

**An archaeological excavation at
1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex
March 2003**

**report prepared by
Maureen McDonald**

**on behalf of
Mr and Mrs Gale**

NGR: TL 9750 2705
CAT project ref.: 02/8e
Planning application no: F/COL/02/0816
Colchester Museums accession code: 2002.162



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1 Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex. The foundation trench for a proposed extension was excavated down into the natural subsoil. The site is located in an area which is rich in archaeological remains, on the northern side of the site of the Lexden Iron Age-Roman cemetery. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the archive report on a small archaeological excavation which was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the side of 1 St Clare Road on 17th March 2003.
- 2.2 This report follows a brief written by the Archaeological Officer for Colchester Borough Council in September 2002.
- 2.3 The site lies approximately 2km west of Colchester town centre, to the south of Lexden Road, and on the east side of St Clare Road at NGR TL 9750 2705 (Fig 1).
- 2.4 The excavation was necessitated by a proposal to extend the property to the south into an area which is currently garden.
- 2.5 This report follows the standards set out in the Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999, updated 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996, updated 2002), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation* (1999).

3 Archaeological background

The site is situated on the northern side of the site of the Lexden Late Iron Age-Roman cemetery, which was in use from the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD. The cemetery has never been fully published, but a summary can be found in Hawkes and Crummy 1995 (pp 164-9) and references are made to it in Hull (1958). A Roman burial was found in 1928 when the house at 1 St Clare Road was built (Hawkes & Crummy 1995, p 164).

Approximately 300m to the south of the site lies the Lexden Tumulus. Excavated in the last century, this burial mound is probably that of a late Iron Age king.

Lexden Dyke is located 150m west of the site, aligned north-south. This major defensive feature also dates to the late Iron Age.

Imported early Roman brooches have been found close to St Clare Drive and a Middle Bronze Age urn was recorded in St Clare Road (EHCR 11717 and 11720).

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to excavate and record any surviving archaeological remains prior to the construction of the new extension.

5 Methods

The excavated areas corresponded precisely with the foundation trench for the proposed extension. The trench was excavated by hand to a depth of 0.9m. It was a straight-sided, flat-bottomed trench, 0.5m wide and 17m long (Fig 2). The trench was planned at a scale of 1:50 and a 1m-wide sample section was drawn at 1:10.

6 Results

There were two contexts in the trench:

L1 – the upper layer, 0.45m thick, was topsoil consisting of dark yellow brown sandy loam with common small stones.

L2 – the lower layer was natural subsoil consisting of orange brown very stony sand. 0.45m of this layer was removed to a depth of 0.9m below ground-level.

No archaeological remains or features were recorded.

7 Finds

No finds were recovered from this excavation.

8 Discussion and conclusions

No archaeological features or finds were recorded during this excavation.

9 Acknowledgements

The Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank the site owners Mr and Mrs Gale for commissioning and funding the excavation, also the architect Mr S Belchem of Architecture and Design Partnership Ltd, and the builder Mr L Christie, whose valuable assistance on site is acknowledged. Martin Winter monitored the work for Colchester Borough Council. The fieldwork was carried out by Nigel Rayner.

10 References

- Hawkes, C F C, & Crummy, P 1995 *Camulodunum 2*, Colchester Archaeological Report **11**
- Hull, M R 1958 *Roman Colchester*, RRCSAL, **21**

11 Glossary and abbreviations

context	specific location in the ground, especially where finds are concerned
modern	19th and 20th centuries
NGR	National Grid Reference

12 Archive deposition

The archive will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museums, under museum accession code 2002.162.

13 Site context list

Context	Description	Period
L1	Topsoil consisting of dark yellow brown sandy loam with common small stones.	modern
L2	Natural subsoil consisting of orange brown, very stony sand.	glacial/ post-glacial

Distribution list:

Mr and Mrs Gale

Mr L Christie

Architecture and Design Partnership Ltd

Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council

Essex Heritage Conservation Record (EHCR), Essex County Council

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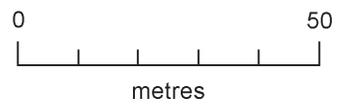


Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Trench plan.

**Essex Heritage Conservation Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site name/address: side of 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9750 2705	Museum accession code: 2002.162
Type of work: Excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: March 2003	Size of area investigated: 3 sq m
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHCR nos: 11717 and 11720
Final report: CAT Report 225 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: None	
Summary of fieldwork results: An excavation was carried out at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex. The foundation trench for a proposed extension was excavated down into the natural subsoil. The site is located in an area which is rich in archaeological remains, on the northern side of the site of the Lexden Iron Age-Roman cemetery. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Maureen McDonald	Date of summary: 24th April 2003