

Archaeological evaluation by test-pitting at 8 St Albans Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3JQ

May-June 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Chris Lister and Laura Pooley
with figures by Chris Lister and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Alec Wade and Robin Mathieson

commissioned by Matthew Yeates

NGR: TL 98953 25121
Planning refs.: 180756 (and 180163)
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CAT project ref.: 18/05b
Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM: 2018.53
OASIS ref.: colchest3-318916



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CAT Report 1291

July 2018

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CAT WSI

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by test-pitting (two test-pits) was undertaken at 8 St Albans Road, Colchester, Essex during the demolition of a rear single-storey extension and the construction of a wrap-around extension and associated groundworks. The work was undertaken as a remedial measure as groundworks previously carried out at the site were not monitored by archaeologists. A modern posthole or pit, an undatable cut feature, and a possible pit were uncovered. A number of finds dating to the prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval and modern periods, were retrieved.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by test-pitting at 8 St Albans Road, Colchester, which was carried out on from 8th May-15th June 2018. The work was commissioned by Matthew Yeates following the demolition of a rear single-storey extension and the construction of a wrap-around extension and associated groundworks and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the 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 test-pitting and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

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 field evaluation* (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 Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

To the north-west of the site, evidence of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation and industrial activity has been recorded. Approximately 250m to the north-west is the important Late Iron Age and Roman site at Sheepen, the main period of occupation of which was c AD 5-60 (Hawkes and Hull 1946; Niblett 1985), though Bronze Age occupation is also in evidence there (CAR 11, 132-3).

The redevelopment site is located outside the Roman walled town, which lies approximately 260m to the east. The site is surrounded by important archaeological remains, principally of Roman date. Pre-eminent among these is the major road (CHER MCC475 and MCC1928) a short distance to the south-east which led from the walled town to London (Hull 1958, 2-3).

Extra-mural Roman occupation, considered to be an extension of the Roman town (CAR 3, fig 8), is known to extend up to 300m west of the town wall. Part of this settlement close to the town wall has been excavated (the Balkerne Lane site; CAR 3). Here buildings and property plots fronting the major Roman road leading out from the

Balkerne Gate were recorded. There are a number of CHER spots for evidence of buildings nearby the site including fragments of tessellated Roman floors seen in Papillon Road (CHER MCC1069), Rawstorn Road (CHER MCC1074) and Crowhurst Road (CHER MCC1734), and fragments of walls seen in Manor Road (CHER MCC1075) and Papillon Road (CHER MCC1084).

Further Roman buildings and activities including horticulture and sand quarrying were recorded on areas away from the road frontage. During a watching brief carried out by CAT in 2008 at 37 Oaks Drive (CAT Report 463) a Roman quarry pit was uncovered.

Approximately 70m to the west-northwest is a concentration of Roman kilns (CHER MCC8077 and MCC1226-8) uncovered during the construction of Oaks Drive for the residential development in 1973 and recorded by CAT (CAR 6, 338-340).

The site is also situated within an area within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (CHER MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing), leading out of Balkerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). A number of Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in CAR 9.

To the north-east of the site archaeological investigations were carried out by CAT between 2001 and 2003 on the site of the former St Mary's Hospital (now known as Balkerne Heights/St. Mary's Fields). Excavations in 2001-3 uncovered early Roman houses destroyed in the Boudican revolt of AD 60/61. The suburb was rebuilt and a road leading to Sheepen to the north-west was created, plus smaller lanes connecting the houses. By the 4th century AD, settlement had moved back inside the town walls and the area was turned over to use as a cemetery. In all, 86 Roman burials were excavated, mainly from the north and eastern areas of the site (CAT report in forthcoming). Four Roman inhumations were also recorded at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road in 2001 (CHER MCC5422 and MCC2889-2892), adjacent to the hospital site (CAT Report 134). During the development of residential properties in Oaks Drive fragments of a lead coffin and pottery were found at no. 41 (CAR 6 811-2, CHER MCC1718) and a skeleton with a glass bead found at no. 52 (CAR 6 811-2, CHER MCC1719)

CAT has also found that around Oaks Drive area there has been a large amount of modern ground disturbance. Sites at 17 Rawstorn Road in 1985 and 35 Oaks Drive in 1999 (CAT Report 1000, forthcoming), 26 Oaks Drive in 2001 (CAT Report 157), 11 Oaks Drive in 2002 (CAT Report 209) and 15 Rawstorn Road in 2004 (CAT Report 291) all had between 1.25-1.5m of modern debris or sand dumps thought to be from either construction of the houses in the 1970s or to raise the height of gardens that were sloping.

4 Aims

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken at this site to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site and whether these would be impacted by the proposed development.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

The excavation of the foundation trenching for the extension was undertaken without archaeological supervision. Consequently, it was agreed that archaeologists would search the resulting spoil for finds both manually and using a metal-detector. This was carried out on the 8th May 2018. By this point, the soil was very weathered and sun-

bleached, and both topsoil and subsoil were mixed together, but it appeared to comprise of a dark grey/brown silt topsoil and a light grey/brown silt subsoil with common stone and gravel piece inclusions. A number of unstratified finds were retrieved (please see the finds report for details).

As there was no archaeological monitoring of the foundation trenching, it was decided by CBC that two test-pits should be excavated adjacent to it. On 15th June 2018, these test-pits were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Test-pit 1 (TP1): 1m long and 1m wide:

TP1 was excavated through recently-deposited topsoil (L1, c 0.28-0.3m thick, friable/firm, dry light grey/brown loam) and older topsoil (now subsoil) (L2, c 0.19-0.24m thick, friable, dry/moist medium brown loam) onto natural (L3, firm, dry/moist, medium orange/brown mottled sand, encountered at a depth of 0.49-0.53m below current ground level [bcgl]).

Modern posthole/small pit F1 was observed in the west-facing section of TP1. It measured 0.33m in width and 0.14 in depth.



Photograph 1 TP1 rep sx – looking east

Test-pit 2 (TP2): 1m long and 1m wide:

TP2 was excavated through L1 (c 0.24-0.3m thick) and L2 (c 0.19-0.29m thick) onto L3 (encountered at a depth of 0.46-0.52m bcgl).

Undated cut feature F2, possibly part of a pit or posthole, was uncovered in the south-western corner of TP2. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation, and only its corner and sides could be excavated, but its exposed extent measured 0.27m in width and 0.24m in depth.

Undated possible pit F3 was uncovered in the north-eastern corner of TP2. It too extended beyond the limit of the test-pit, and could not be fully-excavated, but its exposed extent measured 0.27m in width and 0.19m in depth.



Photograph 2 TP2 rep sx – looking west

6 Finds

By Chris Lister and Laura Pooley, pottery identified by Stephen Benfield, Howard Brooks and Emma Holloway

The small quantity of finds were recovered from the spoil, consisting of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), slate, animal bone and ironwork. Most are, or probably are, of modern date (c 19th-early 20th century) although one tile-like brick piece and a curving ridge tile are probably Roman but of themselves are difficult to closely date.

Description
Piece of brick: 30-35mm thick with an unusual curving lip. There are no original edges to the piece which is broken all the way around. The upper surface has been vitrified with the lower surface darkened by heating. The brick is similar to Roman types, but the curving surface is unusual and the surface deposit suggests a later date, most likely medieval or post-medieval. White mortar on breaks on this piece indicate reuse.
Piece from a ridge tile: The piece appears similar to a peg-tile and might be a piece from a ridge tile of later (post-medieval or modern) date.
Modern pottery: one sherd of Staffordshire-type white earthenware with transfer (Fabric 48D), c 19th-early 20th century
Two pieces of frogged brick: c mid 19th-early 20th century date
Slate: two thin pieces, of medieval to 19th-century date
Iron objects: iron nail (bent) and iron strip, undatable
Animal bone: long bone piece (medium/large mammal), undatable

Table 1 Finds recovered from spoil

A small quantity of post-medieval/modern finds were recovered from the test-pits along with a single sherd of Roman pottery. All finds are catalogued in the table below. The Roman and post-Roman fabrics follow those used in *CAR 10* (Roman) and *CAR 7* (post-Roman) for recording pottery in Colchester. Roman pottery vessel types refer to the Colchester (*Camulodunum*) type series (Hawkes and Hull 1927, Hull 1958).

Context	Finds no.	Description	Date
TP1	1	Post-medieval/modern pottery: Two sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D), one sherd from a teapot of late slipped kitchenware (Fabric 51A) and unidentified post-medieval sherd (total 28g). 19th-20th century. CBM: fragment (10g), post-medieval/modern. Clay pipe: stem fragment (3.6g). Slate: fragment (30.6g).	Modern, 19th-20th century
TP1	2	Coin: Bronze halfpenny of Victoria 'bun head' issue 1860-95; obverse: laureate bust left, hair in a bun, [VICTORIA D:G:] BRITT [:REG:F:D:]; reverse: illegible; 25mm diameter, 5g.	Victorian, late 19th century
TP2, L1	3	Roman pottery: body sherd (3g) from a Colchester colour-coated ware rough-cast beaker (Cam 391) (Fabric CB), 2nd-3rd century. Clay pipe: fragment consisting of part of the stem and the start of the bowl, broken across the heel, late 16th to late 17th century, 6.6g	Post-medieval
TP2, L2	4	Post-medieval pottery: Bowl rim sherd of post-medieval red earthenware, 18th-19th century; fragment of a stoneware handle (probably Fabric 45), 17th-18th century. CBM: peg-tile fragment (63g) and pan tile fragment (106.3g), post-medieval. Bottle glass: three fragments of modern bottle glass, including a partial neck fragment embossed with [AN] (31.7g), modern. Clay pipe: four fragments of clay pipe stem (none joining), one with evidence of milling decoration on stem, post-medieval. Clinker: fragment (17.3g). Flint: Hard hammer flake with shaped and abrupt retouches on both faces and the lateral and distal ends, possibly a scraper, 12.4g. Object: Fragment of copper-alloy fitting most likely from a garden ornament (18.2g), modern.	Post-medieval/modern, 18th-19th century

Table 2 Finds recovered during test-pitting

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at 8 St Albans Road uncovered three features, only one of which could be dated: a modern posthole or pit, a cut feature, and a possible pit. A number of finds originating from the prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval and modern periods were also recovered during the search of spoil on the site and during the excavation of the test-pits, providing evidence of human activity and occupation of this site across these periods.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Matthew Yeates for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by A Wade and R Mathieson. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

9 References

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

Brown, D	2011 (2nd ed)	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 3	1984	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 3, Excavations at Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane and Middleborough, Colchester, Essex.</i> By P Crummy
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> By P Crummy
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by J Cotter
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-86,</i> by R Symonds & S Wade
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2.</i> By CFC Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at 8 St Albans Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3JQ</i>
CAT Report 134	2001	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road, Colchester.</i> By Kate Orr
CAT Report 157	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 26 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex: June and September 2001.</i> By K Orr
CAT Report 209	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 11 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex: September 2002.</i> By K Orr
CAT Report 291	2004	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 15 Rawstorn Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2004.</i> By K Orr
CAT Report 463	2008	<i>Archaeological watching brief at 37 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex. February 2008.</i> By S Benfield
CAT Report 1000	Forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997).</i> By H Brook
CBCPS	2018	<i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 8 St. Albans Road, Colchester, CO3 3JQ.</i> By J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</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.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hawkes, CFC, and Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum, Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14</i>
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
Niblett, BRK	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman Industrial site at Camulodunum, CBA Research Report, 57</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
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
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
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	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1291)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log

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: 2018.53.

Distribution list:

Matthew Yeates

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



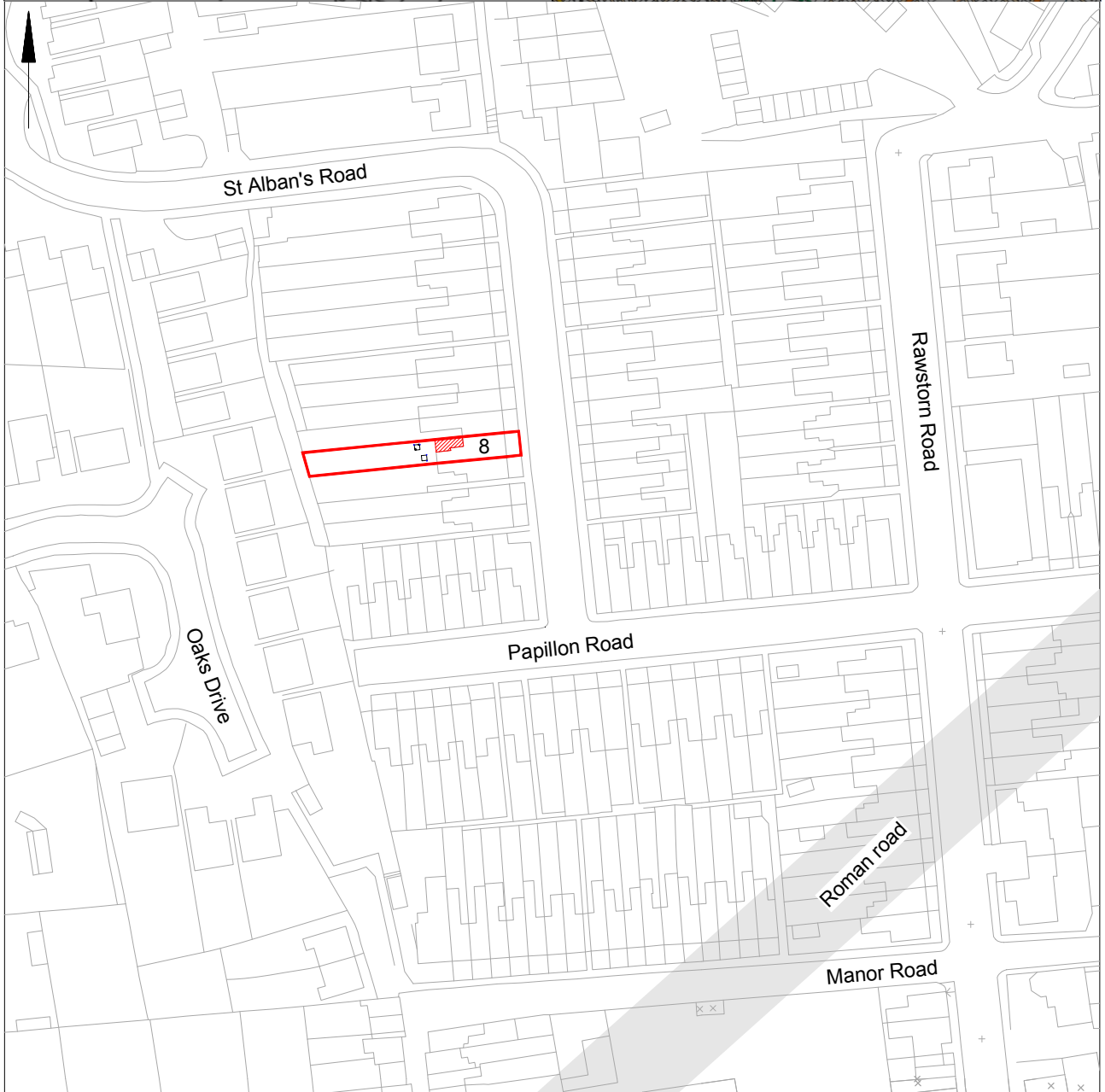
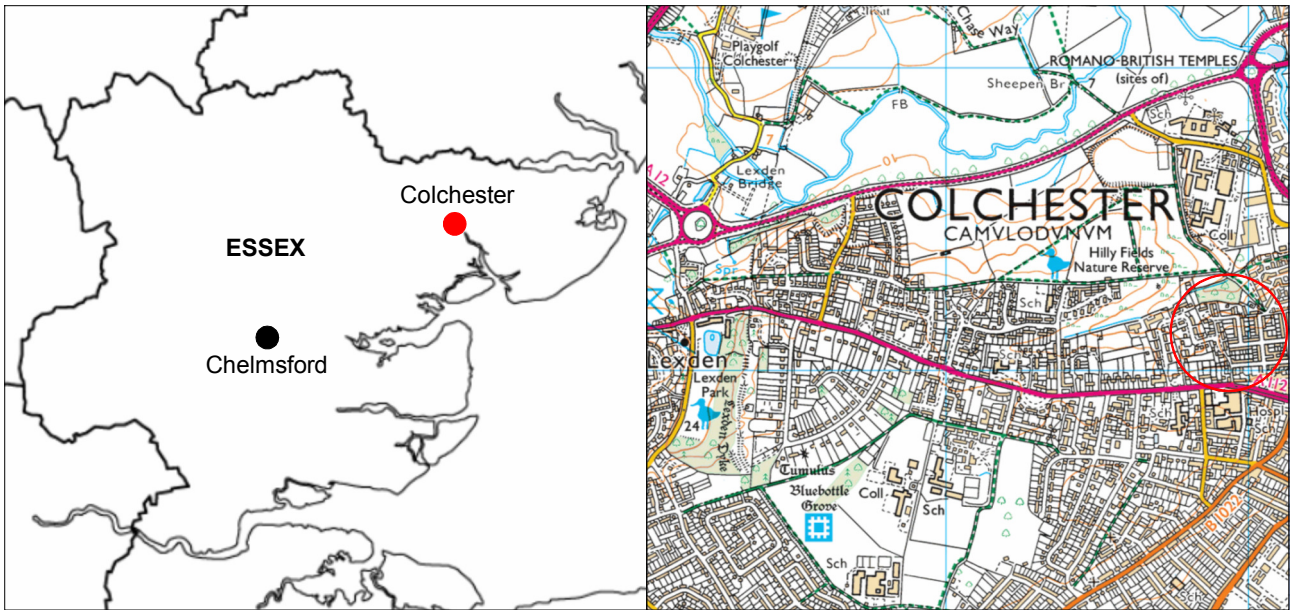
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 13.07.2018



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Fig 1 Site location



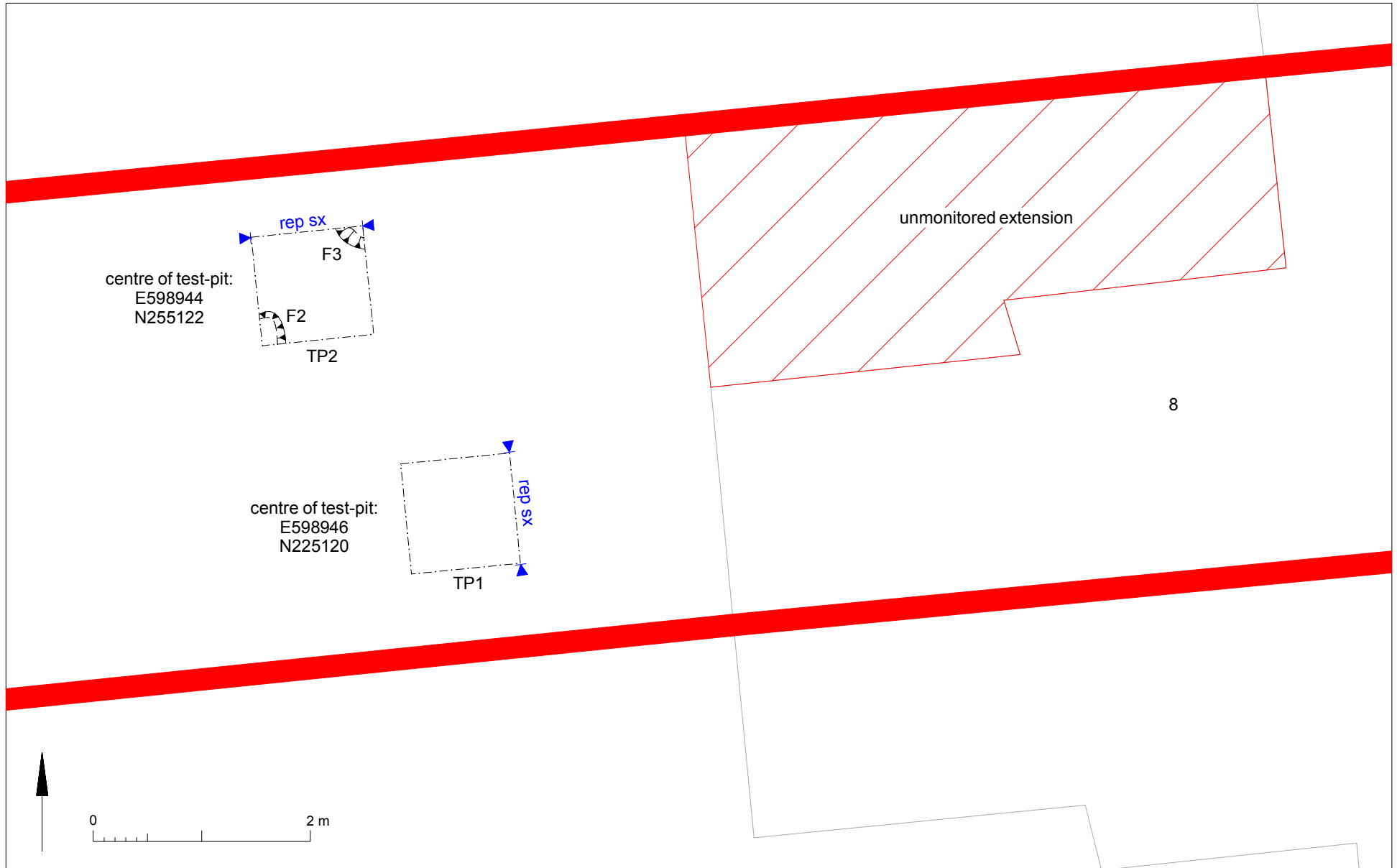


Fig 2 Results

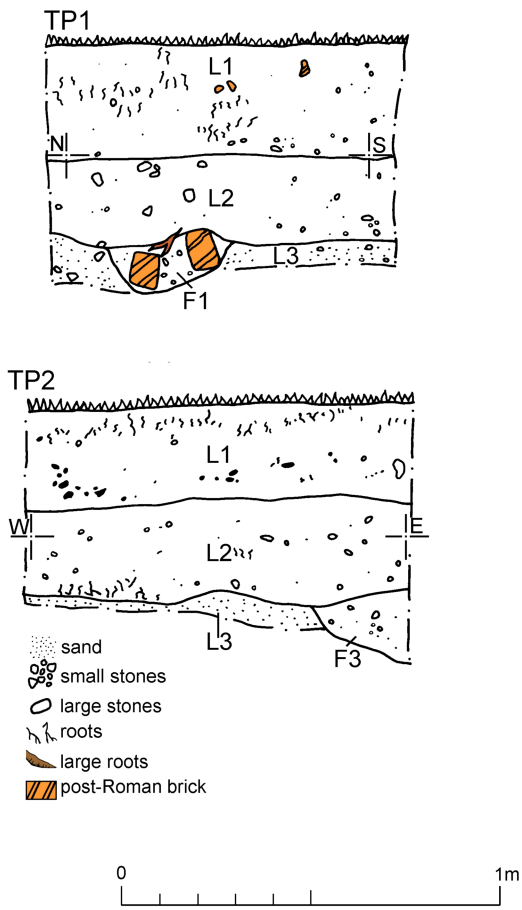


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 8 St Albans Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3JQ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98953 25121	Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/05b CHER ref: ECC4226 OASIS ref: colchest3-318916
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 15th June 2018	Size of area investigated: 0.02ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.53	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: MCC475, MCC1069, MCC1074, MCC1075, MCC1084, MCC1226, MCC1227, MCC1228, MCC1718, MCC1719, MCC1734, MCC1928, MCC2889, MCC2890, MCC2891, MCC2892, MCC5422, MCC7647, MCC8077
Final report: CAT Report 1291	
Periods represented: Prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation by test-pitting (two test-pits) was undertaken at 8 St Albans Road, Colchester, Essex during the demolition of a rear single-storey extension and the construction of a wrap-around extension and associated groundworks. The work was undertaken as a remedial measure as groundworks previously carried out at the site were not monitored by archaeologists. A modern posthole or pit, an undatable cut feature, and a possible pit were uncovered. A number of finds dating to the prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval and modern periods, were retrieved.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: July 2018

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for an archaeological evaluation by trial
trenching at 8 St Albans Road, Colchester,
Essex, CO3 3JQ.**

NGR: TL 98953 25121

Planning references: 180756 (and 180163)

Commisioned by: Matthew Yeates

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc

CHER number: tbc

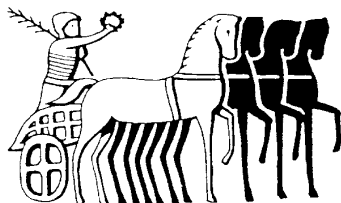
CAT project code: 18/05b

OASIS project number: colchest3-318916

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 05.06.2018



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 500m west of the main centre of Colchester at 8 St. Albans Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3JQ (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 98953 25121.

Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of a rear single storey pitch roof extension and the construction of a wrap-around extension with a flat roof and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk), and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed by Heritage Gateway.

To the north-west of the site, evidence of concentrations of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation, and industrial activity, has been recorded. Approximately 250m to the north-west is the important late Iron Age and Roman site at Sheepen, the main period of occupation of which is c AD 5-60 (Hawkes & Hull 1946; Niblett 1985), though Bronze Age occupation is also attested there (CAR 11, 132-3).

The redevelopment site is situated outside the Roman walled town which lies approximately 260m to the east. The site is surrounded by important archaeological remains, principally of Roman date. These remains are dominated by the major road (CHER MCC475 and MCC1928) a short distance to the southeast which led from the walled town to London (Hull 1958, 2-3).

Extra-mural Roman occupation, considered to be an extension of the Roman town (CAR 3, fig 8), is known to extend up to 300m west of the town wall. Part of this settlement close to the town wall has been excavated (the Balkerne Lane site; CAR 3). Here buildings and property plots fronting the major Roman road leading out from the Balkerne Gate were recorded. There are a number of CHER sopts for evidence of buildings nearby the site including fragments of tessellated Roman floors seen in Papillon Road (CHER MCC1069), Rawstorn Road (CHER MCC1074) and Crowhurst Road (CHER MCC1734). And fragments of walls seen in Manor Road (CHER MCC1075) and Papillon Road (CHER MCC1084).

Further Roman buildings and activities including horticulture and sand quarrying were recorded on areas away from the road frontage. During a watching brief carried out by CAT in 2008 at 37 Oaks Drive (CAT Report 463) F1 was recorded as being a Roman quarry pit.

Approximately 70m to the west-northwest is a concentration of Roman kilns (CHER MCC8077 and MCC1226-8) uncovered during the construction of Oaks Drive for the residential development in 1973 and recorded by CAT (CAR 6, 338-340).

The site is also situated within an area within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (CHER MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing), leading out of Balkerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). A number of Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in CAR 9.

To the northeast of the site archaeological investigations were carried out by CAT between 2001 and 2003 on the site of the former St Mary's hospital (now known as Balkerne Heights/St. Mary's Fields). Excavations in 2001-3 uncovered early Roman houses destroyed in the Boudican revolt of AD 60/61. The suburb was rebuilt and a road leading to Sheepen to the north-west was created, plus smaller lanes connecting the houses. By the 4th century AD, settlement had moved back inside the town walls and the area was turned over to use as a cemetery. In all, 86 Roman burials were excavated, mainly from the north and eastern areas of the site (CAT report in forthcoming). Four Roman inhumations were also recorded at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road in 2001 (CHER MCC5422 and MCC2889-2892), adjacent to the hospital site (CAT Report 134). During the development of residential properties in Oaks Drive fragments of a lead coffin and pottery were found at no. 41 (CAR 6 811-2, CHER MCC1718) and a skeleton with a glass bead found at no. 52 (CAR 6 811-2, CHER MCC1719)

CAT has also found that during a number of watching briefs and evaluations around Oaks Drive area that there has been a large amount of modern ground disturbance. Sites at 17 Rawstorn Road in 1985 and 35 Oaks Drive in 1999 (CAT Report 1000, forthcoming), 26 Oaks Drive in 2001 (CAT Report 157), 11 Oaks Drive in 2002 (CAT Report 209) and 15 Rawstorn Road in 2004 (CAT Report 291) all had between 1.25-1.5m of modern debris or sand dumps thought to be from either construction of the houses in the 1970's or to raise the height of gardens that were sloping.

Planning background

The original planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2018 (application No.180163) proposing the demolition of a rear single story pitch roof extension. Construct a wrap around extension with a flat roof. A revised application was made in March 2018 (application No.180756) proposing the removal of the archaeological condition (condition 4) as groundworks have been completed without archaeological work.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Specifically, the work will involve the excavation of two test pits, each 1m² located adjacent to the new development. The purpose of the test pits are to provide sufficient information to establish what, if any, archaeological remains might have been present (and damaged) on the site. Any spoil from the new foundations will be hand-sifted to recover archaeological material.

Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any further groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence

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 the 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.

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 EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify 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 archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner/Ben Holloway

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

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

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine trenches, contexts and 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.

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 the 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. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; 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.

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: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman / Alec Wade

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 / Ian Betts (MOLA)

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.

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:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- 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

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

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
	(2 nd ed)	
CAR 3	1984	Colchester Archaeological Report 3, Excavations at Lion Walk, Balcerne Lane and Middleborough, Colchester, Essex. By P Crummy
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> . By P Crummy
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> . By CFC Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 134	2001	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road, Colchester</i> . By Kate Orr
CAT Report 157	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 26 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex: June and September 2001</i> . By K Orr
CAT Report 209	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 11 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex: September 2002</i> . By K Orr
CAT Report 291	2004	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 15 Rawstorn Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2004</i> . By K Orr
CAT Report 463	2008	<i>Archaeological watching brief at 37 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex: February 2008</i> . By S Benfield
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997)</i> . By H Brooks

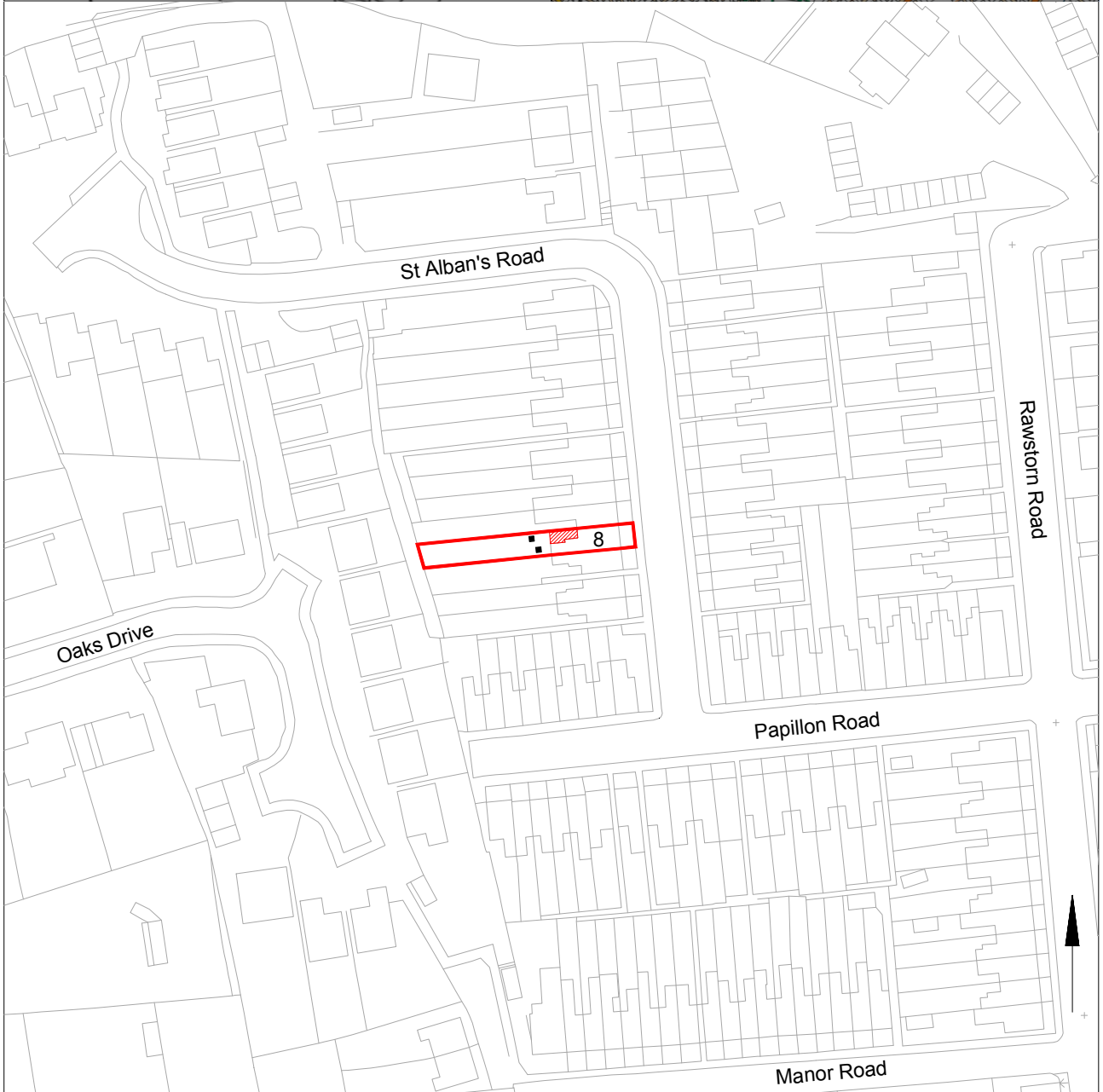
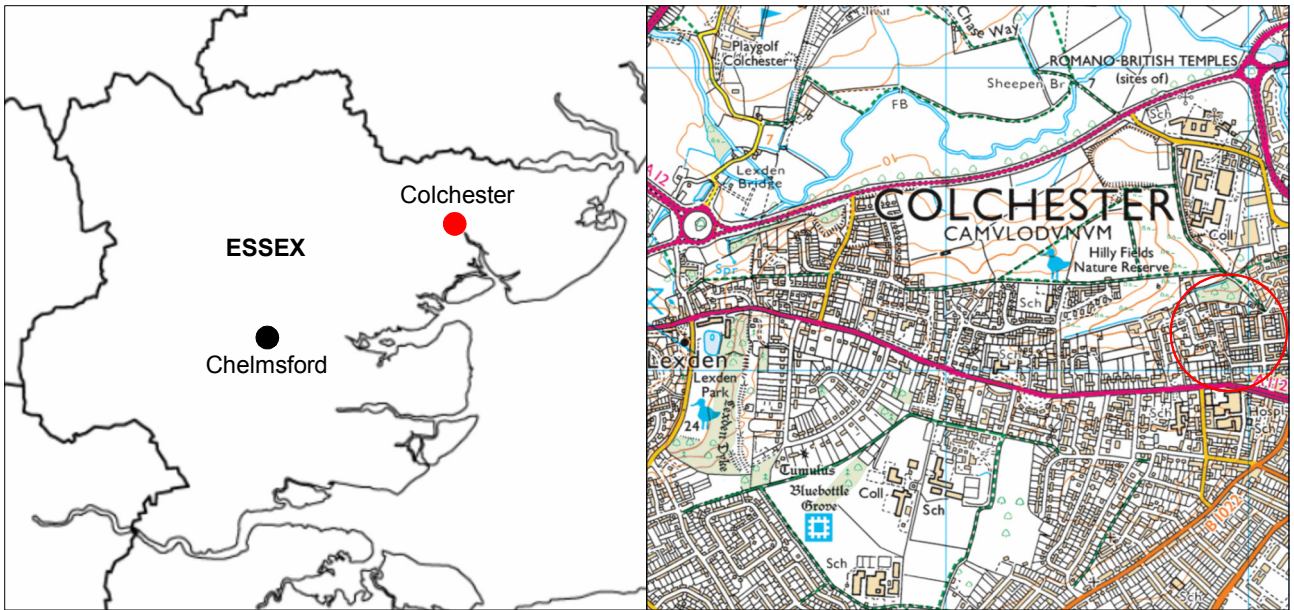
CBCPS	2018	<i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 8 St. Albans Road, Colchester, CO3 3JQ. By J Tipper</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</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>
Hawkes, CFC, and Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum, Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14</i>
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</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>
Niblett, BRK	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman Industrial site at Camulodunum, CBA Research Report, 57</i>

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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-318916

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at 8 St Albans Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3JQ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by test-pitting (two test-pits) was undertaken at 8 St Albans Road, Colchester, Essex during the demolition of a rear single-storey extension and the construction of a wrap-around extension and associated groundworks. The work was undertaken as a remedial measure as groundworks previously carried out at the site were not monitored by archaeologists. A modern posthole or pit, an undatable cut feature, and a possible pit were uncovered. A number of finds dating to the prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval and modern periods, were retrieved.
Project dates	Start: 08-05-2018 End: 15-06-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/05b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	180756 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	180163 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2018.53 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4226 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	POSTHOLE Modern
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	CUT FEATURE Uncertain

Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	BRICK Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Significant Finds	SLATE Medieval
Significant Finds	SLATE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON OBJECT Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Modern
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLE Modern
Significant Finds	CLINKER Uncertain
Significant Finds	FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY OBJECT Modern
Investigation type	""Test-Pit Survey""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 8 St. Albans Road
Postcode	CO3 3JQ
Study area	0.02 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98953 25121 51.888560094075 0.891457950299 51 53 18 N 000 53 29 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister

Project archives

No

Physical Archive Exists?	
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2018.53
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2018.53
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation by test-pitting at 8 St Albans Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3JQ: May-June 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1291
Date	2018
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	18 July 2018

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