



Colchester  
Archaeological  
Trust

<b>CAT Report 1434</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Wivenhoe
<b>Archaeological monitoring at Cap Pilar Cottage, Wivenhoe, Essex, CO7 9DE: May 2019</b>	<b>Planning reference:</b> 190831
	<b>CHER Event no.:</b> ECC4328
	<b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-348199
	<b>Grid Reference:</b> TM 03767 21578
	<b>Number of site visits:</b> 1
	<b>Date of visit:</b> 10th May 2019

**Nature of the work:** Observation of groundworks for a two-storey extension.

**Reason for condition:** The site lies within the historic core of Wivenhoe, near to the 14th-century church of St Mary the Virgin.

**% of total seen:** 100% of the groundworks.

**Results:** The excavation of foundation trenching, 18.6m long, 0.5m wide and 1.2m deep, was archaeologically monitored in response to a brief set by Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

Groundworks penetrated four layers. A modern crush surface (L1, c 0.21-0.23m thick) overlay modern topsoil (L2, c 0.41-0.45m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay). L2 sealed a layer of subsoil (L3, c 0.25-0.29m thick firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks) beneath which lay natural (L4, firm, moist orange sand, encountered at a depth of c 0.9m below current ground level).



**Photograph 1** Foundation trenching – looking east northeast

No significant archaeological deposits or material were encountered.

**Recorded by:** Dr Elliott Hicks

**Date:** 17th June 2019



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Date: 18.06.2019

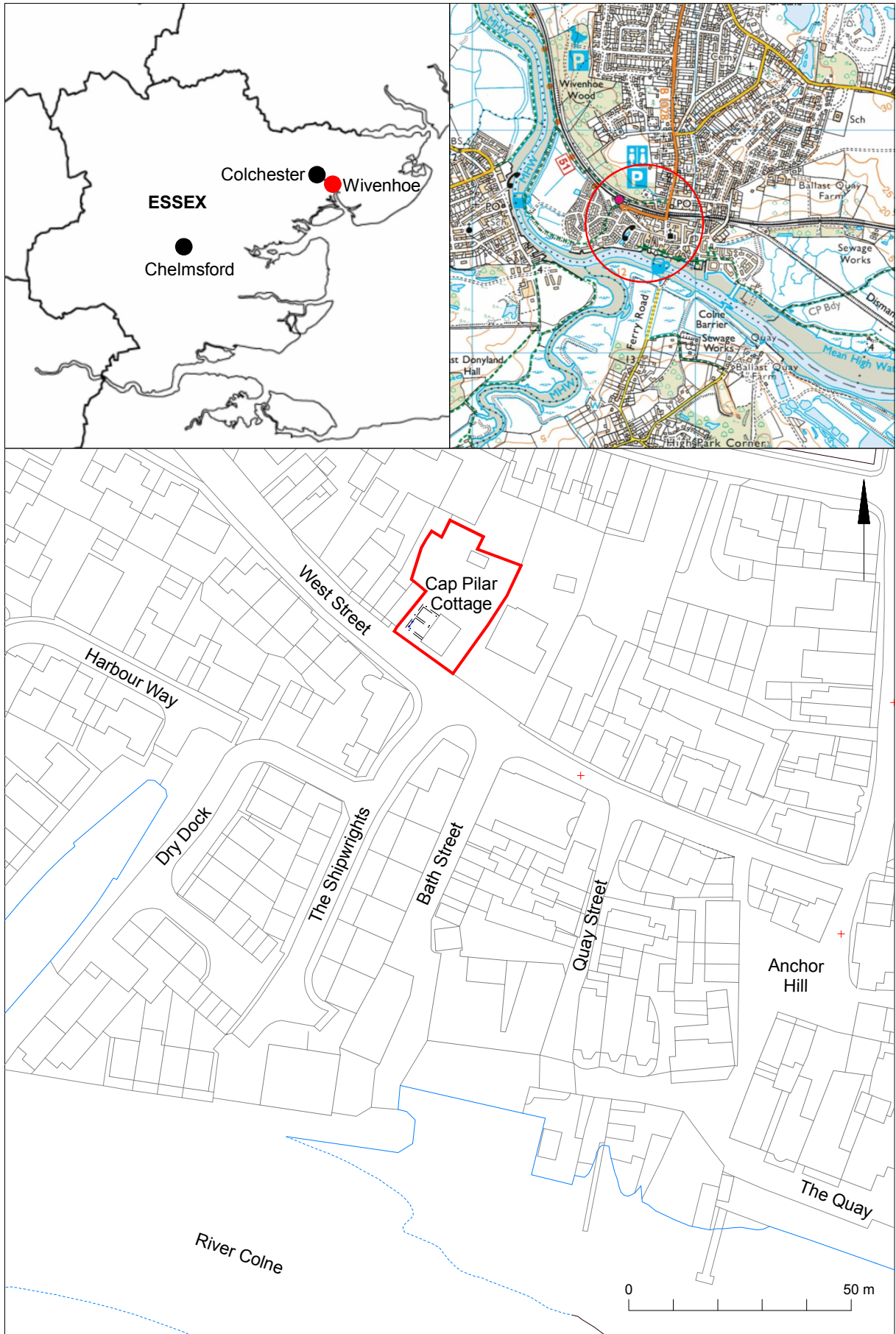
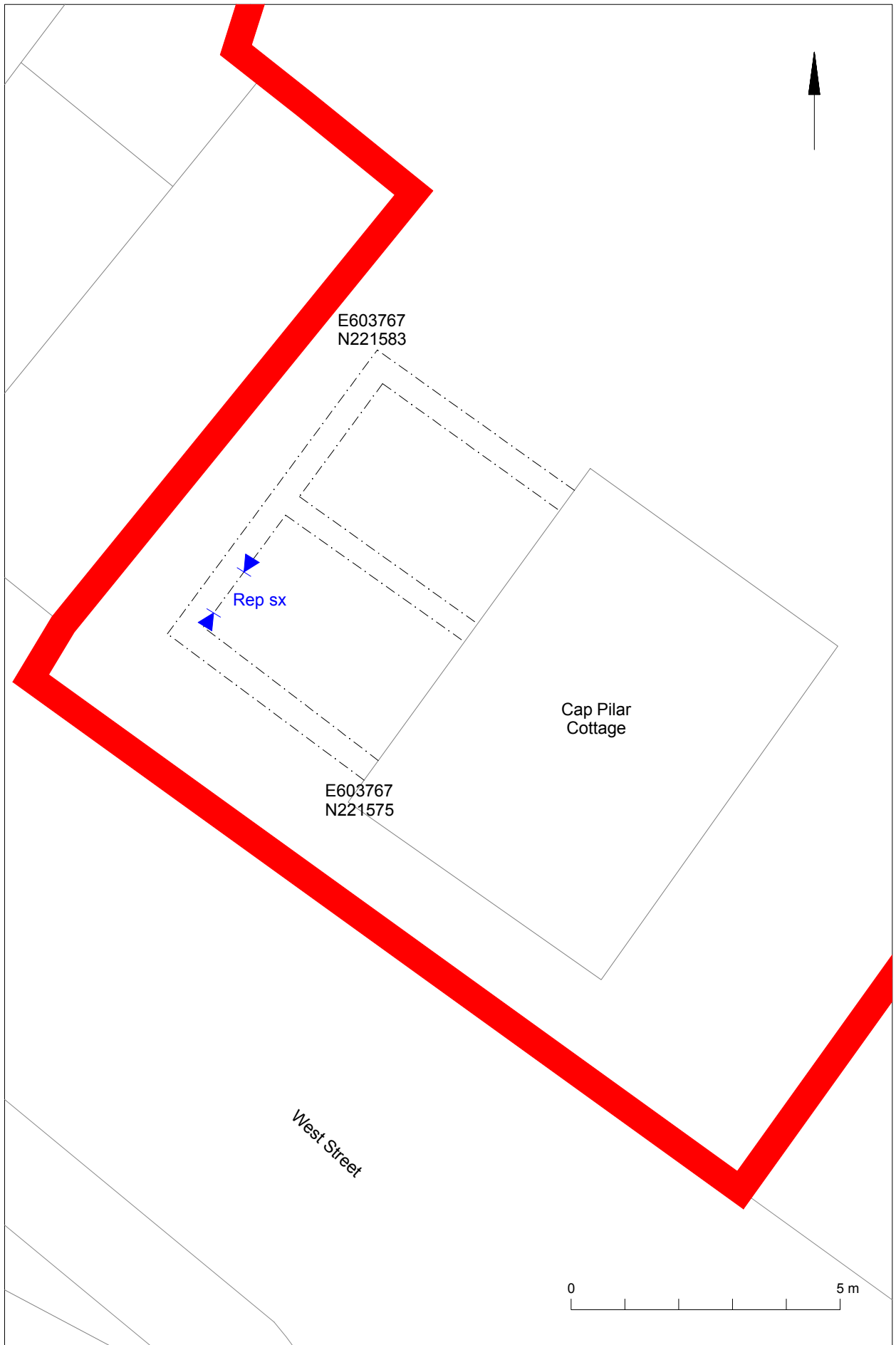


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Monitoring results.

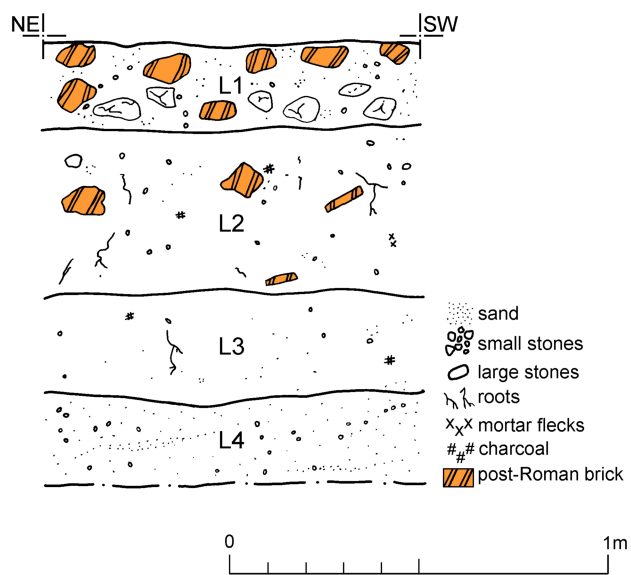


Fig 3 Representative section.

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at Cap Pilar Cottage, Wivenhoe, Essex, CO7 9DE.**

**NGR:** TM 03767 21578 (centre)

**Planning references:** 190831

**Commissioned by:** Steve Norman

**Client:** Mr A Sherwood

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** ECC4328

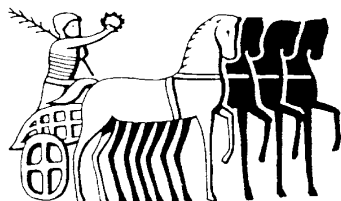
**CAT project code:** 2019/04b

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-348199

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 04/04/2019



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies at the southern edge of Wivenhoe, within a conservation area, approximately 118m north of the River Colne at Cap Pilar Cottage, West Street, Wivenhoe, Essex, CO7 9DE (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 03767 21578.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a two-storey extension to the northwestern side of the existing dwelling, 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 (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site is located within the historic core of Wivenhoe. There are approximately one Historic England Grade II\* and 64 Grade II Listed buildings within 250m of the development site, ranging in date from the 16<sup>th</sup> to late 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. The site is adjacent to West House a 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century timber framed house with 19<sup>th</sup> century alterations (CHER3197 Grade II Historic England building no 1225343).

To the east of the development is the church and churchyard of St Mary the Virgin (CHER no. MCC3175, MCC8980 and MCC10041), a Historic England Grade II\* 14<sup>th</sup> century church with 19<sup>th</sup> century alterations. An assessment of the site in 1977 (Rodwell & Rodwell) concluded that the church was: *'Dull and uninteresting after 19<sup>th</sup> century rebuilding. Graveyard has been devastated and largely cleared with headstones leaned carelessly against boundary walls though a few monuments are in situ. Archaeological potential unknown, could be high.'*

Archaeological work undertaken by CAT close to the development include the inspection of 1m wide depression in the asphalt on the northeast side of the Congregational church in 1991, the Congregational Church is located almost opposite the current site (CHER MCC3201). The depression was filled with brick rubble and stones and thought to be an in-filled well. A pit was also observed within foundations dug to the rear of the minister's bungalow on the High Street side of the church. The pit did not contain any datable finds but was noted as being 8 feet deep and contained occasional animal bone and oyster shell in the lower fill (CAT Report 1000, 91/11a).

Approximately 122m to the southwest of the site CAT recorded a substantial piece of timber, jointed and containing one nail dowels 2m deep during the excavation of a drainage pit in the rear of Maple Cottage. According to the owner at the time, the timber was horizontal and lay at a slight angle to the line of the rear wall of the house. It continued east beyond the limits of the pit and was cut through to facilitate removal of the exposed western end. No stratigraphy was available for inspection since the pit had been fully lined by the time a report of the discovery was received. Maple cottage (CHER MCC3189) is believed to date to potentially the early 1600's but, contrary to the initial report, the timber did not extend beneath the cottage which stands 2.4m south of the spot. However, its depth combined with the account of the overlying stratigraphy seem to suggest a relatively early date for the structure with which it is associated (CAT Report 1000, 96/11d).

Work on developing the Wivenhoe port site for housing began in 1998. The site had been a shipyard but was concreted over in 1966 when it became a port. The dry dock built in 1888 was revealed. It contained many timbers from a three-masted brigantine which had completed a two year voyage around the world just before the war and was to have had a refit here. This was abandoned until after the war. It was then in such a bad state that it was blown up and set on fire so that all that remained was a jumble of timbers. This was all removed as it was to have said to be toxic. No artefacts other than long nails were seen. The dock was then back filled with gungy black soil taken from where the houses were to be built. Nothing was

observed in this soil or on the exposed surface where it was taken from. The dry dock was concreted over leaving about a metre from the top, then filled with water to make a feature of the development. Much reinforcement was needed to form a stable base for the new housing (CAT Report 1000, 98/0a).



**PHOTOGRAPH 1:** Excavation of the Dry Dock in 1998, looking towards West Street.

### **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2019 (application No.190831) proposing a *two storey side extension and associated alterations*.

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 continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

### **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 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.

## **Monitoring methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

## **Site surveying**

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

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

### **Environmental sampling policy**

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

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

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

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

### **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. 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.

### **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

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

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: 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 absolute dating of appropriate finds/deposits.

## 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 2015).

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.

## **Monitoring**

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

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

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

## **References**

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

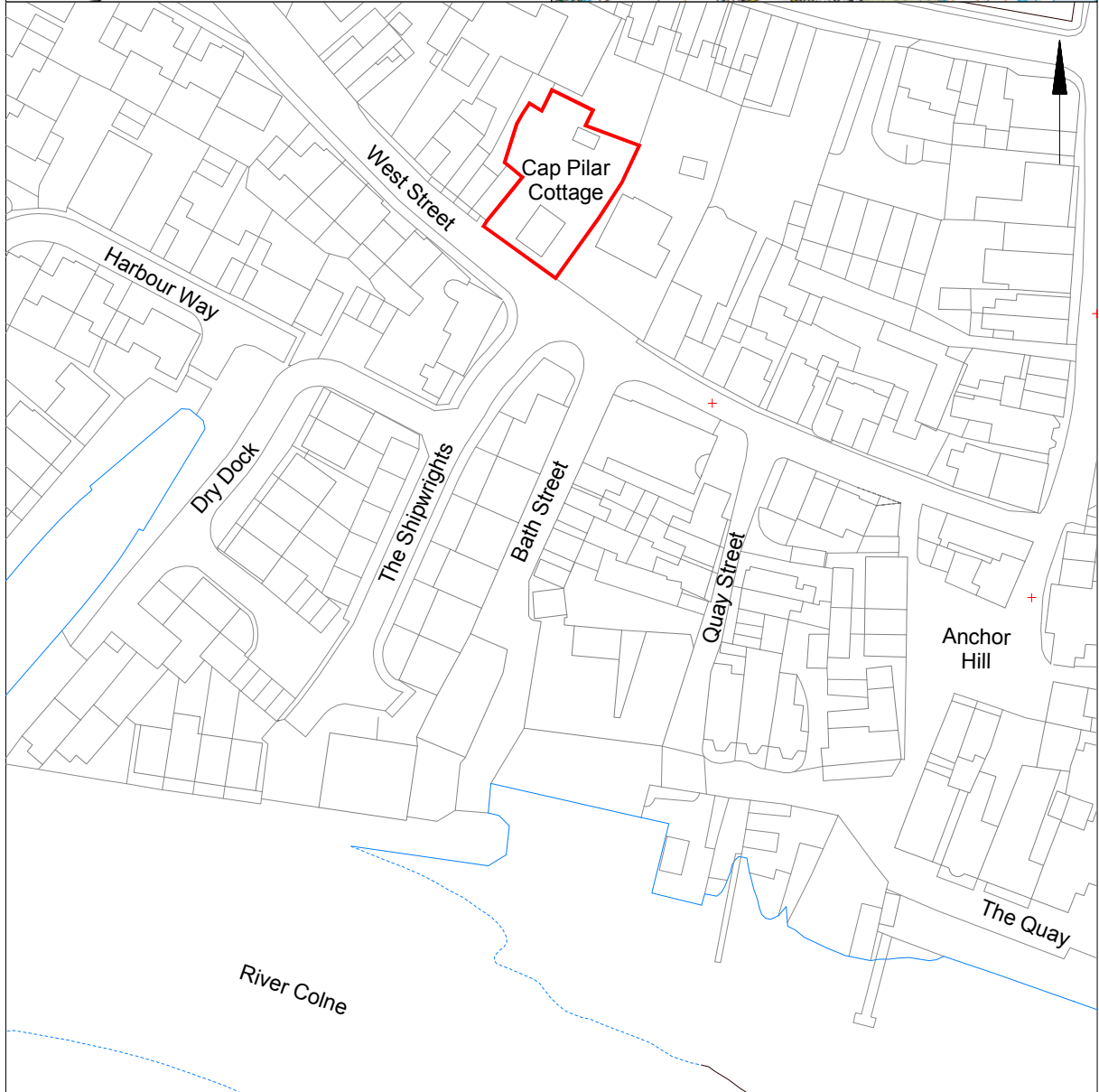
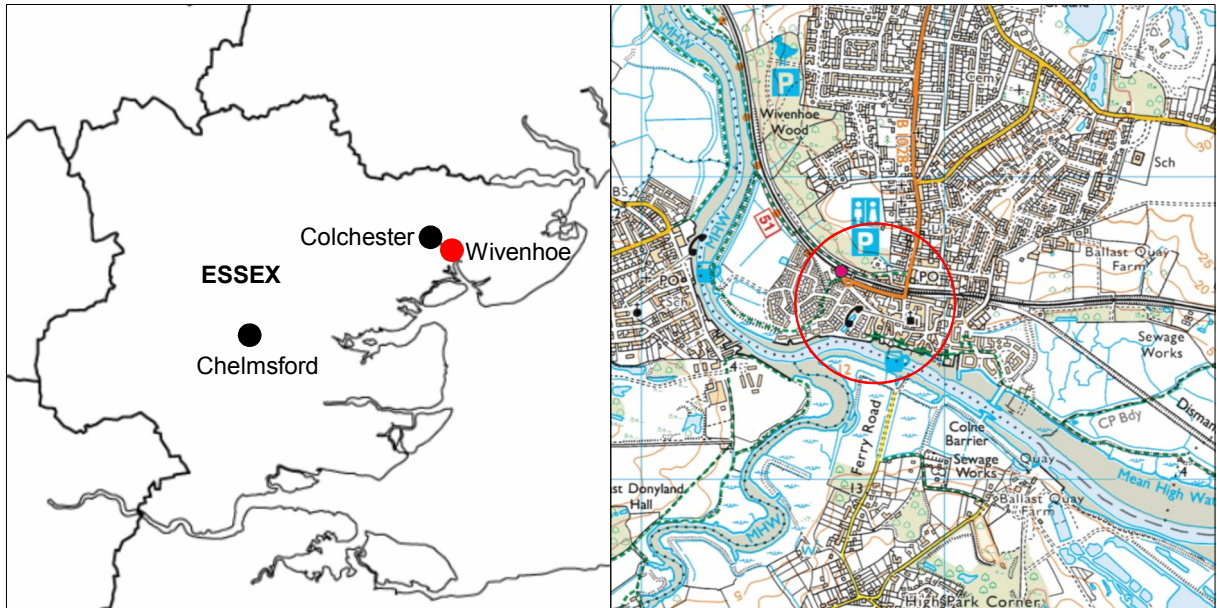
Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</i> (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the <i>CAT Report Series from 1997</i> ) by H Brooks
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Cap Pilar Cottage, West Street, Wivenhoe, CO7 9DE.</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)	2015	<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.
Rodwell, W J & Rodwell, K A	1977	<i>Historic Churches: a wasting asset,</i> p124

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Fig 1 Site location.



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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-348199**

### Project details

Project name	Continuous archaeological recording at Cap Pilar Cottage, Wivenhoe, Essex, CO7 9DE.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Cap Pilar Cottage, Wivenhoe, during groundworks for the construction of a two-storey extension. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 10-05-2019 End: 10-05-2019
Any associated project reference codes	2019/04b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4328 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-348199 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER WIVENHOE Cap Pilar Cottage, Wivenhoe, Essex
Postcode	CO7 9DE
Study area	0.05 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 03767 21578 51.854997302264 0.959231207567 51 51 17 N 000 57 33 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway

Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr A Sherwood

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4328
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4328
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at Cap Pilar Cottage, Wivenhoe, Essex, CO7 9DE: May 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1434
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	18 June 2019

# OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:eh2@catuk.org) for OASIS help and advice

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