

**Site: 54 Creffield Road, Colchester**  
NGR: TL 9872 2470

Reason for Watching Brief: bay window extension  
Owner: Mr & Mrs Henry  
Contractor: Cook and Long Builders

Fieldwork By: C.Crossan  
Report By: C.Crossan

Date: 9th & 10th June 1999

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## Summary

Part of Roman greyware jar containing cremated bone was recovered from the foundation trench for a bay window extension at the rear of 54 Creffield Road.

## Report

The site was visited during the final stages in the excavation of a foundation trench for a small bay window at the rear of the house.

Most of the spoil had already been removed from the site. In the remaining heap was the lower part of a Roman greyware jar filled with soil containing cremated bone (finds no. 1). Several more body sherds were retrieved from the heap (finds no. 2); also a heavily corroded bent iron nail, 11cm in length (finds no 3). According to the contractor, the pottery had been dug out from a depth of approximately 65cm at the northern end of the trench, which places it in the material described below as L2. It is not known whether the pot was originally upright and the exact source of the nail found in the spoil next to the body sherds is uncertain. No cuts were discernible in the trench section. The stratigraphy in the 1.20m deep trench was as follows:

- L1. Garden topsoil. 30cm.
- L2. Dark greyish brown sandy loam with a low content of small stones. 60cm.
- L3. Brown loamy sand dominated by gravel with occasional flints up to 10cm in size. This layer continued down beyond the limit of excavation.

The L2 material appeared to be a long-term accumulation of soil with no obvious internal horizons. Although the underlying L3 seems most likely to be natural, it is worth noting that it lacked the fresh clean appearance of a natural seam of gravel and the presence of several larger stones in its matrix is unusual. However, if this material was early road metalling its relationship to the find spot for the cremation burial would be ambiguous, assuming that the pot was encountered in-situ.

Past finds from the immediate vicinity include a Roman lead coffin discovered in 1887 (Antiquaries Journal ix, 1 ff).

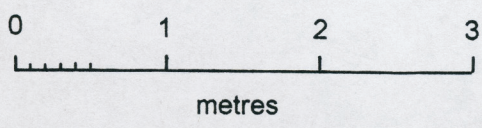
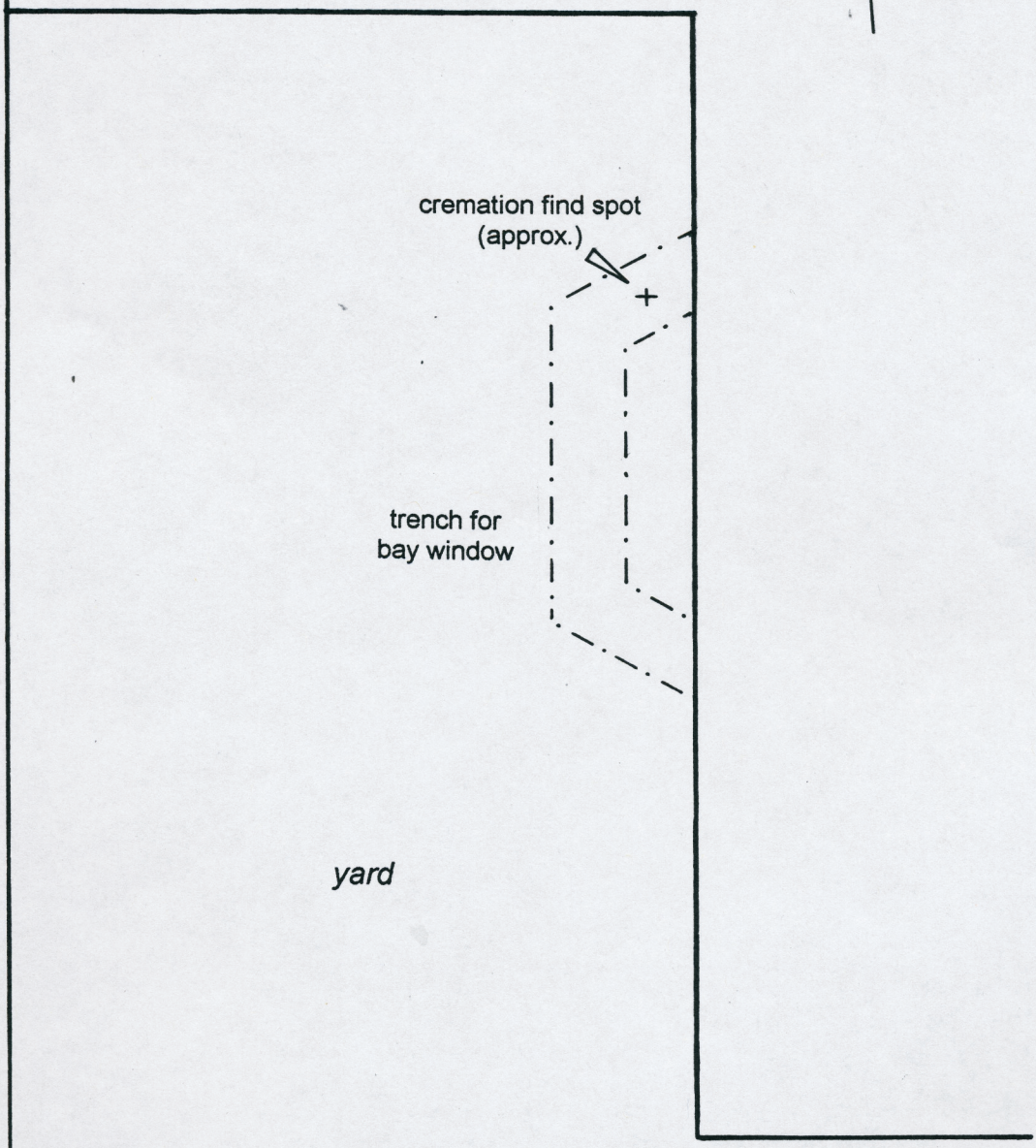
*Appended: location plans (2)*

*Photographs: colour slides*

*Finds: pot, cremated bone and iron nail, noted above.*

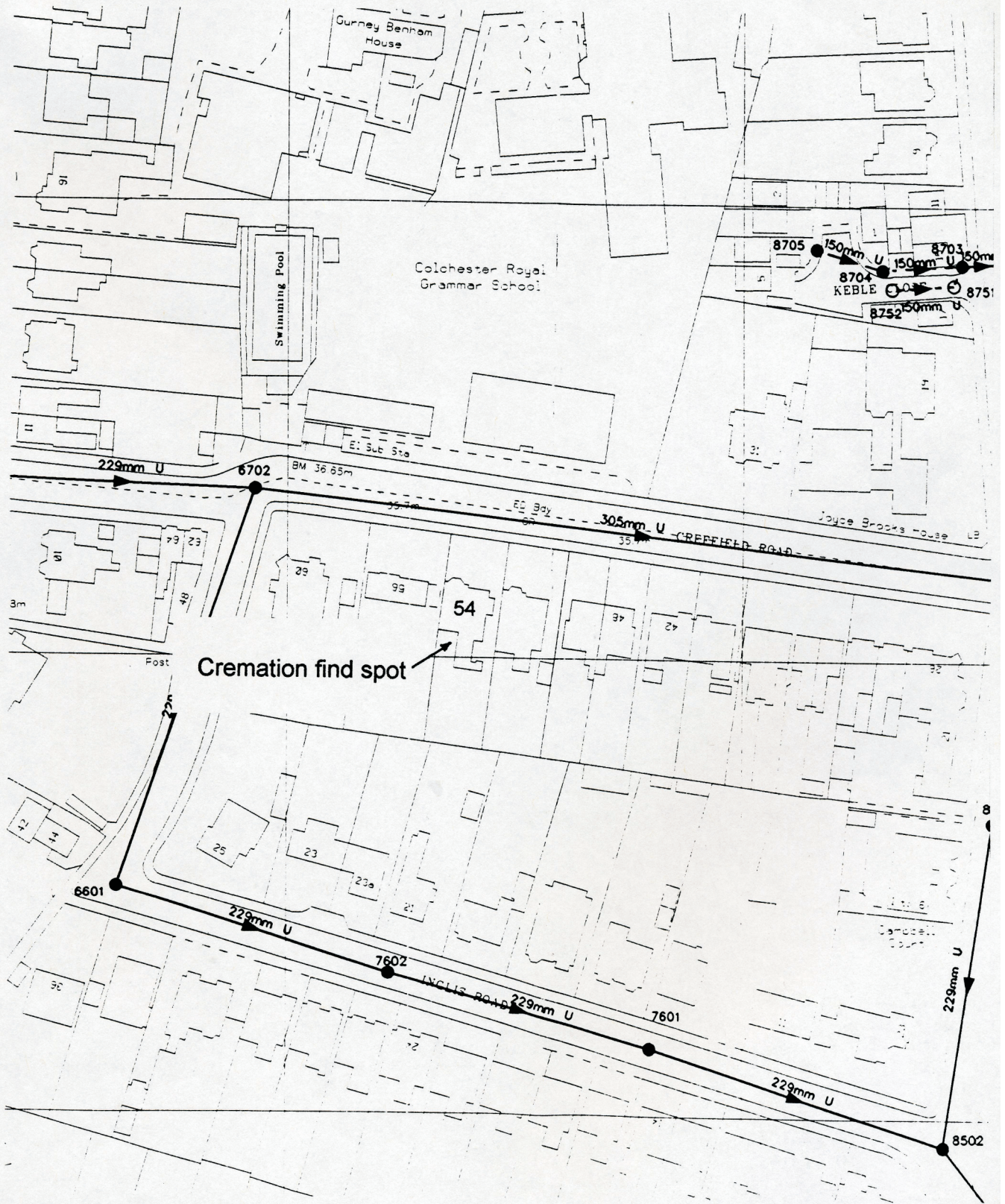
*Further work (June 99): sieve and package cremated bone*

No. 54



*garden*

Rear of 54 Creffield Road: plan



54 Creffield Road, Colchester: location plan