

Archaeological monitoring at 55 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT

July 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks and Laura Pooley

figures by Sarah Carter, Chris Lister and Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Sarah Carter

**Commissioned by Mark Polley (MP Associates)
on behalf of Richard Parker**

NGR: TL 98035 24031 (centre)

Planning reference: 180219

CAT project ref.: 18/04o

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2018.40

CHER ref: ECC4203

OASIS reference: colchest3-315619



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CAT Report 1307

August 2018

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 55 Irvine Road during groundworks for a single-storey rear extension. Despite being located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum and close to a Roman road, monitoring revealed no significant archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at 55 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out on 31st July 2018. The work was commissioned by Mark Polley of AP Associates on behalf of Richard Parker, during groundworks for 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 Monitoring and Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (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 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 the Colchester Historic Environment Record, accessed via the Colchester Heritage Network (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/>).

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. Each dyke consisted of a V-shaped ditch with a simple bank behind, constructed so that the inner face of the ditch continued as the outer face of the bank (Crummy 1997, 14). Moat Farm Dyke (CHER MCC2099/MCC7280) is located 200m NW (CAR 11, 34), with Heath Farm Dyke (MCC2095/MCC2101) and Prettygate Dyke (MCC1742) also close-by.

It is also situated to the south of known Roman cemeteries that cluster around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road (180m east of the site) (MCC2529). It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned to the orientation of this road. Finds recovered in the immediate vicinity include Roman coins from the rear gardens of 12 and 22 Audley Road (MCC1273 and MCC1302).

A substantial Roman temple complex (Temple 6) was also partly excavated in 1947 (MCC1959/MCC8407). It is located c 425m NNE of the site, in the playing fields of the

Colchester Royal Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of war and hunting (Crummy 1997, 107).

No significant archaeological features or horizons were identified during recent archaeological investigations at 20 Irvine Road (CAT Report 867), 40 Irvine Road (CAT Report 860), 78 Irvine Road (CAT Report 1174), 10 Audley Road (CAT Report 813), 55 Audley Road (CAT Report 1260) or during a small evaluation on the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road) (CAT Report 180).

An anti-tank ditch and defence line dating to World War II is also located approximately 115m SW (MCC8706).

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at 55 Irvine Road due to the potential presence of archaeological deposits associated with the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum and structures or burials situated along the route of the Gosbecks-Colchester Roman road, which is projected to run through gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

A CAT archaeologist supervised the excavation of approximately 14.5m of foundation trenches, measuring 0.45m wide by 0.9m deep. The trenches were excavated through modern debris associated with the demolition of the old conservatory and extension (L1, c 0.19-0.21m thick) and a medium grey/brown silty-clay subsoil (L2, c 0.57-0.59m thick) into natural sands (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.77-0.8m below current ground level).

A large modern concrete pad, measuring 5.7m long, was present in the western foundation trench, but there were no significant archaeological remains.



Photograph 1 Southern foundation trench, looking west



Photograph 2 Northern foundation trench, looking northwest

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, and close to the Colchester to Gosbecks Roman Road and areas of Roman burials, monitoring revealed no significant archaeological remains.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mark Polley of MP Associates and Richard Parker for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by S Carter. Figures were prepared by S Carter, C Lister and L Pooley. 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>

- | | | |
|----------|------|--|
| Brown, D | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAR 9 | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2018 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 55 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT</i> |

CAT Report 180	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation on Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road), Colchester, Essex: February 2002</i>
CAT Report 813	2015	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2015</i>
CAT Report 860	2015	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording: 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex: August 2015</i>
CAT Report 867	2015	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording: 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0TR: July 2015</i>
CAT Report 1174	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 78 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT: September 2017</i>
CAT Report 1260	2018	<i>Archaeological monitoring at 55 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TZ: March 2018</i>
CBCPS	2018	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 55 Irvine Road, Colchester, CO3 3TT, 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>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</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
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
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 sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Find: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1307)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1307)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photos, thumbnails and log

Graphics files

Survey data

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: 2018.40.

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Distribution list

Mark Polley (MP Associates)

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Essex Historic Environment Record



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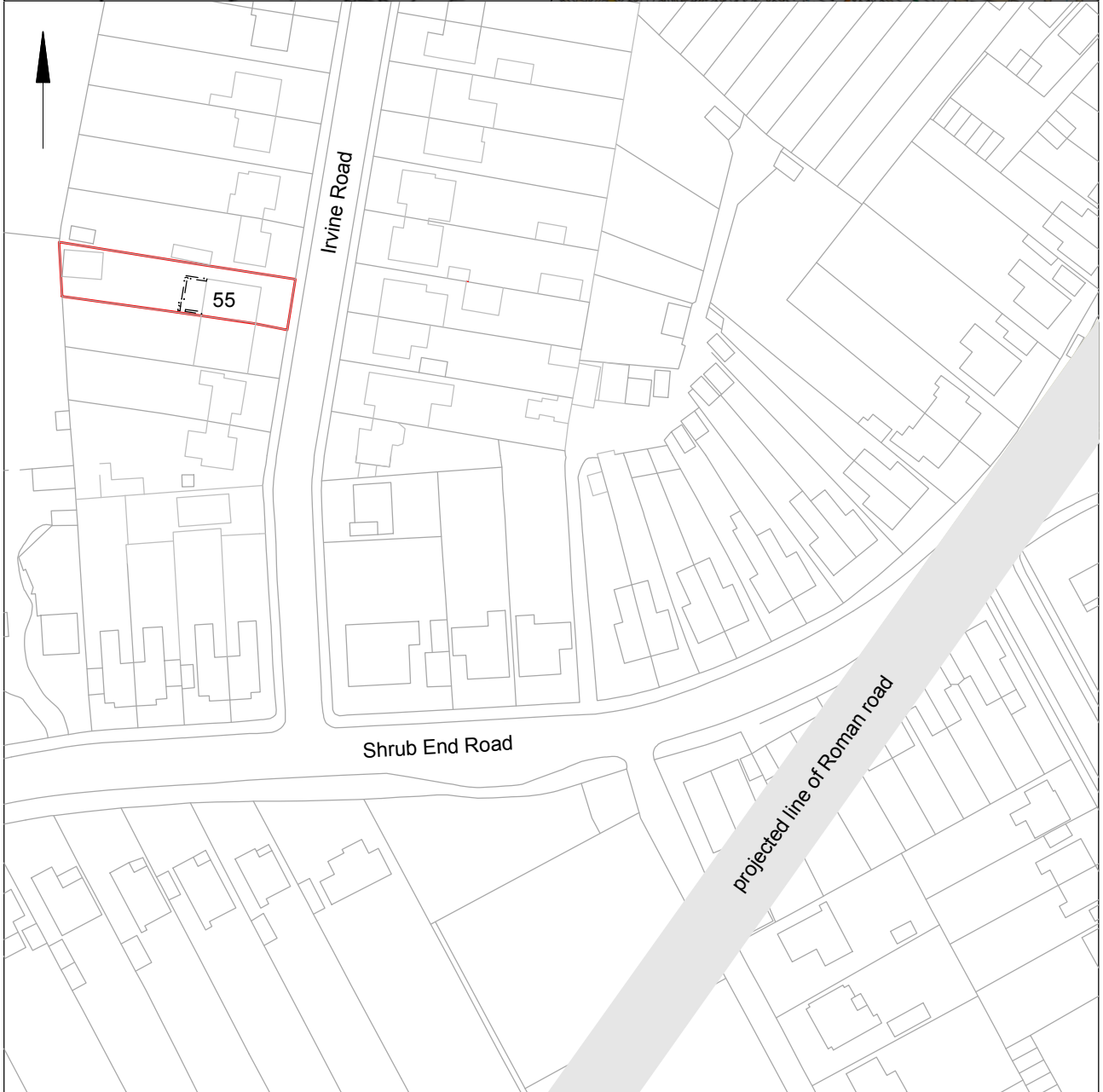
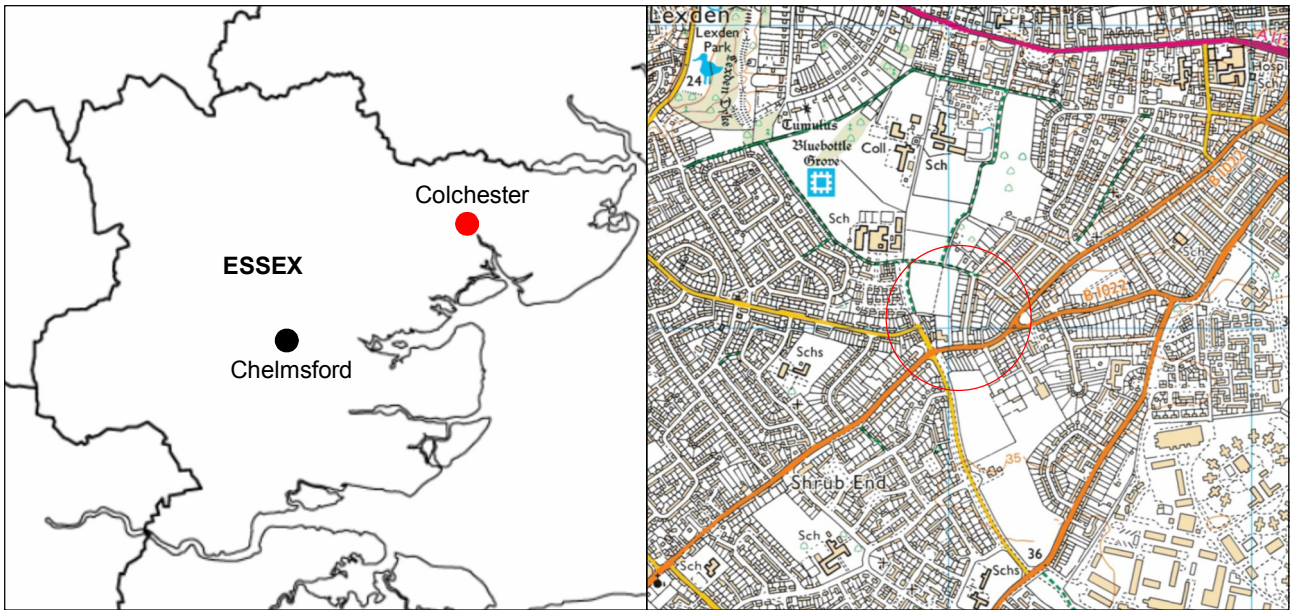


Fig 1 Site location.

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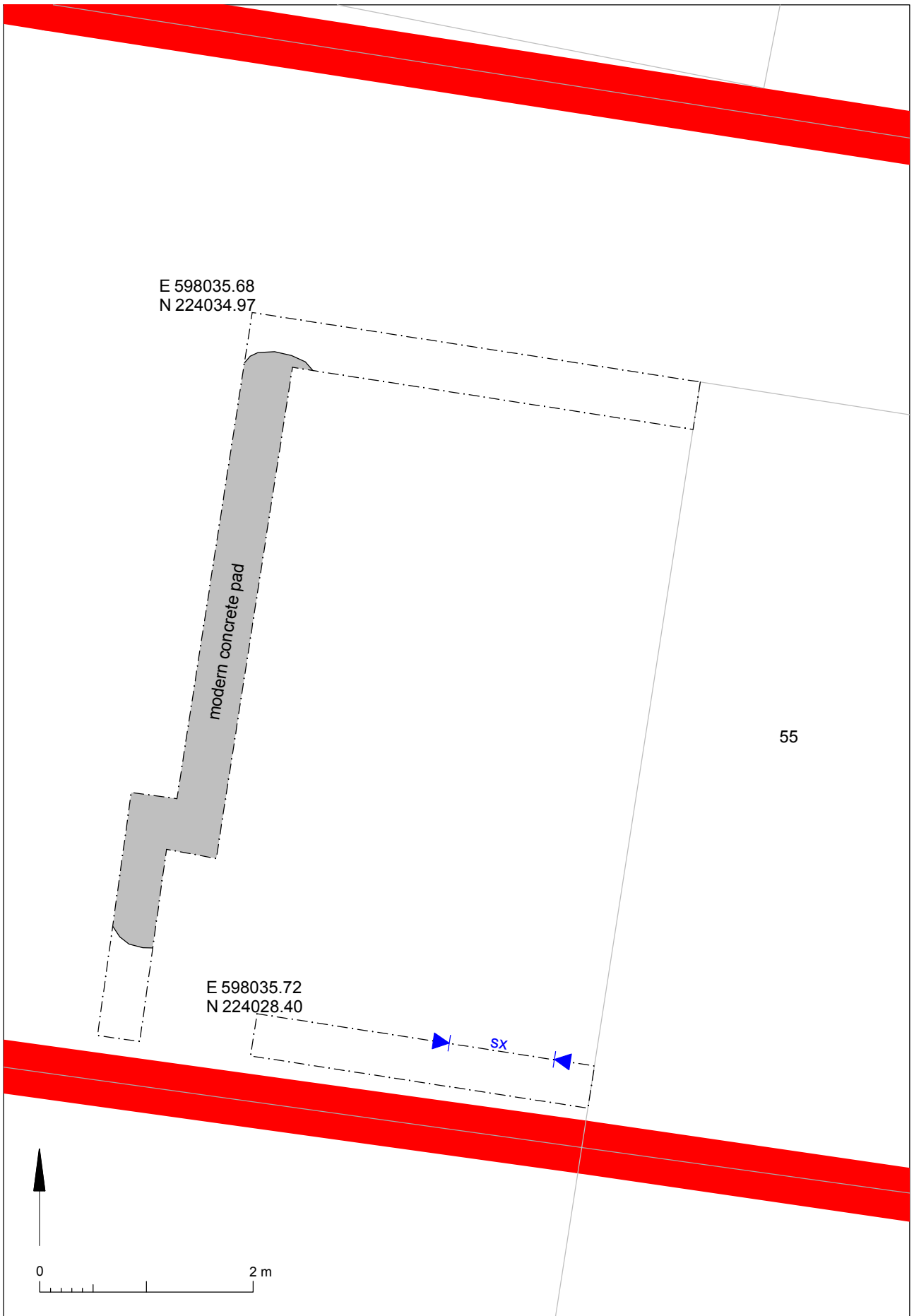


Fig 2 Results

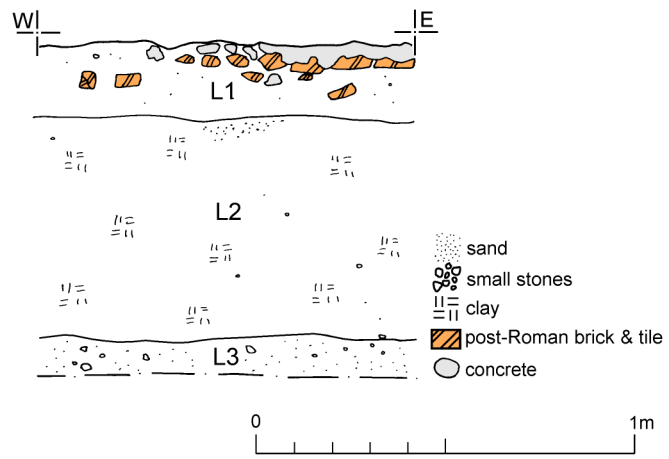


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 55 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98035 24031 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/04o CHER ref: ECC4203 OASIS ref: colchest3-315619
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 31st July 2018	Size of area investigated: 0.05 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.40	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: MCC1273, MCC1302, MCC1742, MCC1959, MCC2095, MCC2099, MCC2101, MCC2529, MCC7280, MCC8407, MCC8706
Final report: CAT Report 1307	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 55 Irvine Road during groundworks for a single-storey rear extension. Despite being located within the Late Iron Age <i>oppidum</i> of Camulodunum and close to a Roman road, monitoring revealed no significant archaeological remains.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: August 2018

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 55 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT

NGR: TL 98035 24031 (centre)

Planning references: 180219

Commissioned by: Mark Polley, MP Associates

On behalf of: Richard Parker

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

CHER number: ECC4203

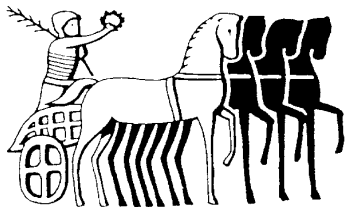
CAT project code: 18/04o

OASIS project number: colchest3-315619

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 27.4.2018



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2.1km southwest of Colchester town centre at 55 Irvine Road, Colchester, close to the junction with Shrub End Road (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 98035 24031.

Proposed work

The development comprises of single-storey rear and front (porch) extensions(s) and internal alterations.

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, accessed via the Colchester Heritage Network (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/>).

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. Each dyke consisted of a V-shaped ditch with a simple bank behind, constructed so that the inner face of the ditch continued as the outer face of the bank (Crummy 1997, 14). Moat Farm Dyke (MCC2099/MCC7280) is located 200m NW (CAR 11, 34), with Heath Farm Dyke (MCC2095/MCC2101) and Prettygate Dyke (MCC1742) also close-by.

It is also situated to the south of known Roman cemeteries that cluster around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road (180m east of the site) (MCC2529). It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned to the orientation of this road. Finds recovered in the immediate vicinity include Roman coins from the rear gardens of 12 and 22 Audley Road (MCC1273 and MCC1302).

A substantial Roman temple complex (Temple 6) was also partly excavated in 1947 (MCC1959/MCC8407). It is located c 425m NNE of the site, in the playing fields of the Colchester Royal Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of war and hunting (Crummy 1997, 107).

No significant archaeological features or horizons were identified during recent archaeological investigations at 20 Irvine Road (CAT Report 867), 40 Irvine Road (CAT Report 860), 78 Irvine Road (CAT Report 1174), 10 Audley Road (CAT Report 813), 55 Audley Road (CAT Report 1260) or during a small evaluation on the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road) (CAT Report 180).

An anti-tank ditch and defence line dating to World War II is also located approximately 115m SW (MCC8706).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2018 (application No.180219) proposing a single-storey rear and front (porch) extension(s) and internal alterations.

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). 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 continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that will be damaged or destroyed by any development (including services and landscaping) permitted by the current planning consent.

The method and form the development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief, and this wsi, are based.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief, and this wsi, are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed,

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2018).

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 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), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

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

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. Any processing and reporting will be 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. 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): Alec Wade / 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: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) /

Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

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

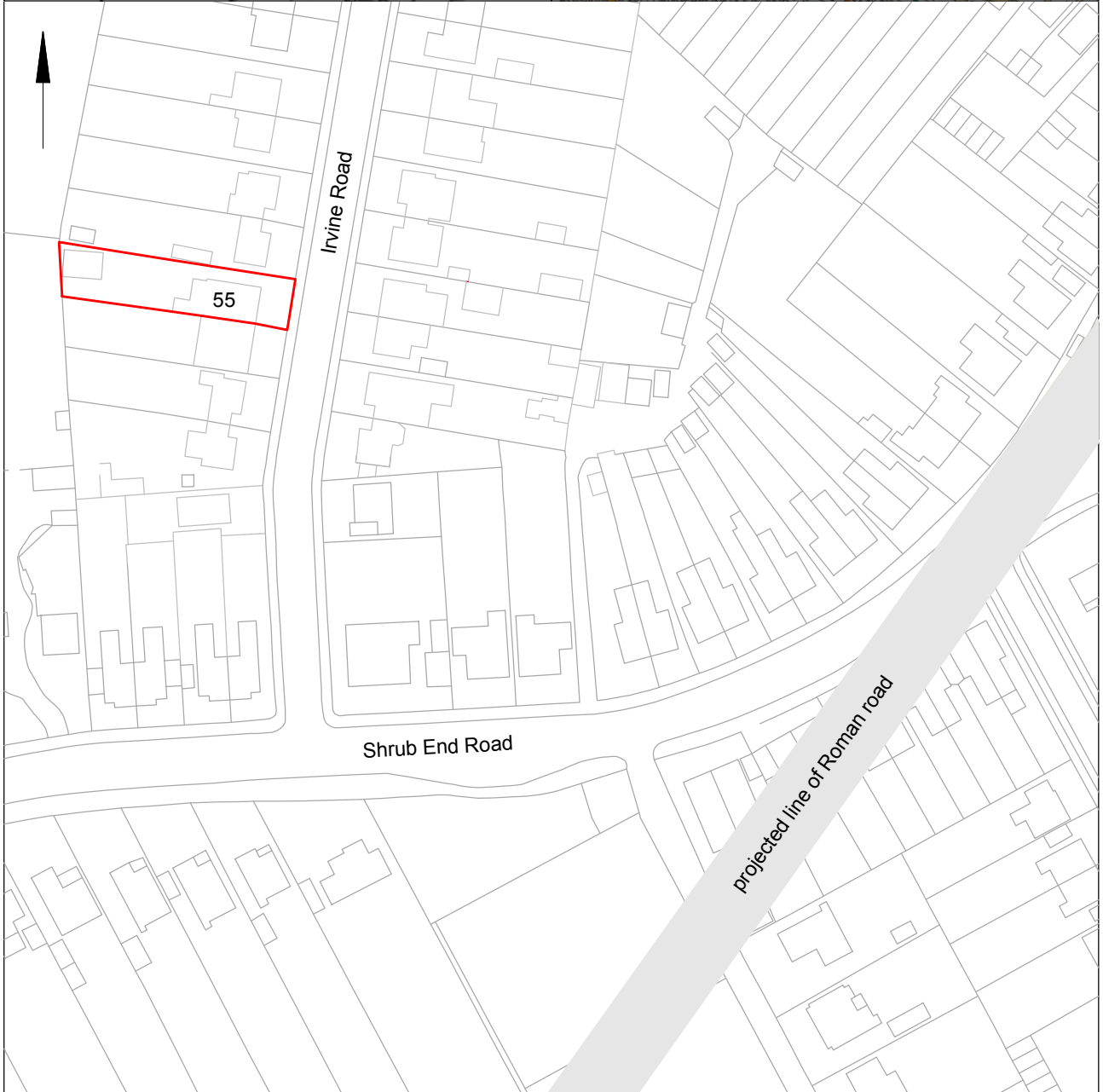
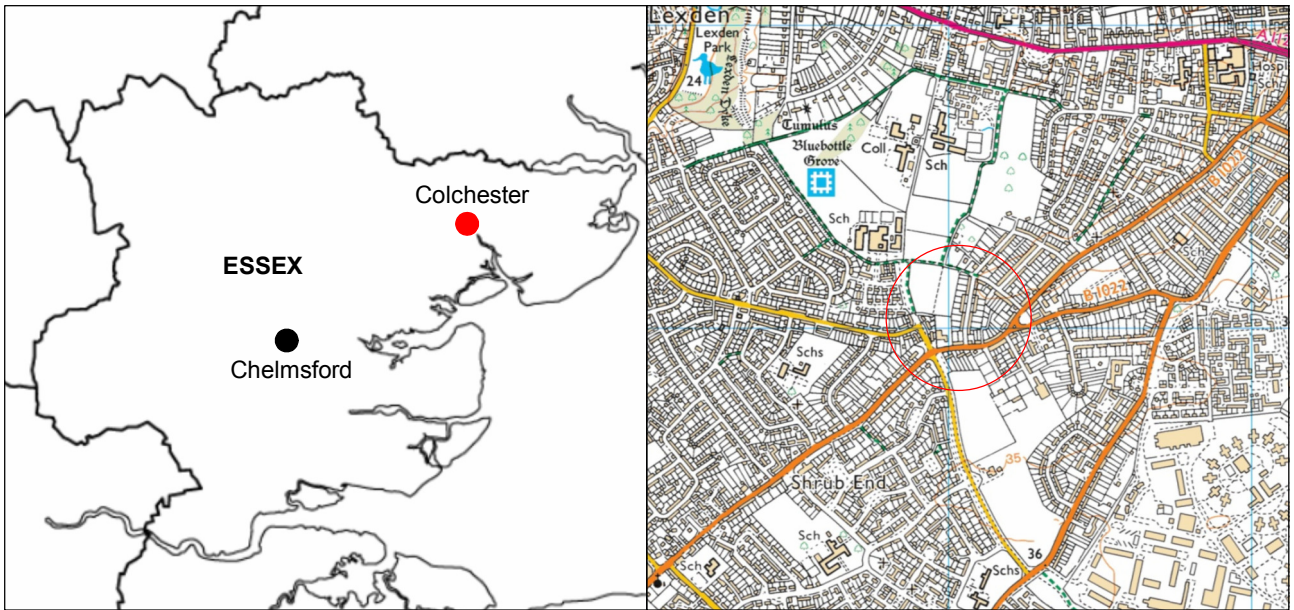
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|------------------|-------|--|
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| Crummy, P | 1997 | <i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i> |
| DCLG | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> |
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| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i> |
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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: colchest3-315619

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 55 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 55 Irvine Road during groundworks for a single-storey rear extension. Despite being located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum and close to a Roman road, monitoring revealed no significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 31-07-2018 End: 31-07-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/04o - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	180219 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4203 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.40 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 55 Irvine Road
Postcode	CO3 3TT
Study area	0.05 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98035 24031 51.879099776063 0.877508899159 51 52 44 N 000 52 39 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	Sarah Carter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.40
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.40

Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological monitoring at 55 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TT: July 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1307
Date 2018
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on 22 August 2018

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