Archaeological monitoring and recording: 40, Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex

August 2015

report prepared by Ben Holloway

on behalf of Mr and Mrs Lewis

NGR: TL 98137 24212 (centre)
Planning reference: 150879
CAT project ref.: 12/7c
UAD EVT: 4328
Colchester & Ipswich Museum accession: 2015.70
OASIS reference: 217351

Colchester Archaeological Trust
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CAT Report 860
September 2015
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1 Summary

The site is 2km to the south-west of the Roman walled town, south of the main area of the western Roman cemetery, and 120m north of the projected route of the Roman road from the Roman town to Gosbecks.

Archaeological monitoring carried out during the excavation of foundations for a new rear extension revealed no archaeological features or deposits. There were no finds (modern brick fragments in the topsoil were not retained).

The lack of archaeological activity on this site is most likely due to its location to the south of the main area of Roman cemeteries.

2 Introduction

This is the report on the archaeological monitoring project carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 11th of August 2015 in the rear garden of 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Lewis (site centre: TL 98137 24212).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Brief from Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA 2015), and with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CAT (2015) and agreed with CBCAA.

This report follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014a), Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b), Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14) and Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24).

3 Archaeological background

This section is based on records held by The Urban Archaeological database (UAD).

Irvine Road is in a part of Colchester considered to have high archaeological potential. It is located to the south of Roman cemeteries that cluster around the Roman roads radiating out of Colchester (CAR 9). One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road. It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned on this road. The site is also approximately 160m south-west of the Romano-Celtic temple partially excavated in 1947 (Hull 1958, EHER 13128) on the southern side of Colchester Royal Grammar School’s playing fields (UAD MCC1959, 1962, 1991).

Local finds of Roman material include Roman coins from 31 Irvine Road (UAD MCC1215) and 76 Irvine Road (UAD MCC1230). In 2002 CAT undertook a single evaluation trench in front of the groundsman’s building on the CRGS playing field for a new sports-block building (CAT Report 180) but no archaeological remains or features were encountered. A watching brief on a small trench at 10 Audley Road in February 2015 was also negative (CAT Report 813).

4 Aim

The aim of the monitoring was to preserve by record any remains and deposits disturbed or removed by the development.
5 Results
Monitoring
Monitoring took place in August 2015, during the excavation of foundation beams, a new soakaway and associated drainage gullies. All groundwork was carried out using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket.

Foundation beams
Foundation beams for the extension (450mm wide, and to a maximum formation depth of 1m below ground level (bgl)) were excavated through a thick topsoil deposit (L1), and accumulation material (L2) which in turn sealed natural geological horizons (L3). During the foundation excavation there was no archaeological material recovered or features observed.

Soakaway and drainage
Drainage renewal at the southern end of the new extension involved a new soakaway (1m square) excavated to a depth of 1.2m bgl, and an associated gully run excavated to a depth of 0.3m. As with the foundation excavations, no archaeological deposits or material were seen.

6 Finds
There were no finds. Modern brick fragments in topsoil (L1) were not retained.

7 Conclusions
No archaeological features or deposits were revealed by the monitoring. The lack of archaeological activity is probably due to the site's location away from the main cemetery area to the north.

8 Acknowledgements
CAT thanks Mr and Mrs Lewis for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by, and fieldwork carried out by, Ben Holloway. The project was monitored by CBCAA Jess Tipper.
9 References

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


**CAT** 2015  *Written Scheme of Investigation for continuous archaeological recording at 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex. July 2015.*


**CAT** 2015  *An archaeological watching brief at 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex; February 2015*. Report by C Lister

**CBCAA** 2015  *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TS*, by J Tipper

**CIfA** 2014a  *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

**CIfA** 2014b  *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

**Gurney, D** 2003  *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).*

**DCLG** 2012  *National Planning Policy Framework.*

**Hull, MR** 1958  *Roman Colchester Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, number 20*


10 Glossary

**context** specific location of finds on an archaeological site

**EHER** Essex Historic Environment Record

**feature** an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor

**CIfA** Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists

**medieval** period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500

**modern** period from c 1850 onwards to the present

**NGR** National Grid Reference

**natural** geological deposit undisturbed by human activity

**post-medieval** period from c 1500 to c 1850

**Roman** the period from AD 43 to AD 410

**UAD** Urban Archaeological Database (Colchester Borough Council)

11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none

**Paper and digital**

An A4 wallet containing: this report (CAT Report 860), CBCAA *Brief*, CAT WSI, photos on disc, photo catalogue, sundry papers.

12 Archive deposition

The archive will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLEM 2015.70.
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Distribution list:
Mr & Mrs Lewis
BG Designs
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

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tel.: (01206) 501785
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

checked by: Howard Brooks
date: 02.09.15
Fig 1 Site location. Extension shown in blue.
Fig 2  Representative section of footings trenches
Address: 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex

Parish: Colchester
District: Colchester

NGR: TL 98137 24212
Site code: CAT project code – 15/7c

Type of work: Monitoring
Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust

Date of work: August 2015
Size of area investigated: approx 19m of trenches

Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museum
accession code: 2015.70
Funding source: Developer

Further seasons anticipated? No

Final report: CAT Report 860

Periods represented: Modern

Summary of fieldwork results:
The site is 2km to the south-west of the Roman walled town, south of the main area of the western Roman cemetery, and 120m north of the projected route of the Roman road from the Roman town to Gosbecks.

Archaeological monitoring carried out during the excavation of foundations for a new rear extension revealed no archaeological features or deposits. There were no finds (modern brick fragments in the topsoil were not retained).

The lack of archaeological activity on this site is most likely due to its location to the south of the main area of Roman cemeteries.

Previous summaries/reports:
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

Keywords: Modern
Significance: *

Author of summary: Ben Holloway
Date of summary: August 2015
Appendix 1

(following pages)
Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Continuous Archaeological Recording at 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex

NGR: TL 9854 2462 (centre)
Planning reference: 150879
Client: Lauren McCarthy
Agent: Brian Griffiths, BG Designs
Curating Museum: Colchester
Museum accession code: 2015.70
UAD Event number: tbc
CAT Project code: 15/07c
OASIS Project id: colchest3-217351

Site Manager: Ben Holloway
CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 10.07.2015
Site Location and Description
The proposed development site is at 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TS. It lies less than 2km to the south-west of the main historic Colchester town centre on the north-eastern side of Irvine Road. Centred at National Grid Reference TL 9854 2462 (Fig 1).

Proposed work
The development comprises the construction of a single-storey extension the rear of the property on land currently in use as a lawn and flower borders.

Archaeological Background
The following archaeological background derives from the CBCAA brief with data from the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and draws on CAT Report 180:

Irvine Road is situated in an area of Colchester considered to have high archaeological potential, located to the south of known Roman cemeteries (see CAR 9) that cluster around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road. It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned to the orientation of this road. The development is also approximately 160m south-west of a recorded Romano-British temple located under the southern extent of Colchester Royal Grammar School’s playing fields (UAD no.s MCC1959, MCC1962 and MCC1991). The Roman temple was partly excavated in 1947 (EHER no. 13128). During the excavations natural sand and gravel was found to be present no deeper than 1m below ground level (Hull 1958).

There have been a number of Roman finds spots in the area including Roman coins from 31 Irvine Road (UAD no. MCC1215) and 76 Irvine Road (UAD no. MCC1230). In 2002 CAT undertook a single evaluation trench in front of the groundsman’s building on the Grammar School playing field for a new sports-block building (CAT Report 180) but no archaeological remains or features were encountered. A watching brief on a small trench at 10 Audley Road in February 2015 (CAT Report 813) was also negative.

Planning Background
A planning application was submitted to Colchester Borough Council in April 2015 for the proposed work (above: Planning reference 150879). As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, a full archaeological condition was recommended by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states:

‘No works shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been previously submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and: a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording. b. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording. c. Provision to be made for reporting, publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation. d. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation. e. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation. f. The scheme of investigation shall be completed as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Colchester Borough Council, PO Box 889, Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3WG. Planning Services Authority. Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundwork associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development, in accordance with Policy SD1 and ENV1 of Colchester Borough Council’s Core Strategy (2008).’

Requirement for Work
The required archaeological work involves undertaking a Continuous Archaeological Recording (Watching Brief) of all the groundworks undertaken by the contractor (including any removal of foundations of the previous buildings). The mechanical stripping will involve using a flat–edged ditching bucket whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCCAO (Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TS - CBC 2015). Once the strip is complete a meeting will be held on site with CBCAA, the developer and CAT to discuss if any further work is needed.

It is anticipated that this work will comprise the complete excavation and recovery of any burials on the site and standard sample excavation of all other features.

Specific research aims are:
Follow requirements as stated in sections 3.1-5 of the Brief
To preserve by record any archaeological remains that may be destroyed by the development.
In particular to look for potential evidence for Roman burials and associated buildings

**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-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

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.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

**Written Scheme of Investigation**
Prior to start of work, a Written Scheme of Investigation will be submitted to CBCAA. The WSI will describe in appropriate detail how the *Brief* from CBCAA will be implemented in fieldwork, post-excavation, reporting and publication stages.

The WSI shall be submitted to CBCAA, and fieldwork will not commence prior to approval of WSI from CBCAA.

The WSI will include a location plan of the development site showing area of proposed excavation or trench layout.

**OASIS Record**
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 CBCAA and EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

**Staffing**
The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows – one archaeologist to continually monitor the strip
In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

**Watching brief methodology**
There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors’ ground reduction, footings work, service trench digging, and all related works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction, which 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) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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 the site, 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. All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

**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 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 (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

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

**Human remains**
Policy depends on the age of the burial. 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.

Allowance will be made in the budget and timetable to allow a human bone specialist to visit site to advise on recording and lifting human remains (inhumations), and for an experienced conservator to visit site and advise on recording and lifting of fragile grave goods.

**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.

**Post-excavation assessment**
If a post-exavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

**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:

- **animal bones** (small groups): Adam Wightman
- flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

- **small finds, metalwork, coins, etc**: Nina Crummy.
- **animal bones** (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (Sylvanus)
- **environmental** processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)
- **conservation** of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

- **Roman brick/tile**: Ernest Black
- **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.

**End of Fieldwork, and Report**

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate report will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by CBCAA.

Final report will normally be submitted to CBCAA as PDF, but printed copy can be provided on request.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methodology adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of site and excavated area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench / excavated area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Detailed archaeologists results including list of sites resulting from an EHER/UAD search, and historic maps to show changes and development of site, with 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.
- As Appendices, the OASIS entry and the WSI.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and attached as Appendix to the site report, which will be emailed as PDF 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**

A site archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards given in CM 2008, CIfA 2014b, and MoRPHE (EH 2006).

The requirements for archive storage shall 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 the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

A Drawing Interchange File (.dxf) will be supplied to for integration in the UAD/HER. AutoCAD files will also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo.
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

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Emma Holloway

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Roman Circus Walk, 
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tel: 07436 273 304: 
email: eh@catuk.org
Appendix 2

(following pages)
**OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-217351**

**Project details**

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<td>The site is 2km to the south-west of the Roman walled town, south of the main area of the western Roman cemetery, and 120m north of the projected route of the Roman road from the Roman town to Gosbecks. Archaeological monitoring carried out during the excavation of foundations for a new rear extension revealed no archaeological features or deposits. There were no finds (modern brick fragments in the topsoil were not retained). The lack of archaeological activity on this site is most likely due to its location to the south of the main area of Roman cemeteries.</td>
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<td>4328 - HER event no.</td>
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**Project location**
Country: England
Site location: ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 40 Irvine Road
Postcode: CO3 3TS
Study area: 10 Square metres
Site coordinates: TL 98137 24212 51.880688841599 0.87909288797 51 52 50 N 000 52 44 E Point
Height OD / Depth: Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators
Name of Organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator: CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project director/manager: Chris Lister
Project supervisor: Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body: Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body: Lauren McCarthy

Project archives
Physical Archive Exists?: No
Digital Archive recipient: Colchester Museum
Digital Contents: "none"
Digital Media available: "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient: Colchester Museum
Paper Contents: "other"
Paper Media available: "Report"

Project bibliography 1
Publication type: Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title: Archaeological monitoring and recording at 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex. August 2015.
Author(s)/Editor(s): Holloway, B
Other bibliographic details: Colchester Archaeological Trust Report 860
OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice
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Cite only: http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm for this page