

Archaeological strip, map and record at St. Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4BL

November 2017



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway, Elliott Hicks and Nigel Rayner

Commissioned by Penny Clements, Roger Balmer Designs

NGR: TL 97128 25088 (centre)

Planning reference: 171573

CAT project ref.: 17/10k

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2017.142

CHER ref: ECC4093

OASIS reference: colchest3-299138



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CAT Report 1192

November 2017

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	1
5	Results	2
6	Finds	3
7	Discussion	3
8	Acknowledgements	3
9	References	3
10	Abbreviations and glossary	4
11	Contents of archive	4
12	Archive deposition	4

Figures

after p6

Appendix 1 CAT WSI

Appendix 2 OASIS Summary

List of photographs and figures

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1	Level reduction - looking south	2
Photograph 2	TP sx (oblique) – looking north-west	3

Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Results

Fig 3 Representative sections

1 Summary

Archaeological strip, map and record was carried out at St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of a kitchen extension, to be sited behind the main church as an extension to the existing 2009 extension. A modern foundation associated with the demolished choir vestry, and a modern pit were uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out on the 7th November 2017. The work was commissioned by Penny Clements of Roger Balmer Design, in advance of the construction of a kitchen extension, to be sited behind the main church as an extension to the existing 2009 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 Archaeological Excavation (strip, map and record) at St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester*, 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).

St Leonard's Church was constructed in 1820/1 to the south of an earlier medieval church. This was thought to have been established in the 12th century and was demolished to make way for the current church (EHER 11807-11808). The development site is located within the churchyard of both churches, and human remains were encountered during groundworks for a previous extension in 2007/8 (CAT Report 482) (ECC2788).

In addition, a Roman burial was recorded immediately north of the churchyard on Lexden Road in 1904 (UAD no 1167).

4 Aims

Archaeological strip, map and record was undertaken to determine whether any inhumations were present in the proposed development area in order that they may be relocated or the development plans revised so as to avoid disturbing them.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

On 7th November 2017, CAT archaeologists reduced the area of the existing gravel path next to the church by 0.4m by hand.

Excavation occurred through two layers. A modern imported deposit (L1, c 0.13-0.15m thick, firm, moist, medium orange/brown sand with frequent gravel piece inclusions and modern building debris) sealed infill material (L2, firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with frequent modern building debris).

No significant archaeological features were identified.

A test-pit was then excavated within the flower bed adjacent to the gravel path. The test pit measured 1m by 1m.

Excavation occurred through modern topsoil (L3, c 0.06-0.13m thick, firm, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silt with frequent modern building debris) and L2 (c 0.19-0.26m thick) onto naturally-deposited sands (L4, thick, firm, moist, yellow sand).

Modern foundation F1 measured 0.55m in width and 0.42m in depth.

Modern pit F2 measured 0.45m in depth. The width of the feature could not be determined as it extended beyond the limit of excavation.



Photograph 1 Level reduction – looking south



Photograph 2 TP sx (oblique) – looking north-west

6 Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered.

7 Discussion

Archaeological strip, map and record at St Leonard's Church was undertaken due to the potential presence of human burials in the area of the planned extension to the existing church. No such remains were detected. Excavations did, however, uncover part of a modern building foundation. Conversation with the church warden indicated that this might represent the remains of the choir vestry of the church which formerly stood at this site, and which was removed during the construction of the extension to the current building. The modern pit also uncovered in the test-pit was likely associated with the demolition of this foundation.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Penny Clements of Roger Balmer Designs for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway, E Hicks and N Rayner. Figures were prepared by E Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|-----|------|--|
| CAT | 2017 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological strip, map and record at the St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4BL</i> |
| CAT | 2008 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at St Leonard's Church, Lexden</i> |

Report 482		<i>Road, Colchester, Essex October 2007-February 2008</i>
CBCAA	2017	<i>Brief for Archaeological Excavation (strip, map and record) at St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester, by J Tipper</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CifA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1192)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

12 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 2017.142.

Distribution list

Penny Clements, Roger Balmer Designs
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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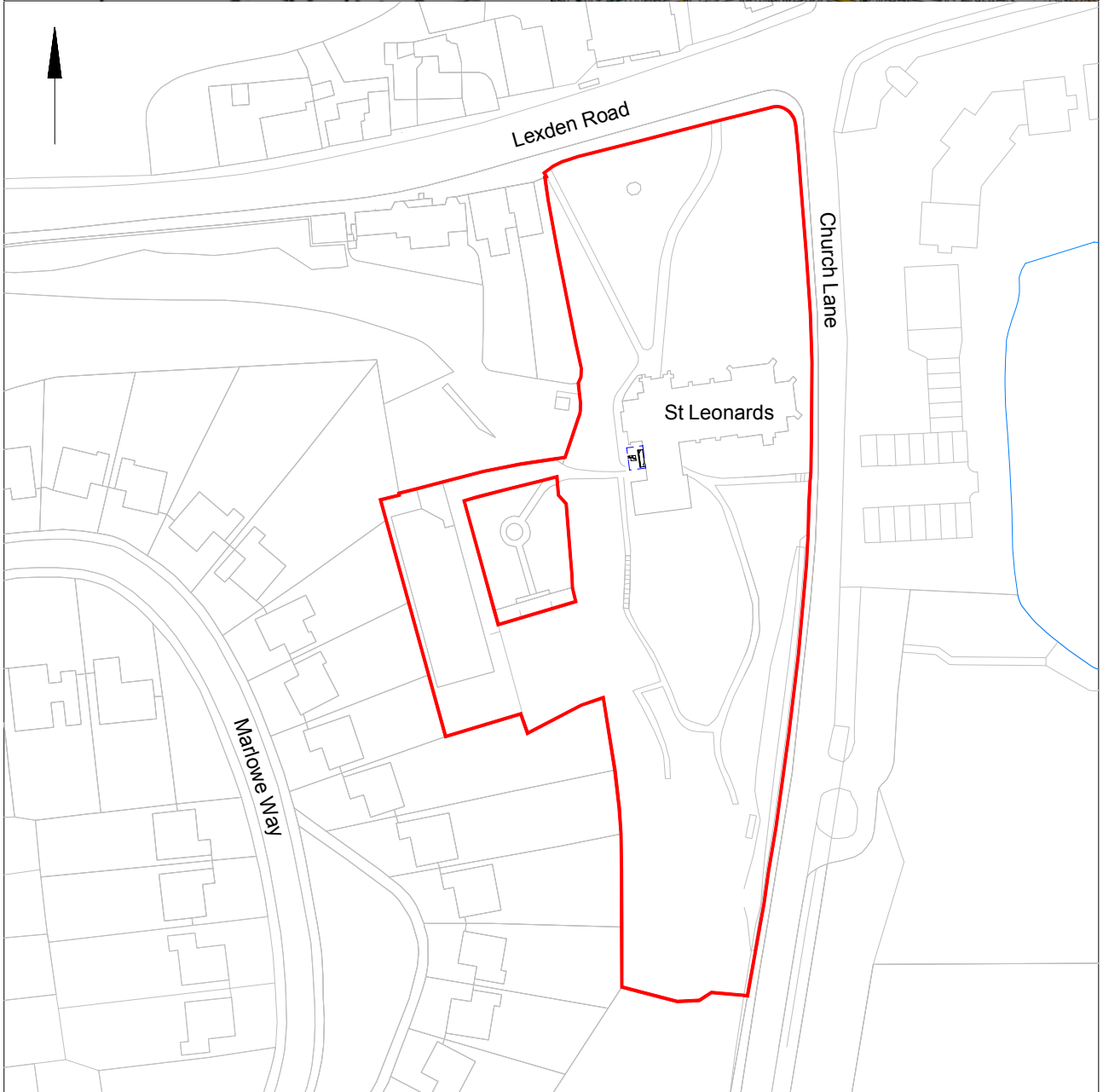
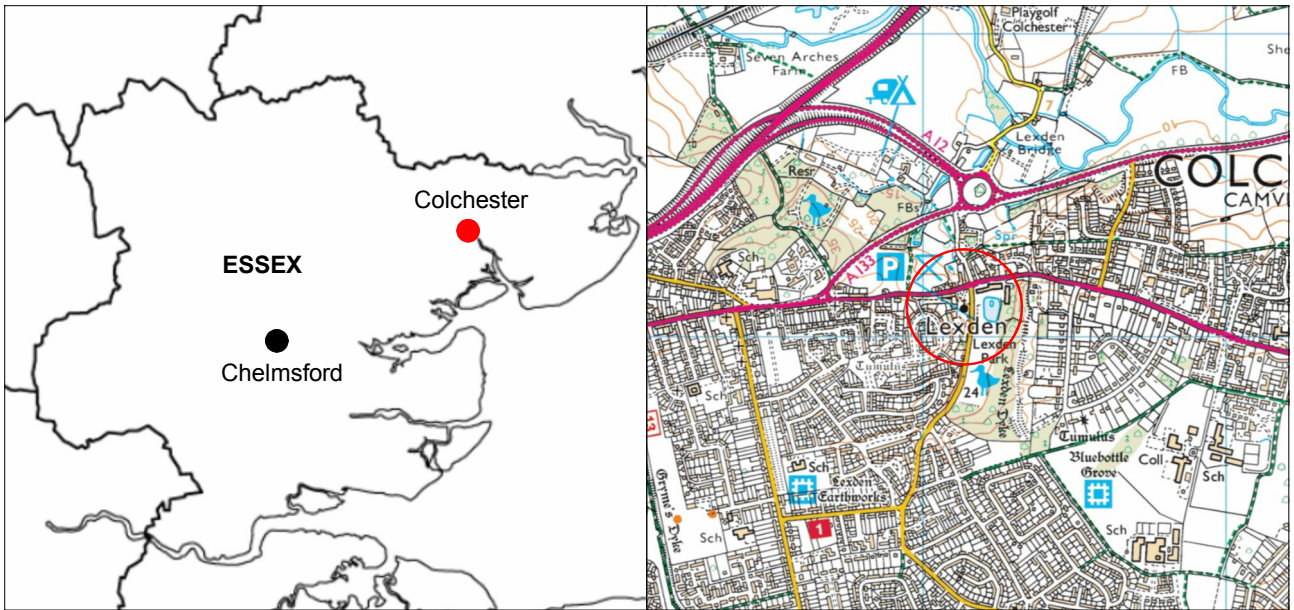
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 13.11.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

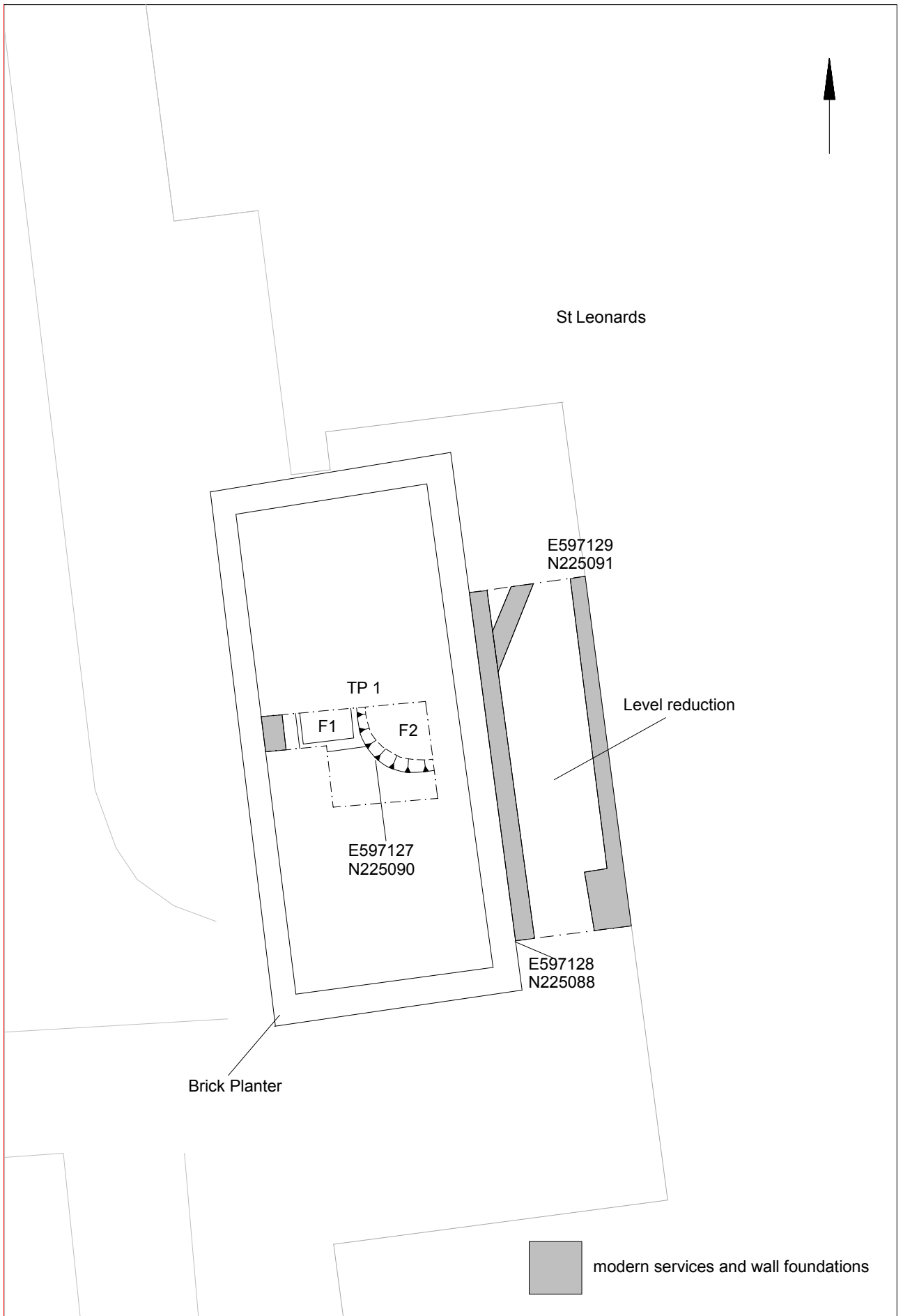
Context number	Context type	Description	Date
F1	Foundation	Brick-paved concrete foundation	Modern
F2	Pit	Firm, moist, dark grey/brown silty-sand	Modern
L1	Imported deposit	Firm, moist, medium orange/brown sand with frequent building debris	Modern
L2	Infill	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-sand with frequent building debris	Modern
L3	Topsoil	Firm, moist, dark grey/brown silty-sand with frequent building debris	Modern
L4	Natural	Firm, moist yellow sand	Post-glacial



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Fig 1 Site location





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Fig 2 Results

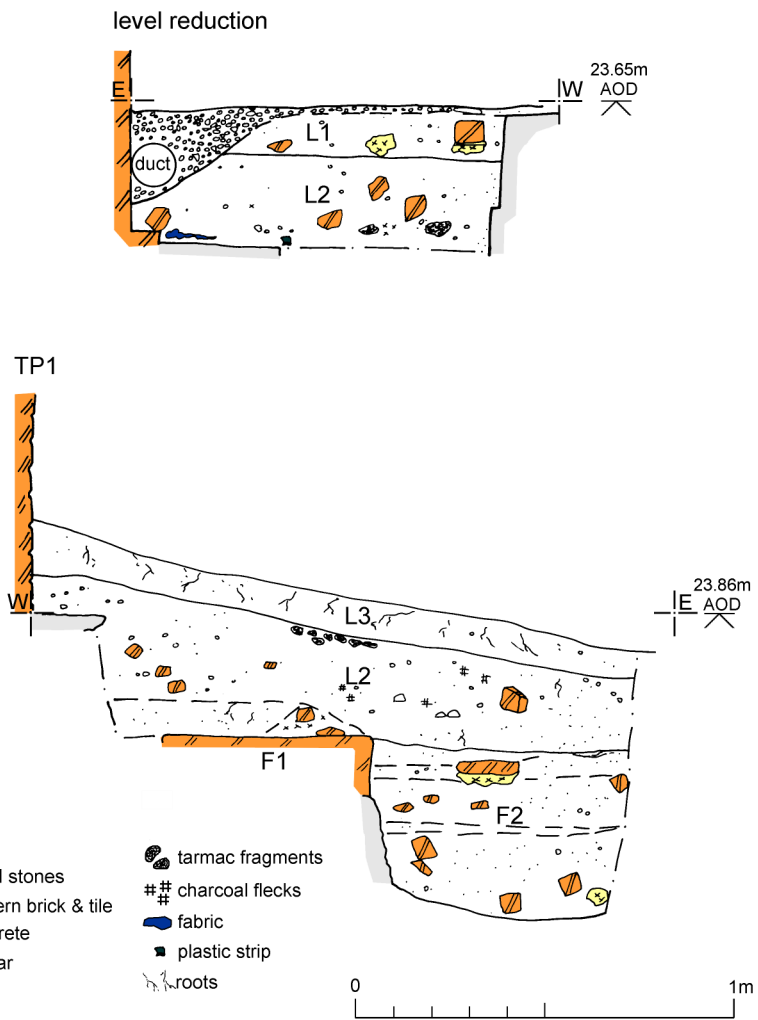


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4BL	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 97128 25088 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/10k CHER ref: ECC4093 OASIS ref: colchest3-299138
Type of work: Strip, map and record	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 7th November 2017	Size of area investigated: 0.83 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.142	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: EHER 11807, 11808
Final report: CAT Report 1192	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological strip, map and record was carried out at St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road in advance of the construction of a kitchen extension, to be sited behind the main church as an extension to the existing 2009 extension. A modern foundation associated with the demolished choir vestry, and a modern pit were uncovered.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: November 2017

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological strip, map and record at the St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4BL

NGR: TL 97128 25088 (centre)

Planning reference: 171573

Commissioned by: Penny Clements, Roger Balmer Design

Client: St Leonard's Parish Council

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

CHER number: [tbc](#)

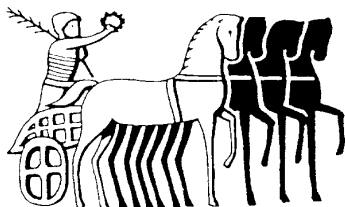
CAT project code: 17/10k

OASIS project id: colchest3-299138

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 23.10.2017



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.7m/2.7km west of Colchester town centre at St Leonard's Church, at the junction of Lexden Road and Church Lane (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 97128 25088.

Proposed work

The development comprises a kitchen extension, to be sited behind the main church as an extension to the existing 2009 extension.

Archaeological background

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

St Leonard's Church was constructed in 1820/1 to the south of an earlier medieval church. This was thought to have been established in the 12th century and was demolished to make way for the current church (EHER 11807-11808). The development site is located within the churchyard of both churches, and human remains were encountered during groundworks for a previous extension in 2007/8 (CAT Report 482) (ECC2788).

In addition, a Roman burial was recorded immediately north of the churchyard on Lexden Road in 1904 (UAD no 1167).

Planning background

A planning application (planning ref. 171573) was made to Colchester Borough Council in June 2017 proposing a new kitchen extension on an existing 2009 extension.

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 archaeological strip, map and record. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2017).

At present, it is uncertain how much of an impact groundworks for the brick retaining wall of the raised flower bed have had on the development site. Following discussions with the CBCAA and in a change to the brief, it is proposed that the existing gravel path will be removed and hand-excavated to formation level (c 0.39m below current ground level) or the uppermost archaeological deposit (whichever is highest).

In addition, a test-pit will be excavated through the flower bed to determine the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. This will also be hand-excavated to either formation level or the uppermost archaeological deposit (whichever is highest).

The results of this initial phase of work will inform the extent of subsequent archaeological works. Should burials be found the whole area may need be stripped to inform the location of piles and/or ground beams. Alternatively, all subsequent groundworks may be subject to continuous archaeological monitoring and recording. This decision will be made by the CBCAA.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. The CBCAA may decide that amendments to the brief and this wsi are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

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-c)
- 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 supervisor plus one archaeologist for two days.

In charge of day-to-day work: Nigel Rayner

Strip, map and record methodology

All topsoil removal and ground reduction associated with the gravel path and test-pit will be carried out by hand by a CAT archaeologist.

Subsequent works may be carried out by the contractor using a mechanical excavator with toothless bucket. In which case there will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' groundworks to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, these will be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. Where possible, this includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of burials (unless it is decided that they will be left *in situ*) and complex stratigraphy.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on burials or 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.

Samples will be taken based on the strategy requested by CBCAA (see 'Environmental Sampling Policy' below).

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. 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

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 / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

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

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.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation 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.

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: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

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 / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

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: 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

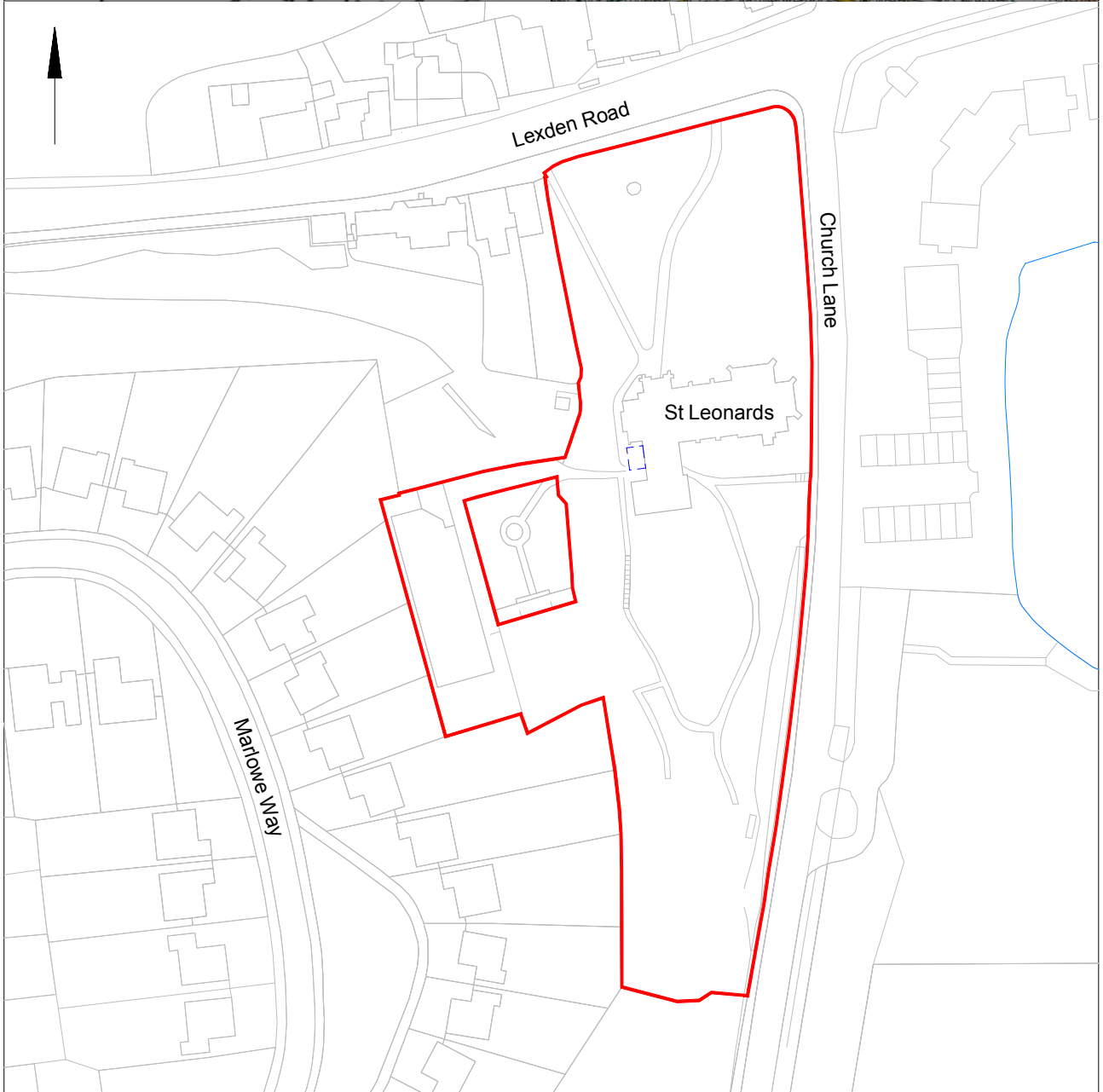
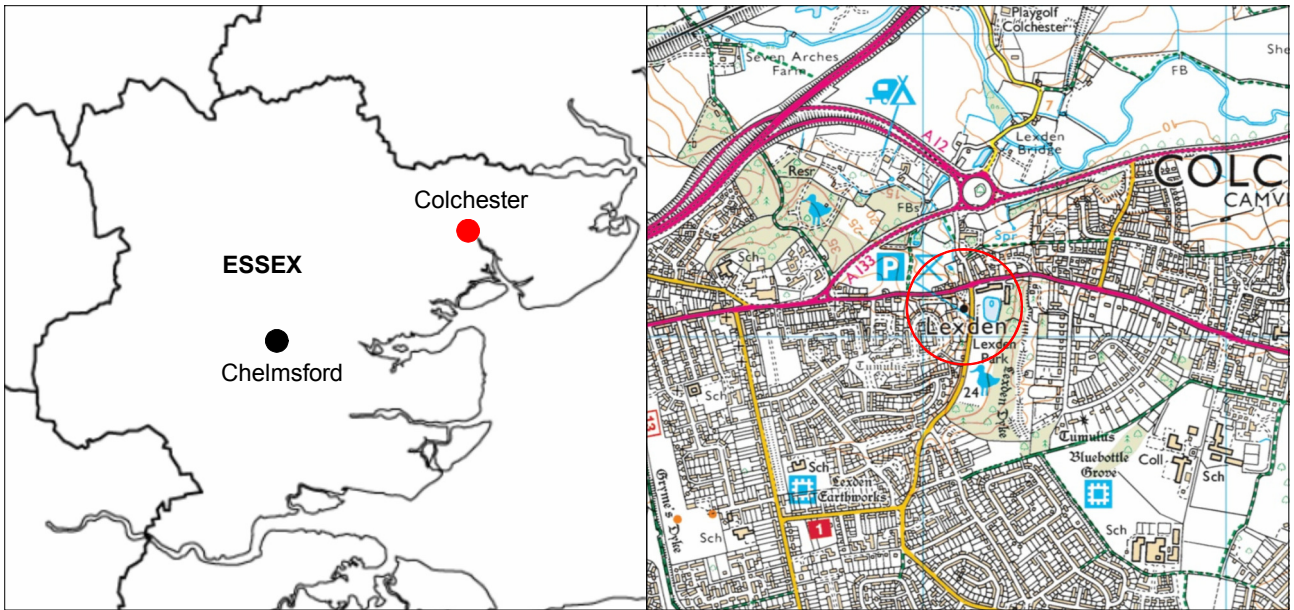
CAT Report 482	2008	<i>An archaeological watching brief at St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex October 2007-February 2008</i>
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English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
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Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

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Fig 1 Site location, proposed development dashed blue



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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-299138

Project details

Project name	Archaeological strip, map and record at St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, C03 4BL
Short description of the project	Archaeological strip, map and record was carried out at St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of a kitchen extension, to be sited behind the main church as an extension to the existing 2009 extension. A modern foundation associated with the demolished choir vestry, and a modern pit were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 07-11-2017 End: 07-11-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/10k - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	171573 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2017.142 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4093 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	FOUNDATION Modern
Investigation type	"Part Excavation", "Test-Pit Survey", "Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER St Leonard's Church, Lexden Road

Postcode	CO3 4BL
Study area	0.83 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 97128 25088 51.888915124599 0.864951623767 51 53 20 N 000 51 53 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23.06m Max: 23.11m

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	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Church

Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2017.142
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2017.142
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological strip, map and record at St. Leonard's Church, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4BL: November 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1192
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ringbound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/
Entered by	Elliott Hicks (lp@catuk.org)

Entered on

13 November 2017

OASIS:

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