

## Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for 1) a Level 2 Historic Building Recording and 2) an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Briefs written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

### 1) Historic building recording

The building recording will comprise a Historic England Level 2 survey of the two barns. The remains will be described, drawn and photographed. Specifically this will consider:

- Plan form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structures.
- Function and layout.
- Original and later fixtures and fittings.
- The significance of the site in its immediate local context.

### 2) Evaluation trenches

Specifically, the work will involve the excavation of a trench 4m long by 1.8m wide and a 1.5m by 1.5m test-pit, both located to cover the area of the extensions. The trench and test-pit have been located to try and avoid disturbance from the building due to be demolished and a possible line of services. The purpose of the trench and test-pit is to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if further archaeological investigation is required. Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

The trial-trenching is required to:

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

## General methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2018).

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

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: 1) One surveyor for the building recording. 2) one supervisor plus one archaeologist for one day for the evaluation. In charge of day-to-day site work: Mark Baister

## **Historic building recording methodology**

### **A Historic England Level 2 survey will be undertaken.**

A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the barn and its associated farm buildings will be made. Sources consulted will include:

- Essex Historic Environment Record.
- Essex Records Office.
- The site owner/developer.

A large-scale block plan will be made of the site using existing architects' drawings or the current OS 1:2500 map extract.

Plans and elevations at a scale of 1:100 will be made of the buildings, tied into the descriptive text and accompanying photographic record.

The buildings will be viewed, described and photographed. The description will seek to address materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing. A full photographic record will be made comprising colour digital photographs. This record will include both general shots and details of external and internal features (ie structural detail). A photographic scale will be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record will be accompanied by a photographic register detailing (as a minimum) location and direction of shot.

The completed plans will be clearly annotated to show the location and orientation of photographs taken as part of the survey.

Fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text will be reproduced as colour laser copies.

The guidelines contained in *Historic England: Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice (2016)* will be adhered to. In addition, RCHME: *Descriptive Specification 3rd Edition*, ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014)* and the appropriate sections of the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (East Anglian Archaeology occasional paper 14, 2003)* and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England (EAA 24, 2011)* and *Management of research projects in the historic environment (MoRPHE)* will be used for additional guidance in the design of the project specification, the contents of the report, and for the general execution of the project.

## **Evaluation 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.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

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

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine trenches, contexts and 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 micromorphical 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. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and 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.

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

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

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

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

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / 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: Paul Sealey

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.

## 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* (English Heritage 2006).

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 (Medycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

## Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

## Monitoring

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

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

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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



## References

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

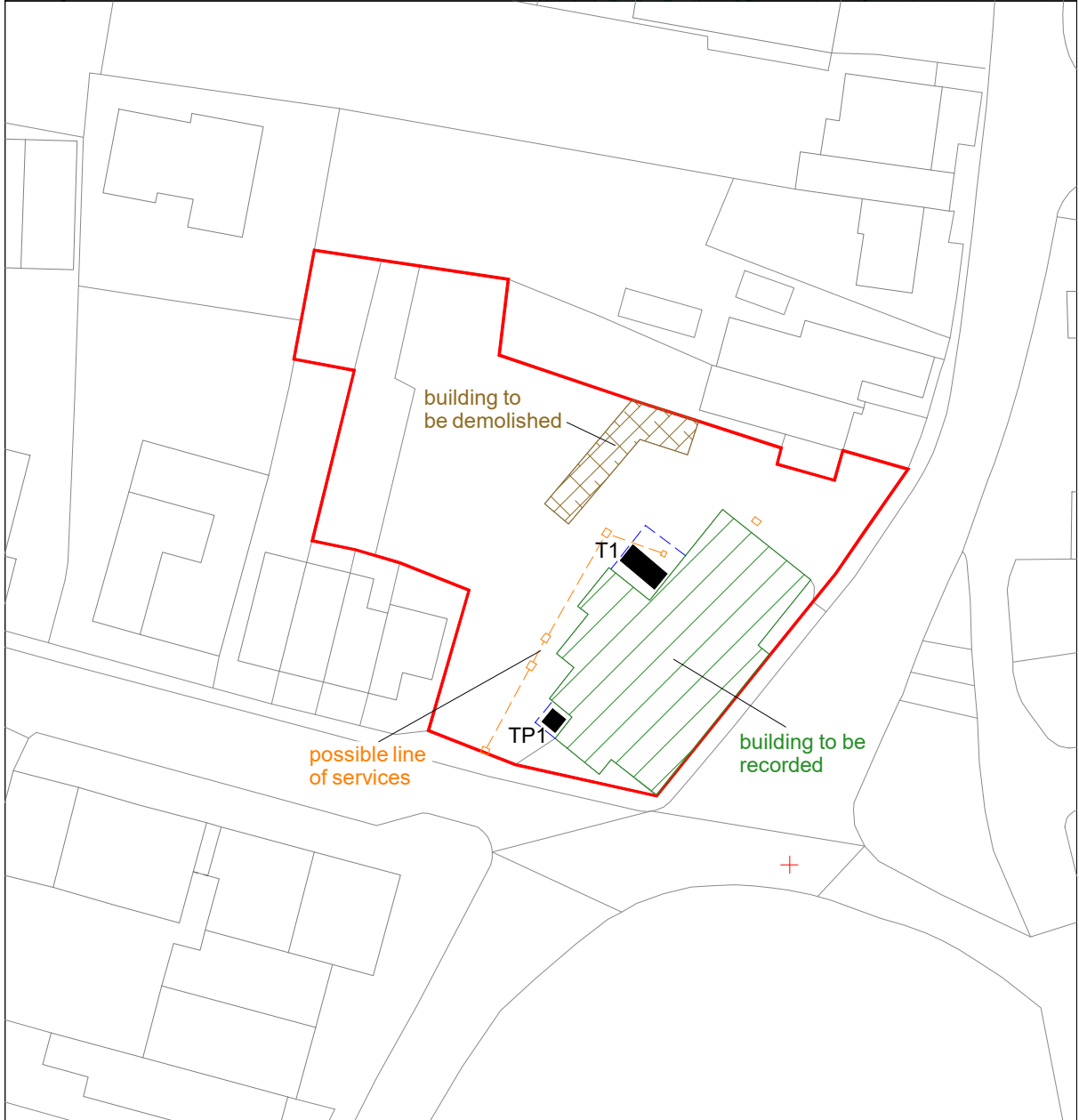
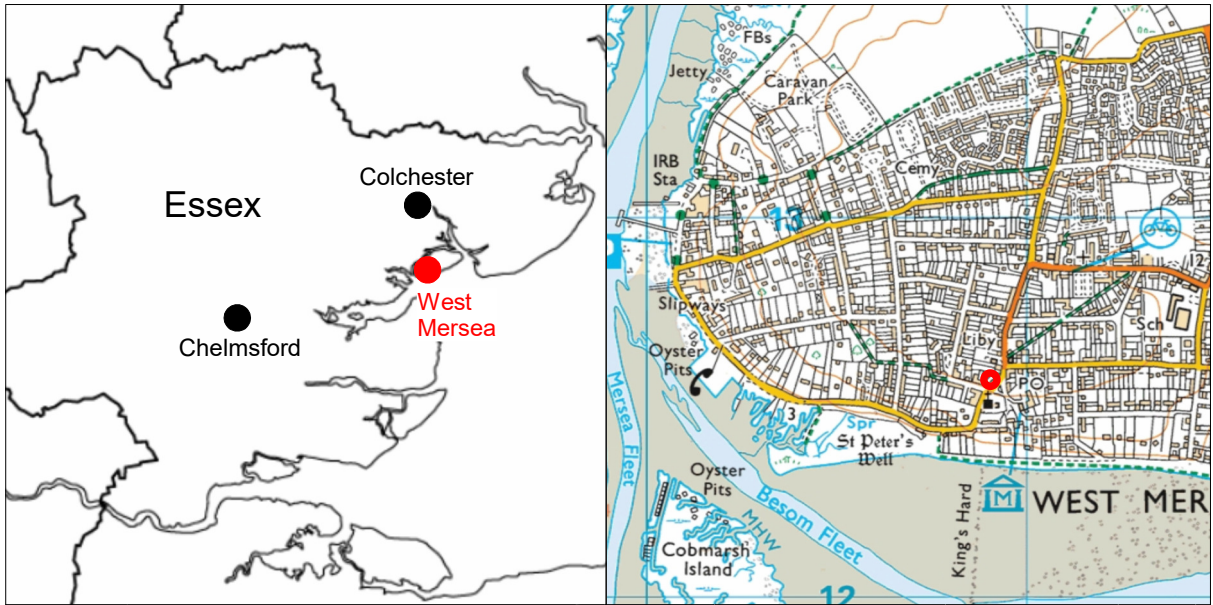
- |                  |             |   |
|------------------|-------------|---|
| Brown, D         | 2007        | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>  |
| CAT              | 2014        | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT Report 118   | 2001        | An archaeological watching brief at 8 High Street, West Mersea, Essex: December 2000. By K Orr  |
| CAT Report 223   | 2003        | An archaeological evaluation at the Blackwater Hotel, Church Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: March 2003. By L Pooley  |
| CAT Report 255   | 2004        | An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: November 2003. By B Holloway  |
| CAT Report 330   | 2005        | An archaeological watching brief at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: July 2005. By B Holloway  |
| CAT Report 596   | 2010        | An archaeological watching brief on land to the south of 'Serenity' 6 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester: July 2010. By A Wightman  |
| CAT Report 629   | 2012        | Archaeological monitoring (watching brief) At 6 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex September 2011 – February 2012. By B Holloway   |
| CAT Report 1000  | forthcoming | <i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997): Volume 3: Projects beyond Colchester Borough (including X Series list). Archive report by H Brooks</i> |
| CBCPS            | 2018        | <i>Brief for Level 2 Historic Building recording at White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, CO5 8QD. J Tipper</i>   |
| CBCPS            | 2018        | <i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, CO5 8QD. J Tipper</i>  |
| 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>   |
| English Heritage | 2006        | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Gurney, D        | 2003        | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>  |
| Historic England | 2016        | <i>Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice. By R Lane</i>  |
| Marriage, J      | 1999        | <i>Britain in old photographs: Mersea Island p11</i>  |
| Medlycott, M     | 2011        | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>  |
| MHCLG            | 2018        | <i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>   |
| Powell, WR       | 1963        | Victoria County History, Essex, Vol III ( <b>VCH</b> ). Vol 3, p161.  |

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Fig 1 Site location with suggested trench location.  
Proposed development in blue.



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-337518**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench and two test-pits) was carried out at the White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex in advance of refurbishments and extensions to the existing building. The White Hart possibly dates from the 18th century and is located in an area rich in Roman and medieval remains. Evaluation revealed post-medieval and modern layers sealing natural sands. A post-medieval brick-lined soakaway/cesspit, a 19th-century brick wall foundation and an undated pit were excavated and are likely to be associated with the existing building.
Project dates	Start: 09-05-2019 End: 09-05-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/07e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	181198 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4246 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.67 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	SOAKAWAY/CESSPIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	BRICKS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICKS Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER WEST MERSEA White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street
Postcode	CO5 8QD
Study area	0.13 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 00909 12562 51.775072173946 0.912554927921 51 46 30 N 000 54 45 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 14.48m Max: 15.35m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.67
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.67
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Photograph","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at White Hart Hotel, 1 High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD: May 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1415
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html</a>
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	22 May 2019

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