# 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.: 17/040 Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2017.62 CHER ref: ECC3988 OASIS reference: colchest3-283429



Colchester Archaeological Trust Roman Circus House Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785 email: lp@catuk.org

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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 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.



Photograph 1 F1 - looking west

#### 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.

Fabric	Fabric description
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares
51B	Modern flowerpot
Table 1 Po	tery fabrics

 Table 1
 Pottery fabrics

Ctxt	Ctxt	Find	Type/ description	Finds Spot
	type	no		date
L2	Soil layer	1	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 fab- ric (9 mm thick) probably post-medieval/mod- ern; 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 cop- per-alloy dome with iron fixing tack protruding from open base (dia 17 mm) (probably modern - circa L18/19-E20C)	L19th-20th C

Table 2Finds 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 <u>http://cat.essex.ac.uk</u>

CAR Report 7	2000	Colchester Archaeological Report <b>7</b> : Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85, by Cotter, J
CAR Report 11	1995	Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II, by Hawkes and Crummy
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
ClfA	2014 b	Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives
DCLG English Heritage	2012 2006	National Planning Policy Framework Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment

	(MoRPHE)
2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East
	Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the
	East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24
	(EAA <b>24</b> )

# 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	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 <i>c</i> 1500
modern	period from <i>c</i> 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,
	http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main_
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 <i>c</i> 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**

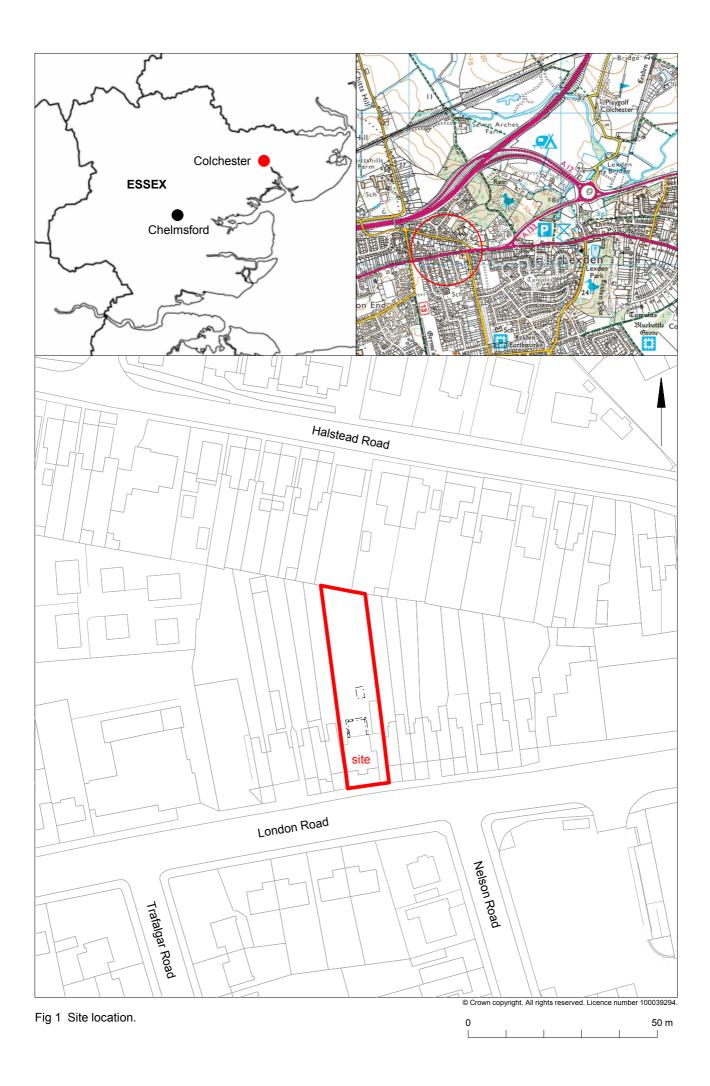
Neil Cook Mr and Mrs Nicholson Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy Date: 06.07.2017



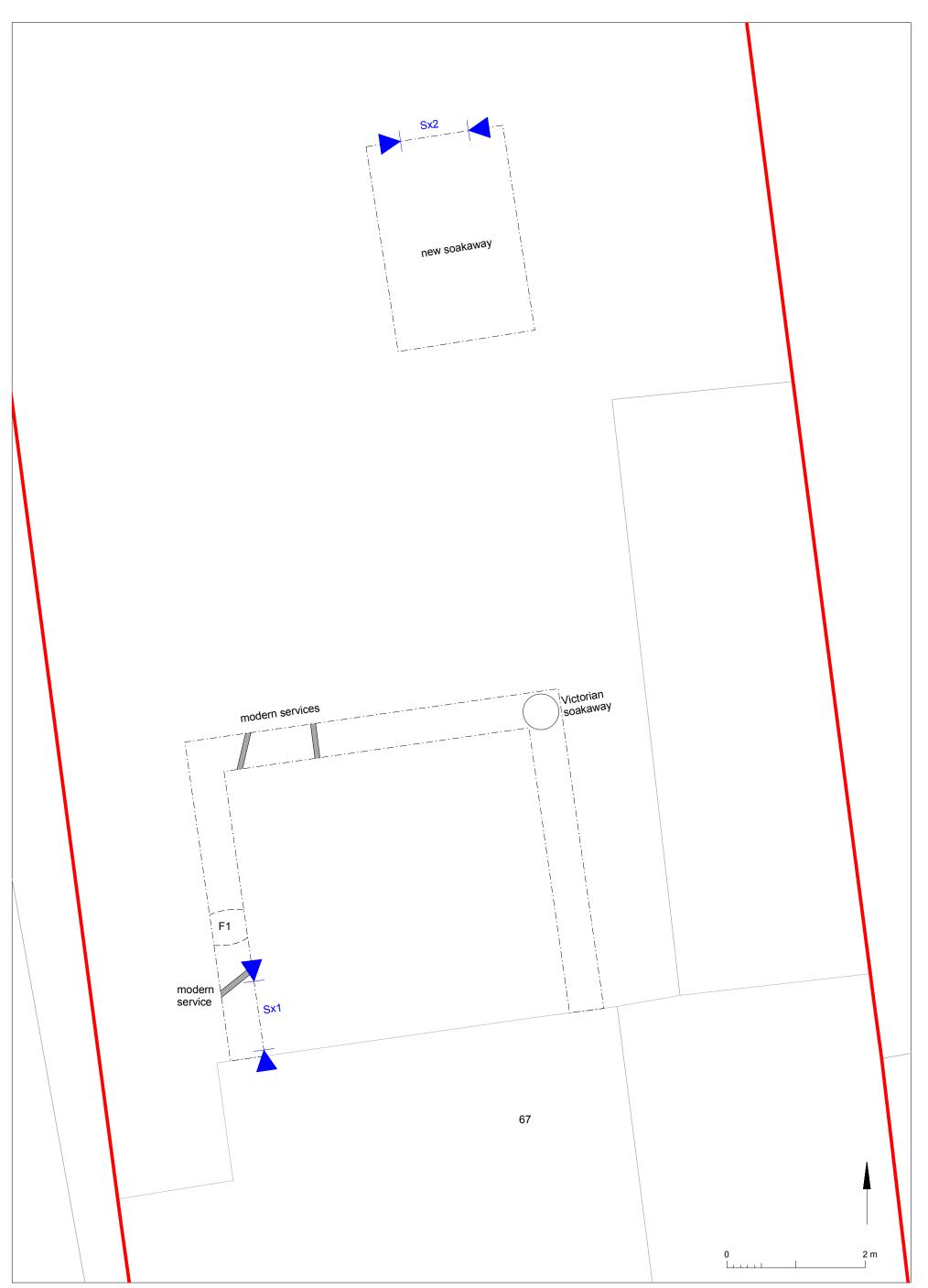
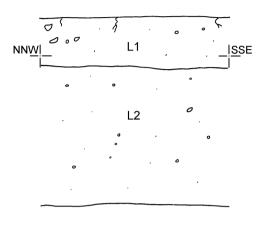


Fig 2 Results

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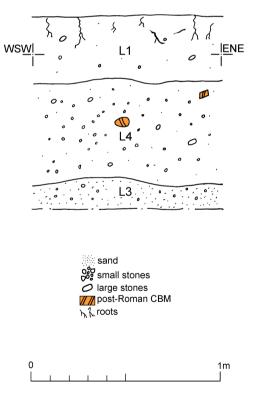


Fig 3 Representative sections

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

# Summary sheet

Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester	
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9625 2508 (centre)	Site code:	
	CAT project ref.: 17/04o	
	CHER ref: ECC3988	
	OASIS ref: colchest3-283429	
Type of work:	Site director/group:	
Monitoring	Colchester Archaeological Trust	
Date of work:	Size of area investigated:	
5th-8th June 2017	0.06ha	
Location of curating museum:	Funding source:	
Colchester museum	Owner	
accession code COLEM: 2017.62		
Further seasons anticipated?	Related CHER/SMR number:	
Not known	EHER 11635, 11637, 11705, 11914, 12615, 13215	
Final report: CAT Report 1127		
Periods represented: -		
Archaeological monitoring and recording w	ras carried out at 67 London Road, Colchester,	
Archaeological monitoring and recording w during the construction of a single-storey re	ear extension. The development site is located	
during the construction of a single-storey re within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camul The site fronts onto Stane Street, the Roma	ear extension. The development site is located lodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town. an road leading from Colchester to London and	
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# 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



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel:* 01206 501785 *email:* <u>lp@catuk.org</u>

## 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* (ClfA 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 proforma 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:

<u>small finds, metalwork, coins</u>, etc: Pip Parmenter <u>animal bones</u> (small groups): Pip Parmenter <u>flints</u>: Adam Wightman or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*) <u>environmental</u> processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray <u>conservation</u> of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include: <u>Roman brick/tile</u>: Ernest Black <u>Roman glass</u>: Hilary Cool <u>Prehistoric pottery</u>: Paul Sealey <u>Other</u>: Historic England 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.

#### 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

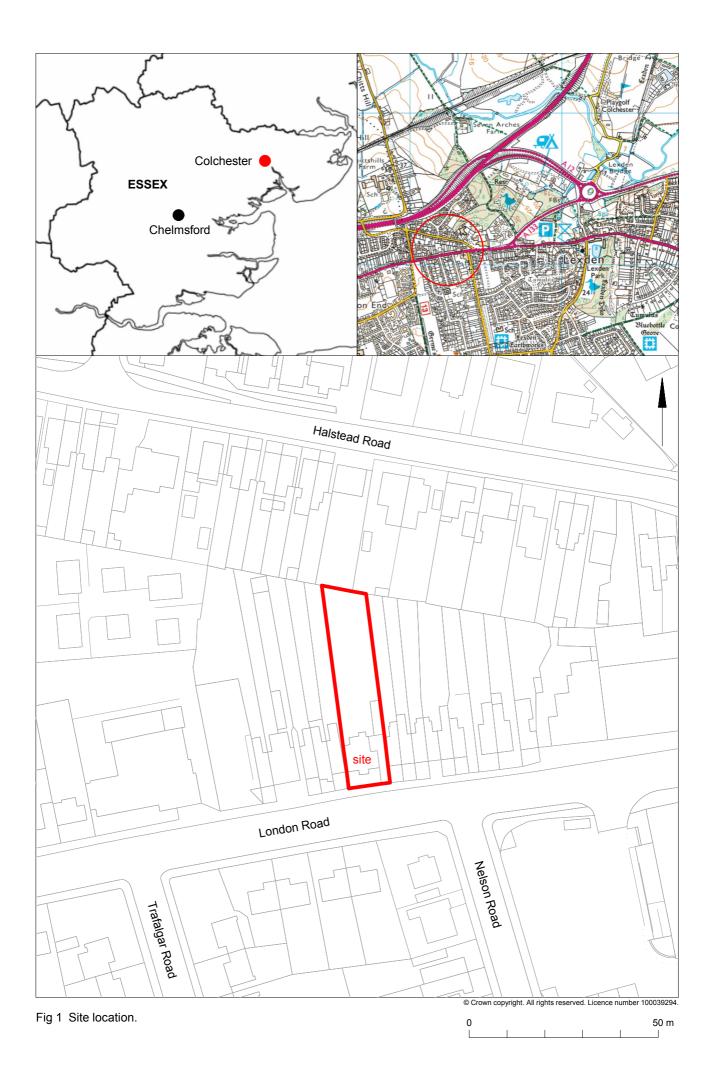
CAR Report 11	1995	Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II, by Hawkes and Crummy
CBCAA	2016	Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 67 London Road, Colchester, CO3 9AL by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief
ClfA	2014b	Standard 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)
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )

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#### **Printable version**

# OASIS ID: colchest3-283429

#### **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.
Any associated project reference codes	162997 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.62 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	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
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

# **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
Date Issuer or publisher	2017 Colchester Archaeological Trust
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