Archaeological recording
at 67 London Road, Colchester,
Essex, CO3 9AL

June 2017

by Dr Elliott Hicks
figures by Sarah Carter
fieldwork by Adam Tuffey

Commissioned by Neil Cook on behalf of Mr & Mrs Nicholson

NGR: TL 9625 2508 (centre)
Planning reference: 162997
CAT project ref.: 17/04o
Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2017.62
CHER ref: ECC3988
OASIS reference: colchest3-283429

Colchester Archaeological Trust
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CAT Report 1127
July 2017
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1 Summary
Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 67 London Road, Colchester, during the construction of a single-storey rear extension. The development site is located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town. The site fronts onto Stane Street, the Roman road leading from Colchester to London and the west. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed other than an intensely scorched area which was probably the remains of a modern hearth.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)
This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at 67 London Road, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out on the 5th-8th June 2017. The work was commissioned by Neil Cook on behalf of Mr and Mrs Nicholson, in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to 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 paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

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 watching briefs (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 (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. The Triple Dyke (EHER 11635) extends roughly north-south c 160m to the east. The Triple Dyke was added to the dyke system after the Roman conquest to strengthen the line of Shrub End Dyke at its northern end (CAR 11, 52, 55-59). Grimes Dyke north (EHER 11637) extends roughly north-south c 230m to the west of the site (CAR 11, 27-29).

The development site also lies on Stane Street, the Roman road from Colchester to Coggeshall (EHER 11705). Cropmarks 350m to the NW consist of a rectilinear enclosure (EHER 11914) and finds from the immediate area include a Palaeolithic axe (EHER 12615) and early Roman pit (EHER 13215).
4 Results (Figs 2-3)

All groundworks were undertaken by the contractor under archaeological supervision.

A foundation trench measuring approximately 14.8m was excavated to the rear of the house. The trench measured 0.5m wide by 0.95-1m deep. It was excavated through two layers. A layer of modern topsoil (L1, c 0.26m thick, friable moist medium grey/brown silty-clay) sealed a layer of modern subsoil (L2, 0.37m at greatest extent of excavation, soft moist medium grey/brown silty-sandy-clay). The foundation trench did not fully penetrate L2. The trench was cut by modern services.

A single feature, an area of burning (F1), was uncovered. The feature was probably modern and was likely to be the remains of a hearth. The feature was not excavated as the base of the trench was already at the limit of excavation depth.

Additionally, a soakaway was dug, and measured 2m by 3m, and was excavated to a depth of 1m. The soakaway was excavated through three layers. L1 sealed a layer of subsoil differing from that encountered during the excavation of the foundation trench (L4, c 0.54m thick, friable firm dry medium grey/brown silty-sandy-clay), which in turn sealed naturally deposited sands and gravels (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.86-0.9m below current ground level, friable medium orange sand with occasional gravel and stone inclusions). No significant archaeological features were identified.

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of finds of modern date were recovered during the watching brief. All of these come from layer L2. The finds are listed and described by context in Table 2. The post-Roman pottery fabrics referred to follow the Colchester (Essex) post-Roman fabric series (CAR 7). All of the pottery fabrics referred to are listed in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Fabric description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48D</td>
<td>Staffordshire-type white earthenwares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51B</td>
<td>Modern flowerpot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Pottery fabrics
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ctxt</th>
<th>Ctxt type</th>
<th>Find no</th>
<th>Type/ description</th>
<th>Finds Spot date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L2</td>
<td>Soil layer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pottery modern Fabric 48D (3 sherds, 104 g) (L18th/19th-E20th C); Fabric 51B flowerpot (1 sherd 6 g) (M/L19th-20thC). CBM Peg-tile (1 piece, 90 g) relatively fine fabric (9 mm thick) probably post-medieval/ modern; Piece of fowl water pipe (54 g) (19th- E20th C). Glass (vessel) complete small bottle (115 mm high), rectangular body section, pale blue-green tint to glass, push stopper neck on one side ELLIMANS / EMBROCATION, numbers 8887 on base. (Note - Ellimans embrocation was first sold in 1847 as a rub for animals (horses). By 1850 it was being sold for use by humans as an aid for aching muscles and joints) Also, thick base edge sherd from a round bottle or tall open glass vessel in similar glass. Animal bone 4 pieces (34 g) one piece with sawn through end. Other finds: Glass marble c L19th-20thC Two identical decorative studs, hollow copper-alloy dome with iron fixing tack protruding from open base (dia 17 mm) (probably modern - circa L18/19-E20C)</td>
<td>L19th-20th C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2  Finds by context

6 Conclusion
Despite of the proximity of the site to several areas of archaeological interest, excavations at 67 London Road revealed only a single feature, an area of burning likely dating to the modern period and which probably represents the remains of a hearth.

7 Acknowledgements
CAT thanks Neil Cook for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by A Tuffey. Figures were prepared by S Carter. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

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

CAT 2017 Written Scheme of investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 67 London Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9AL
CBCAA 2016 Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 67 London Road, Colchester, CO3 9AL by J Tipper
CIfA 2014 a Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief
CIfA 2014 b Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives
DCLG 2012 National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage 2006 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment
9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT Colchester Archaeological Trust  
CBGAA Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor  
CBCPS Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
CBM brick/tile (ceramic building material)  
CHER Colchester Historic Environment Record  
CIfA 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'  
Iron Age period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43  
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,  
peg-tile rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern  
post-medieval from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800  
residual something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit  
Roman the period from AD 43 to c AD 410  
Section (abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s  
wsi written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained  
Paper and digital record  
One A4 document wallet containing:  
The report (CAT Report 1127)  
CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation  
Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)  
Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

11 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 2017.62.

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Distribution list
Neil Cook
Mr and Mrs Nicholson
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record

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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 06.07.2017
Fig 1 Site location.
Fig 2  Results

modern services
new soakaway
modem service

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Fig 3  Representative sections
### Summary sheet

**Address:** 67 London Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9AL  
**Parish:** Colchester  
**District:** Colchester  
**NGR:** TL 9625 2508 (centre)  
**Type of work:** Monitoring  
**Site director/group:** Colchester Archaeological Trust  
**Date of work:** 5th-8th June 2017  
**Size of area investigated:** 0.06ha  
**Location of curating museum:** Colchester museum  
**Funding source:** Owner  
**Related CHER/SMR number:** EHER 11635, 11637, 11705, 11914, 12615, 13215  
**Final report:** CAT Report 1127

**Periods represented:** -

**Summary of fieldwork results:**  
Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 67 London Road, Colchester, during the construction of a single-storey rear extension. The development site is located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town. The site fronts onto Stane Street, the Roman road leading from Colchester to London and the west. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed other than an intensely scorched area which was probably the remains of a modern hearth.

**Previous summaries/reports:** None

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**Keywords:** -  
**Significance:** -

**Author of summary:** Dr Elliott Hicks  
**Date of summary:** July 2017
Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 67 London Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9AL

NGR: TL 9625 2508 (centre)

Planning reference: 162997

Commissioned by: Neil Cook

On behalf of: Mr & Mrs Nicholson

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc
CHER number: tbc
CAT project code: 17/040
OASIS project id: colchest3-283429

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 24.4.2017
Site location and description
The proposed development site lies approximately 3.5km west of Colchester town centre at 67 London Road (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 9625 2508.

Proposed work
The development comprises the erection of a single-storey rear extension.

Archaeological background
The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Essex Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. The Triple Dyke (EHER 11635) extends roughly north-south c 160m to the east. The Triple Dyke was added to the dyke system after the Roman conquest to strengthen the line of Shrub End Dyke at its northern end (CAR 11, 52, 55-59). Grimes Dyke north (EHER 11637) extends roughly north-south c 230m to the west of the site (CAR 11, 27-29).

The development site also lies on Stane Street, the Roman road from Colchester to Coggeshall (EHER 11705). Cropmarks 350m to the NW consist of a rectilinear enclosure (EHER 11914) and finds from the immediate area include a Palaeolithic axe (EHER 12615) and early Roman pit (EHER 13215).

Planning background
A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in November 2016 (application no. 162997) proposing the erection of a single-storey rear extension containing new kitchen/wc.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

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 2016).

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. Amendments to the brief and this wsi may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

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 2014)
• The Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2017)

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.

**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) 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 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 will be located by NGR coordinates.
Environmental sampling policy
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, but only if they are datable. Processing will be carried out by trained CAT staff with analysis and reporting done by VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

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. As the requirement for work is for full excavation any human remains encountered on the site will be subject to the following criteria: 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 Ministry 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: Pip Parmenter
- animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter
- 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

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

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:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the excavation/monitoring areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done).
- 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.

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

CBCAA 2016  Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 67 London Road, Colchester, CO3 9AL by J Tipper
CIfA 2014a  Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief
CIfA 2014b  Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives
DCLG 2012  National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage 2006  Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

L Pooley

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Fig 1  Site location.
Project details

Project name: Archaeological monitoring and recording at 67 London Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9AL

Short description of the project: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 67 London Road, Colchester, during the construction of a single-storey rear extension. The development site is located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town. The site fronts onto Stane Street, the Roman road leading from Colchester to London and the west. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed other than an intensely scorched area which was probably the remains of a modern hearth.

Project dates: Start: 05-06-2017 End: 08-06-2017

Previous/future work: No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes: 17/04o - Contracting Unit No.

162997 - Planning Application No.

COLEM: 2017.62 - Museum accession ID

ECC3988 - HER event no.

Type of project: Recording project

Site status: None

Current Land use: Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type: HEARTH Modern

Significant Finds: POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds: POTTERY Modern

Investigation type: "Watching Brief"

Prompt: Planning condition

Project location

Country: England

Site location: ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 67 London Road
Postcode: CO3 9AL
Study area: 0.06 Hectares
Site coordinates: TL 9625 2508 51.889154504943 0.852203790243 51 53 20 N 000 51 07 E Point

Project creators
Name of Organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator: CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator: Laura Pooley
Project director/manager: Chris Lister
Project supervisor: Adam Tuffy

Project archives
Physical Archive Exists?: No
Digital Archive recipient: Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID: COLEM: 2017.62
Digital Media available: "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient: Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID: COLEM: 2017.62
Paper Media available: "Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation","Research","General Notes","Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1
Publication type: Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title: Archaeological monitoring at 67 London Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9AL: June 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s): Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details: CAT Report 1127
Date: 2017
Issuer or publisher: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication: Colchester
Description: A-4 loose-leaf, ring-bound
URL: http://cat.essex.ac.uk/
Entered by: Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)