



Colchester  
Archaeological  
Trust

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

<b>CAT Report 1404</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Colchester
<b>6 Ireton Road</b> <b>Colchester</b> <b>Essex</b>	<b>Planning reference:</b> 180159
	<b>CHER Event no.:</b> ECC4294
	<b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-339856
<b>Address:</b> 6 Ireton Road Colchester Essex CO3 3AT	<b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 98644 24502
	<b>Number of site visits:</b> 1
	<b>Dates of visits:</b> 16th April 2019

**Nature of the work:** Observation of groundworks for a rear and side extension.

**Reason for condition:** The site lies within an area of known Roman cemeteries.

**% of total seen:** 100% of the groundworks.

**Results:** The excavation of foundation trenching for an extension was archaeologically monitored in response to a Brief set by Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

A CAT archaeologist supervised the excavation of 10m of foundation trenching to the rear of the property.



**Photograph 1** Site shot

The trenching was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.36-0.4m thick, soft, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown loam) onto natural (L2, firm, dry orange sand).

No significant archaeological remains or material was encountered.

**Recorded by:** Dr Elliott Hicks

**Date:** 23rd April 2019



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

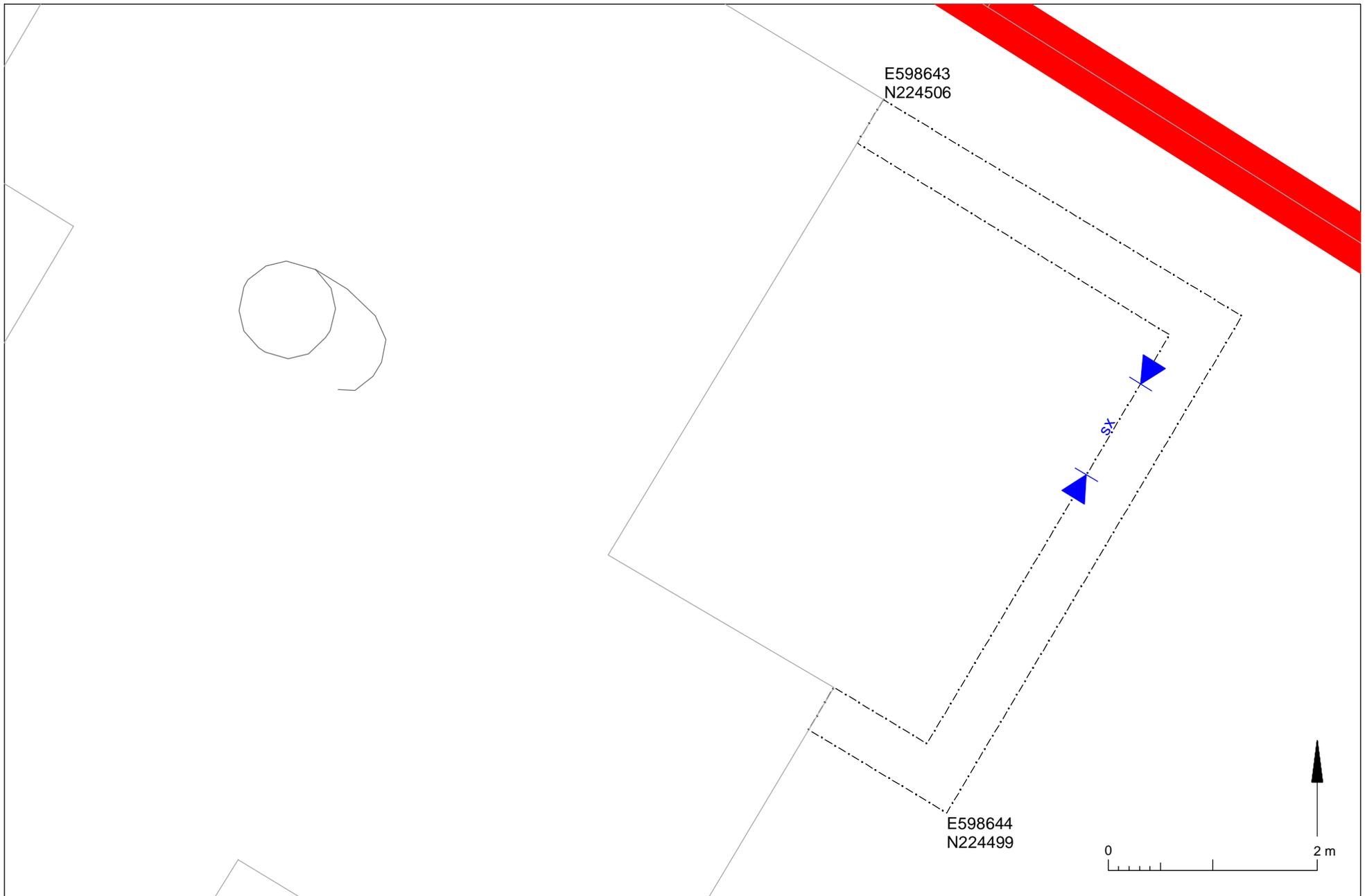
Date: 23.04.2019



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location.





© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 2 Results.

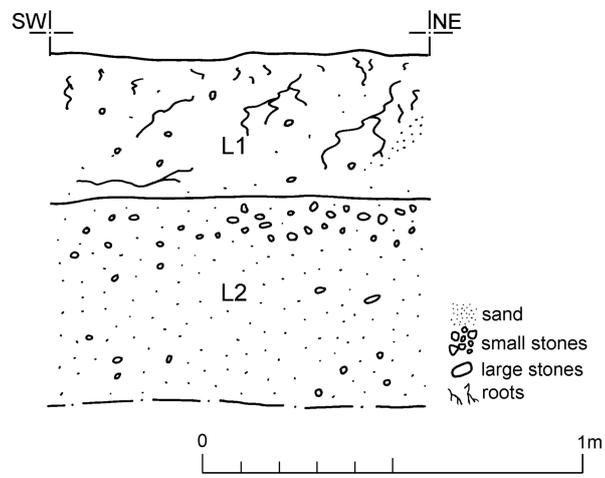


Fig 3 Representative section.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for continuous archaeological recording at  
6 Ireton Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3AT.**

**NGR:** TL 98644 24502 (centre)  
**Planning references:** 180159

**Commissioned by and on behalf of:** Harriet Croydon

**Curating museum:** Colchester  
**Museum accession code:** tbc

**CHER number:** tbc  
**CAT project code:** 2019/01d  
**OASIS project number:** colchest3-339856

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 16/01/2019

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ  
*tel:* 01206 501785  
*email:* [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.18km southwest of main Colchester town centre at 6 Ireton Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3AT (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 98644 24502.

## Proposed work

The development involves a two-storey side and rear extension to a residential dwelling and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The development site is situated within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the southwest of the Roman walled town and just outside of an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and 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.

Of particular note is a high-status rectangular walled cemetery which lay immediately north of and adjacent to the Roman road (Hall 1946) and in 2005 CAT excavated the remains of a Roman temple tomb at the Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC2791, CAT Report 345). Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 along with the famous 'Colchester Sphinx' when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (CAR 9, 258). A number of burials have been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5), with eighteen Roman inhumation burials excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (CAR 9, 261). To the northeast over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Police station on Butt Road (CAR 9, 4-202, CHER MCC2799-MCC2801).

To the east of the site CAT have undertaken a series of watching briefs, evaluations and excavations over the last 15 years as part of the Colchester Garrison Urban Village development. These revealed hundreds of Roman burials in two distinct cemetery areas to the northeast and east of the site (CAT Report 412 (Area J1 North CHER, MCC2765); CAT Report 1033 (Area H, CHER MCC10199-MCC10200)). Burials features range from the 1st-4th century AD and include inhumations, urned and unurned cremations, *bustum* and pyre sites, and evidence of at least one *mausoleum*. A Roman trackway bounded the cemetery area to the south, with the Roman circus (CHER MCC5549, Scheduled monument 35614, NHLE no.1021426) c 740m to the east.

Roman cemeteries tend to cluster around the Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, runs along Cambridge Walk, parallel to Cambridge Road (c 60m northeast of the site) (MCC2529). In close proximity to the proposed site a Roman cremation urn found on the corner of Maldon Road and Constantine Road (CHER MCC1505). There have also been Roman burials in Honywood Road (MCC2514), Beaconsfield Avenue (CHER MCC1901, MCC2436 and MCC2501), and on Errington Road (CHER MCC1451, MCC7686).

To the immediate southeast of the site a substantial Roman temple complex (Temple 6) was partly excavated in 1947 (MCC1959/MCC8407). It is located c 100m SSE 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).

## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2018 (application No.180159) proposing a *two storey extension and addition of velux to roof slope and obscure glazed window to first floor side elevation*.

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* (MHCLG 2018).

## **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).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief 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, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- 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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork alongside a project or site code 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 proforma 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.

Matthew Loughton (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: 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: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) 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.

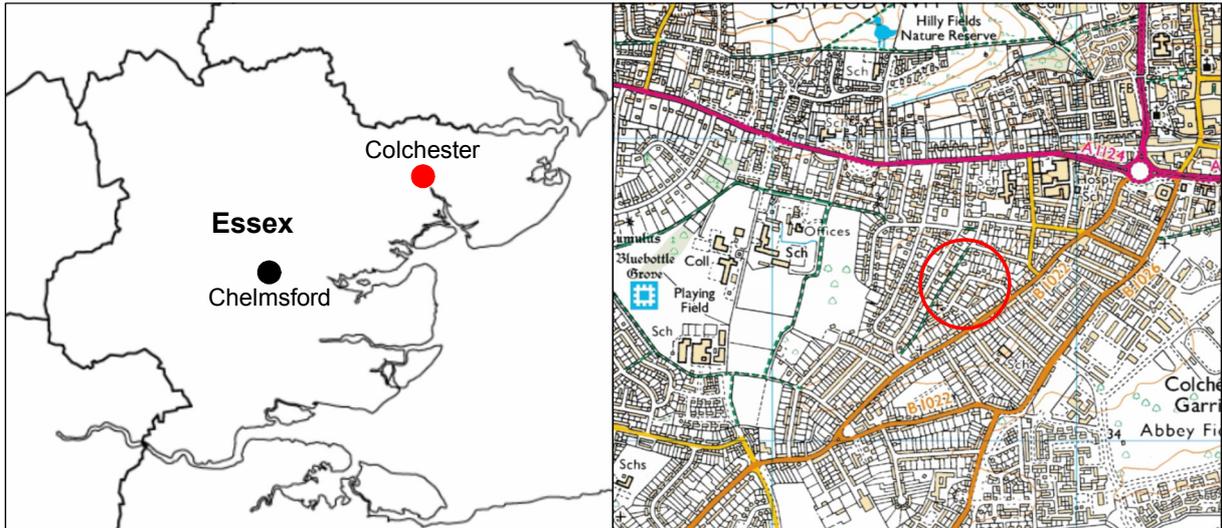
### **References**

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

Brown, D	2011 (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.)	<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 by N Crummy, P Crummy &amp; C Crossan</i>
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2 by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy</i>
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 345	205	<i>A Roman temple-tomb at Colchester Royal Grammar School, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2005, by H Brooks</i>

CAT Report 412	2011	<i>Report on the archaeological investigations carried out on Areas C1, C2, E, J1, O, Q and S1 of the Alienated Land, Colchester Garrison, including the Time Team trenches and the Alienated Land watching brief: May 2004-January 2005</i>
CAT Report 1033	2011	<i>Roman burials: Archaeological excavation (Stage 2) on Colchester Garrison 'Alienated Land' Area H, off Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 2DL September 2012 – February 2013. By L Pooley</i>
CBCAA	2018	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 24 Hamilton Road Colchester, CO3 3DZ by J Tipper</i>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Hall, AF	1946	<i>A Roman walled cemetery at Colchester', <i>Archaeological Journal</i>, <b>CI</b></i>
Historic England	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, <b>20</b></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>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government</i>

E Holloway  
 Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Roman Circus House  
 Roman Circus Walk  
 Colchester  
 Essex  
 CO2 2GZ  
 tel: 01206 501785  
 email: [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location.



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

**OASIS ID: colchest3-339856**

## Project details

Project name	Continuous archaeological recording at 6 Ireton Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3AT
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 6 Ireton Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a side and rear extension. Despite being located in an area of archaeological interest, there were no significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 16-04-2019 End: 16-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/01d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	180159 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2019.3 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4294 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 6 Ireton Road, Colchester
Postcode	CO3 3AT
Study area	0.05 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98644 24502 51.883111933714 0.886616880448 51 52 59 N 000 53 11 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 supervisor	Robin Mathieson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Harriet Croydon

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2019.3
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2019.3
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

## Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at 6 Ireton Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3AT: April 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1404
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/</a>
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	23 April 2019

**OASIS:**

Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:Historic England) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=349685> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)