

# **Archaeological monitoring at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST**

## **February 2018-January 2019**



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton  
figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner, Alec Wade, Mark Baister and Ben Holloway

**commissioned by Mathews Serjeant Architects  
on behalf of Fieldfisher LLP**

NGR: TL 9764 2495 (centre)

Planning reference: 172685

CAT project ref.: 17/12e

Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2018.2

CHER ref: ECC4121

OASIS reference: colchest3-303929



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**CAT Report 1412**

May 2019

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester during groundworks for the construction of a five-bedroom house. There was no trace of the Roman road projected to run through the site, and it appears that this road seems to be located slightly to the south. Instead, three ditches, a pit or area of disturbance, two pits or treethrows, and a pit or natural hollow were exposed by the groundworks. With the exception of one pit, which was of medieval date or later, no closely-datable finds were recovered from these features, and so they could not be dated. A single tessera cube and some grey ware sherds were found during the groundworks, evidencing some Roman activity at the site.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out from 5th February 2018 to 3rd January 2019. The work was commissioned by Mathews Serjeant Associates, on behalf of Fieldfisher LLP, was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of a five-bedroom house, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area identified by the Colchester Historical Environment Record (CHER) as possessing a high potential for archaeological deposits, following 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 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. One of these, Lexden Dyke, extends roughly north-south through Lexden Park 370m west of the development site (CAR 11, 34-45).

It is also situated towards the east of the Lexden cemetery (CAR 6, 281; CAR 11, 164-169). The core of the cemetery, measuring around 75m across with at least 27 cremation burials, lies approximately 200m west/southwest on St Clare Road and is of a Late Iron Age date (*ibid*). Later burials, 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD, were then more widely scattered throughout the area of St Clare Road, Fitzwalter Road and to the south of Lexden Road (CAR 11, 164-9).

Approximately 260m to the southwest lies the Lexden Tumulus, an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (a cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound has variously been thought to be that of *Addedomarus* (CAR 11, 85-94, Foster 1986) or Tasciovanus (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

A Roman road (HER no. MCC1928) is projected to run through the development site. The road is projected in a straight-line between patches of gravel identified during excavations at the Colchester Royal Grammar School and an entrance through Lexden Dyke (between Lexden Dyke Middle and Lexden Dyke North) (CAR 11, Fig 6.1) (for projected route see Fig 1). To date, there has been scant evidence to confirm whether the road exists or the route it might have taken. Recent monitoring at 4 Park Road (CAT Report 1199), which also lies on the projected route of this road, did not produce any evidence of a road surface or road-side ditches.

No significant archaeological remains were found during recent monitoring at 1 Alton Drive (CAT Report 1046), and a number of other fieldwork projects in the adjacent St Clare Road and Fitzwalter Road also produced negative results (CAT Report 99, 136, 195, 225, 250, 258, 267, 334, 455, 568, 1004). However, prior archaeological investigations have revealed: two Roman urned cremation burials at 12 St Clare Road (CAT Report 582); a post-medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval/modern pits at 20 St Clare Road (CAT Report 832); two early Roman pits, a post-medieval pit and modern pit at 1 St Clare Road (CAT Report 959); four Roman ditches, a pit and a possible grave at 19 St Clare Road (CAT Report 958 and 1009); and Roman ditches, pits and postholes representing a largely agricultural landscape at High Trees, St Clare Drive (CAT Report 1008).

#### 4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

The following groundworks were carried out at the site:

- a) the removal of the old house footings;
- b) foundation trenching to accommodate the footprint of the new dwelling approximately 97m in total length, 0.6-0.9m wide and 0.7-1.3m deep;
- c) trenching for drainage runs totalling approximately 71.6m in length, 0.3m wide and 0.7m deep;
- d) three soakaways 1m long, 1m wide and 1m deep and a further soakaway 2.5m long, 2.5m wide and 0.9m deep;
- e) the footprint of a therapy pool measuring 5.5m by 7.9m and 1.3m in depth.

Both the eastern half of the foundation trenching and a cut to accommodate shuttering around the therapy pool took place without archaeological supervision as they were undertaken prior to the arranged date. All other groundworks were overseen by a CAT archaeologist.

Three layers were recorded. A modern levelling layer (L1, c 0.17-0.52m thick, friable, moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with rare charcoal flecks, 3% stones and <1% CBM pieces) was situated above a build-up layer or subsoil (L2, c 0.2-0.35m thick, soft/friable, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with 30% gravel and <5% stones) which sealed natural (L3, firm, moist medium orange/brown sand). Within the western extremity of the site, L1 directly overlay L3.

Undatable ditch F1 was observed in section in the easternmost NE-SW aligned branch of the foundation trenching. It was 0.49m wide and 0.31m deep. This feature seemed to extend to the northwest, and to have appeared as ditch F2, which was observed in section in the westernmost NE-SW aligned branch of the foundation trenching. F2 was 0.45m wide and 0.21m deep. A single fragment of peg-tile was retrieved from this feature, meaning dating it to the medieval period or later. Immediately northeast of F2 lay an undatable pit or possible area of disturbance, F3. The feature was not bottomed but it was at least 1.94m wide.



**Photograph 1** F2 and F3 – looking north northwest

A further cluster of features were uncovered within the area of the therapy pool. Undatable pit or treethrow F4 was 1.06 wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.27m. A further undatable pit or treethrow, F5, stood adjacent to F4 and was 0.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.23m. An undated ditch, F6, extended on a NW-SE alignment into the area of the therapy pool, where it terminated. The feature was 0.49-0.74m wide and 0.21-0.3m deep.

Undatable pit or natural hollow F7 was observed in the southeast facing section of the large soakaway. It was 1.5m wide and 0.45m deep.



**Photograph 2** F7 – looking southwest

## 6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered 11 sherds of Roman and post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material with a weight of 189g. Most of this material was unstratified (2, 3) or from the context L2 (4). The only stratified sherd was a small piece of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile, with a weight of 10g, from the feature F2 (1). Other pieces of note included one sherd from a Staffordshire-type slipware press-moulded dish with combed decoration, dating to the 18th or 19th century (*CAR 7* 2000, 248), from the context U/S (3). The context L2 (4) produced a rectangular tessera (33 x 27 x 21) cube made out of Roman CBM presumably from a tessellated pavement. Finally, from the context L2 (4) there were rim sherds from two Roman locally-produced grey ware vessels (fabric GX): a Cam 306 (?) dating from the mid/late 2nd-late 3rd/early 4th century AD, and a lid with a bead rim.

## 7 Conclusion

No evidence of the Roman road projected to run through the southern half of the site – the main object of this investigation – was encountered. The estimated course of this road is based on the assumption that an east-west aligned road uncovered at the Colchester Royal Grammar School headed in a straight line towards the entrance of Lexden Dyke, excavated in 1932. At the Colchester Royal Grammar School, the road was metalled and flanked by roadside ditches. No evidence of metalling or ditches was observed here, however. This suggests that the route of road did not lead to the entrance of the dyke entrance but towards some other location. A possible Roman road was observed by Philip Laver in a water main trench 100m east southeast of the present site in Fitzwalter Road in 1923 (*CAR 11*, 130), and it may be that this forms part of the same road which is aligned slightly to the south of its present projected course.

Despite being located in a known area of Late Iron Age and Roman burials, nor were there any possible graves or associated features. Rather, the groundworks revealed three ditches, a pit or area of disturbance, two pits or treethrows, and a pit or natural hollow. The general paucity of finds across the site precluded the dating of all but one of these features. A single tesserae cube and some sherds of Roman grey ware pottery recovered during the groundworks do evidence some degree of Roman activity at this site, which is in keeping with the results of other archaeological investigations undertaken within the immediate vicinity.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mathews Serjeant Architects and Fieldfisher LLP for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by N Rayner, A Wade, M Baister and B Holloway. Figures were prepared by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

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

- |          |      |  |
|----------|------|--|
| 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 7    | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter  |

CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST</i>
CAT Report 99	2000	<i>Report on an archaeological watching brief at 1a St Clare Road, Colchester: October 2000</i>
CAT Report 136	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 14 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: April 2001</i>
CAT Report 195	2002	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 10 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: June 2002</i>
CAT Report 225	2003	<i>An archaeological excavation at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2003.</i>
CAT Report 250	2003	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2003</i>
CAT Report 258	2004	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 24 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2003</i>
CAT Report 267	2004	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at Lexden Tumulus, 30 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2003-March 2004</i>
CAT Report 334	2005	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 36 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2005</i>
CAT Report 455	2008	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: January 2008.</i>
CAT Report 568	2010	<i>Watching brief at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2010</i>
CAT Report 582	2010	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 12 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2010</i>
CAT Report 745	2013	<i>A Roman cemetery east of Lexden Dyke: archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 'High Trees', St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2013</i>
CAT Report 832	2015	<i>Archaeological strip, map and recording on land adjacent to 20 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2015</i>
CAT Report 958	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>
CAT Report 959	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>
CAT Report 1004	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: August 2016</i>
CAT Report 1008	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and excavation at 'High Trees', St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TA: February-July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1009	2016	<i>Archaeological excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1046	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 1 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST: December 2016</i>
CAT Report 1199	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 4 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL: November 2017</i>
CBC	2017	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST</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>
Foster, J	1986	<i>'The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex', BAR, British Series, 156</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Hawkes, C & Hull, M	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39, RRCSAL 14</i>
Hull, M	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>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

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
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online AccessS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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 record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1412)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

### Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1412)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos and log

### 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: 2018.2.

**Distribution list**

Mathews Serjeant Architects

Fieldfisher LLP

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record

**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 17.05.2019

**Appendix 1** Context list

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Finds no.</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
L1	-	Levelling layer	Friable, moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with rare charcoal flecks, 3% stones and <1% CBM pieces	Modern
L2	4	Build-up / subsoil	Soft/friable, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with 30% gravel and <5% stones	Undatable
L3	-	Natural	Firm, moist medium orange/brown sand with 20% gravel	Post-glacial
F1	-	Ditch	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with <2% stones	Undatable
F2	1	Ditch	Soft, moist dark grey sandy-silty-clay with 2% stones	Medieval or later
F3	-	Pit / disturbance	Soft, moist light/medium grey/brown	Undatable
F4	-	Pit / treethrow	Firm, dry light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 10% gravel and 3% stones	Undatable
F5	-	Pit / treethrow / silt patch	Firm, dry light/medium grey/brown silt with 1% stones	Undatable
F6	-	Ditch and terminus	Dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 2% stones	Undatable
F7	-	Pit / natural hollow	Loose, dry medium brown sandy-silt	Undatable

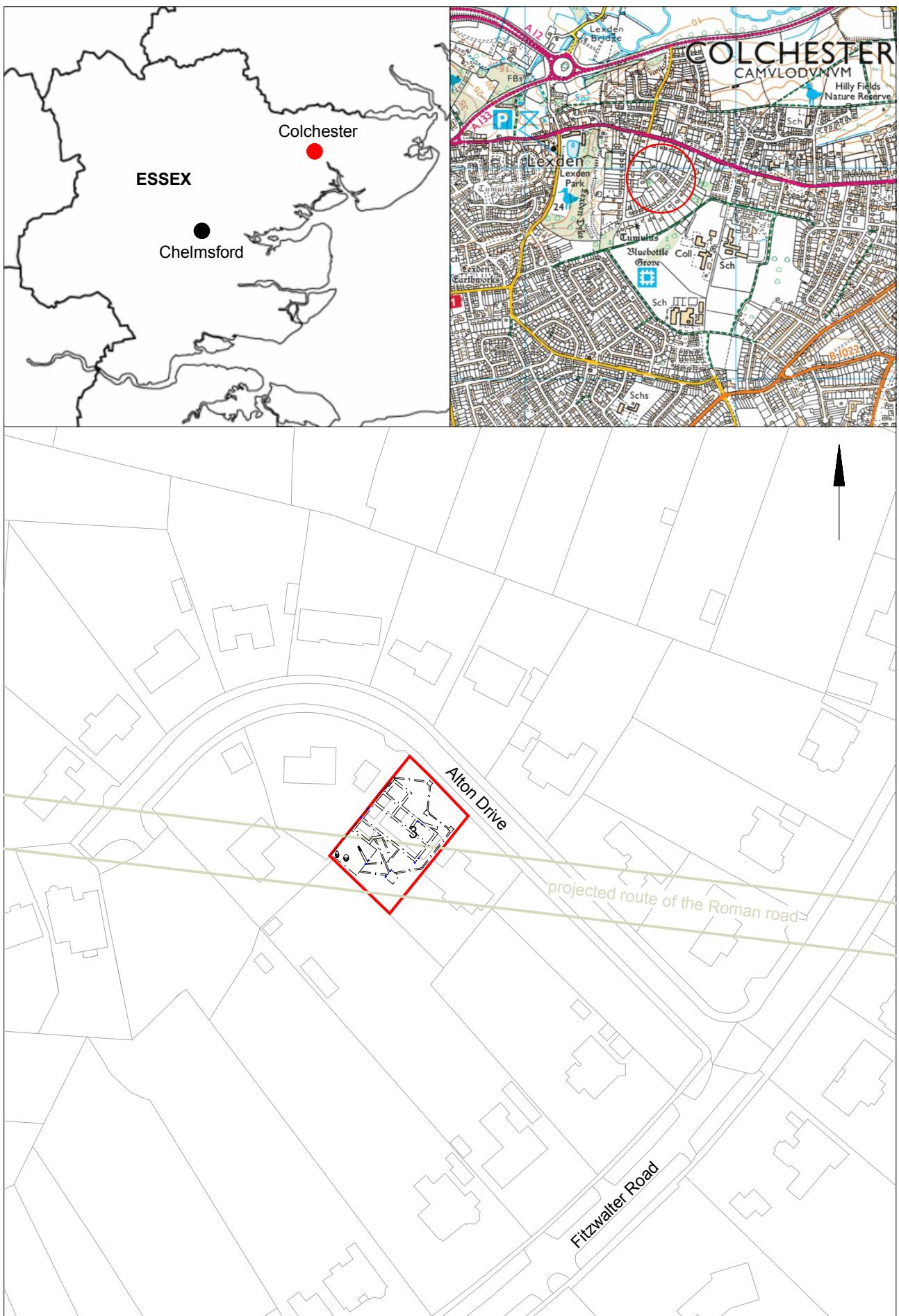


Fig 1 Site location.

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0 50 m

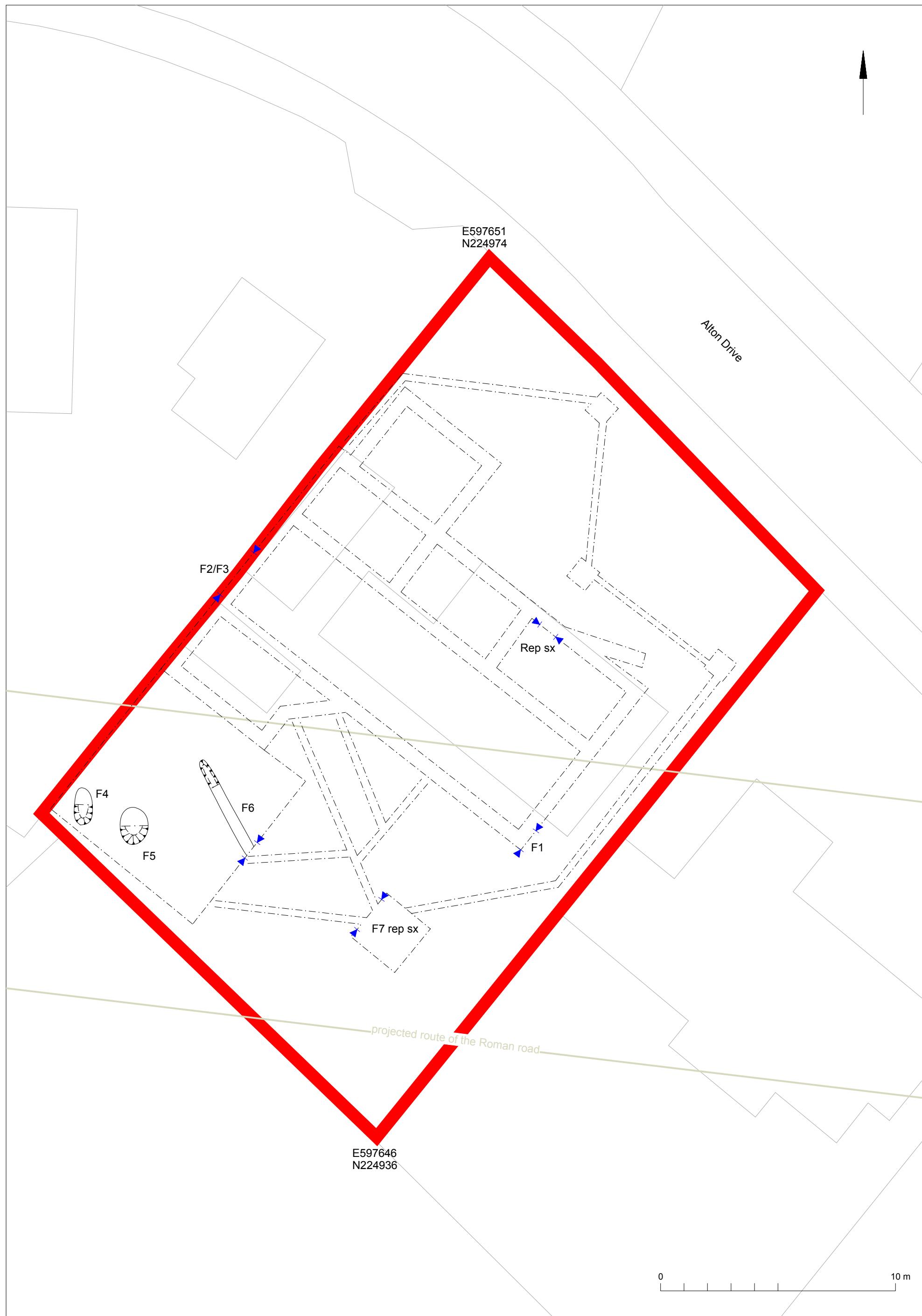


Fig 2 Monitoring results.

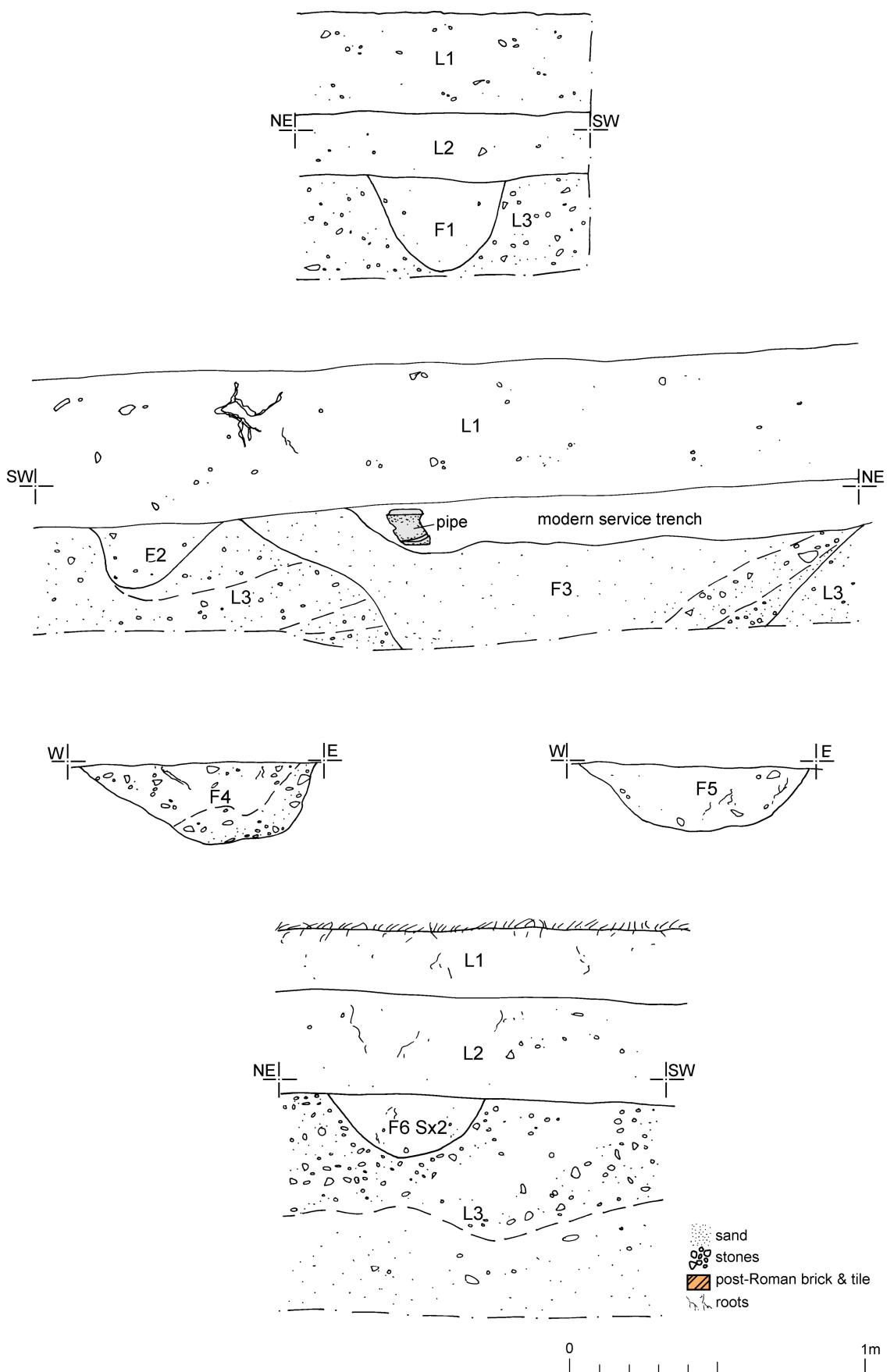


Fig 3 Feature sections.

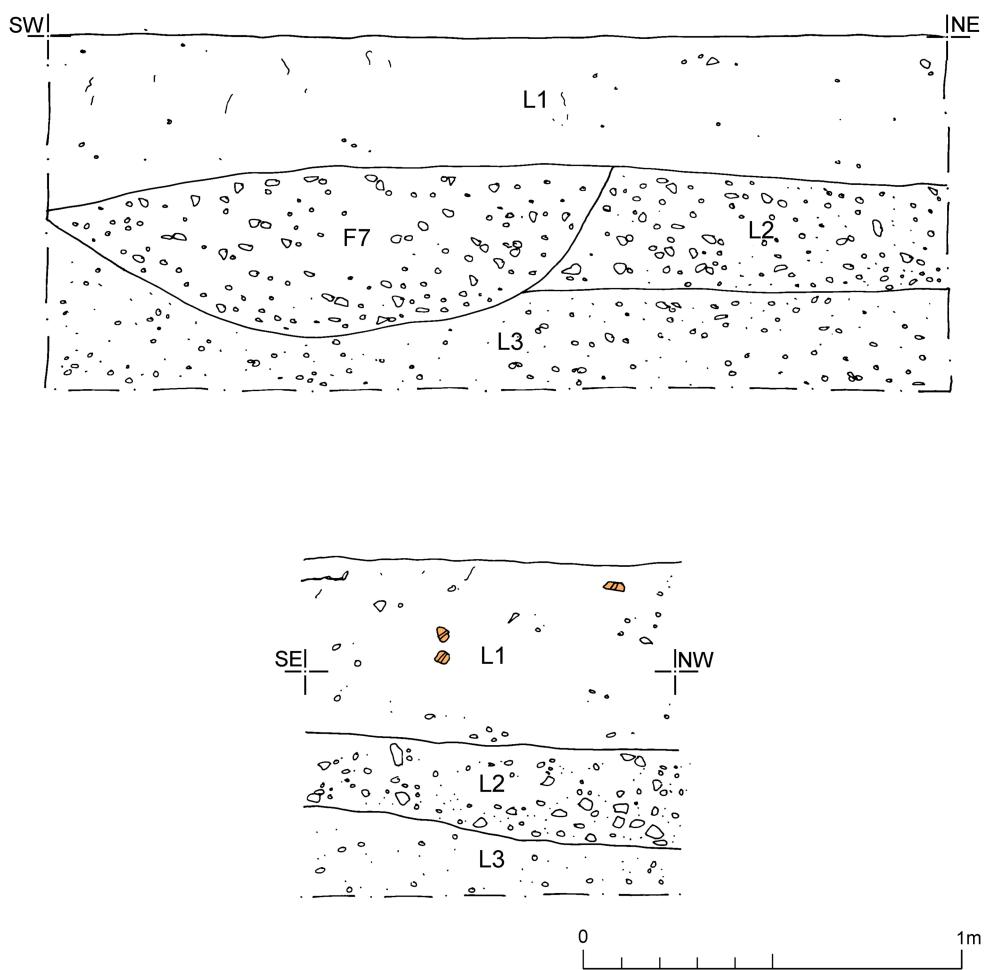


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9764 2495 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 17/12e CHER ref: ECC4121 OASIS ref: colchest3-303929
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 5th February 2018 to 3rd January 2019	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.06ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.2	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1412	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Medieval, post-medieval	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester during groundworks for the construction of a five-bedroom house. There was no trace of the Roman road projected to run through the site, and it appears that this road seems to be located slightly to the south. Instead, three ditches, a pit or area of disturbance, two pits or treethrows, and a pit or natural hollow were exposed by the groundworks. With the exception of one pit, which was of medieval date or later, no closely-datable finds were recovered from these features, and so they could not be dated. A single tessera cube and some grey ware sherds were found during the groundworks, evidencing some Roman activity at the site.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> **
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> May 2019

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST**

**NGR:** TL 9764 2495 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 172685

**Commissioned by:** Mathews Serjeant Architects

**Client:** Fieldfisher LLP

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** tbc

**CHER code:** tbc

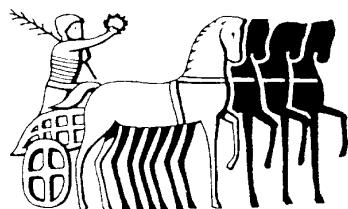
**CAT project code:** 17/12e

**OASIS ref.:** colchest3-303929

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 14.12.2017



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## **Site location and description**

The development site is located 2.2km to the WSW of Colchester town centre at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). Site centre is National Grid Reference TL 9764 2495.

## **Proposed work**

Proposed work comprises the construction of a five-bedroom replacement dwelling.

## **Archaeological background**

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. One of these, Lexden Dyke, extends roughly north-south through Lexden Park 370m west of the development site (CAR 11, 34-45).

It is also situated towards the east of the Lexden cemetery (CAR 6, 281; CAR 11, 164-169). The core of the cemetery, measuring around 75m across with at least 27 cremation burials, lies approximately 200m west/southwest on St Clare Road and is of a Late Iron Age date (*ibid*). Later burials, 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD, were then more widely scattered throughout the area of St Clare Road, Fitzwalter Road and to the south of Lexden Road (CAR 11, 164-9).

Approximately 260m to the southwest lies the Lexden Tumulus, an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (a cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound has variably thought to be that of *Addedomarus* (CAR 11, 85-94, Foster 1986) or *Tasciovanus* (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

A Roman road (HER no. MCC1928) is projected to run through the development site. The road is projected in a straight-line between patches of gravel identified during excavations at the Colchester Royal Grammar School and an entrance through Lexden Dyke (between Lexden Dyke Middle and Lexden Dyke North) (CAR 11, Fig 6.1) (for projected route see Fig 1). To date, there has been scant evidence to confirm whether the road exists or the route it might have taken. Recent monitoring at 4 Park Road (CAT Report 1199), which also lies on the projected route of this road, did not produce any evidence of a road surface or road-side ditches.

No significant archaeological remains were found during recent monitoring at 1 Alton Drive (CAT Report 1046), and a number of other fieldwork projects in the adjacent St Clare Road and Fitzwalter Road also produced negative results (CAT Report 99, 136, 195, 225, 250, 258, 267, 334, 455, 568, 1004). However, recent archaeological investigations have revealed: two Roman urned cremation burials at 12 St Clare Road (CAT Report 582); a post-medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval/modern pits at 20 St Clare Road (CAT Report 832); two early Roman pits, a post-medieval pit and modern pit at 1 St Clare Road (CAT Report 959); four Roman ditches, a pit and a possible grave at 19 St Clare Road (CAT Report 958 and 1009); and Roman ditches, pits and postholes representing a largely agricultural landscape at High Trees, St Clare Drive (CAT Report 1008).

## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2017 (application no. 172685) proposing the demolition of the existing four bedroom dwelling, and the erection of a new purpose built five bedroom dwelling to cater for disabled child/user and family with 24/hr carer accommodation, therapy room and pool.

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 2017).

Specifically:

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

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. Amendments to the brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

## **General methodology**

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

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

The machine (if machine-excavated) is to be under the supervision and guidance of the archaeologist. All topsoil and ground reduction will be done with toothless bucket.

Machine excavations will stop at the archaeological horizon, or formation level if higher, to ensure hand excavation, recording or sampling (as necessary) of any archaeological features or deposits.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, adequate time will be allowed for these features to be excavated, recorded and/or sampled by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of any complex features or burials (see Human Remains policy below).

If burials are encountered and will be destroyed by the proposed development they will be fully investigated, ie it may be necessary to extend beyond the limits of the trench to obtain the full extent of any burials. See below for further details.

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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

## **Site surveying**

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas 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. CAT staff will process samples and the flots sent to Val Fryer/Lisa Gray for reporting. 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): 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

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 groundworks. At least two corners of which 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**

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: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 99	2000	<i>Report on an archaeological watching brief at 1a St Clare Road, Colchester: October 2000</i>
CAT Report 136	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 14 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: April 2001</i>
CAT Report 195	2002	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 10 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: June 2002</i>
CAT Report 225	2003	<i>An archaeological excavation at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2003.</i>
CAT Report 250	2003	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2003</i>
CAT Report 258	2004	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 24 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2003</i>
CAT Report 267	2004	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at Lexden Tumulus, 30 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2003-March 2004</i>
CAT Report 334	2005	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 36 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2005</i>
CAT Report 455	2008	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: January 2008.</i>
CAT Report 568	2010	<i>Watching brief at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2010</i>
CAT Report 582	2010	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 12 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2010</i>
CAT Report 745	2013	<i>A Roman cemetery east of Lexden Dyke: archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 'High Trees', St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2013</i>
CAT Report 832	2015	<i>Archaeological strip, map and recording on land adjacent to 20 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2015</i>
CAT Report 958	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>

CAT Report 959	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>
CAT Report 1004	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: August 2016</i>
CAT Report 1008	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and excavation at 'High Trees', St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TA: February-July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1009	2016	<i>Archaeological excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1046	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 1 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST: December 2016</i>
CAT Report 1199	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 4 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL: November 2017</i>
CBC	2017	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST</i>
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>
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>
Foster, J	1986	'The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex', BAR, British Series, 156
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hawkes, C & Hull, M	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39, RRCSAL 14</i>
Hull, M	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)

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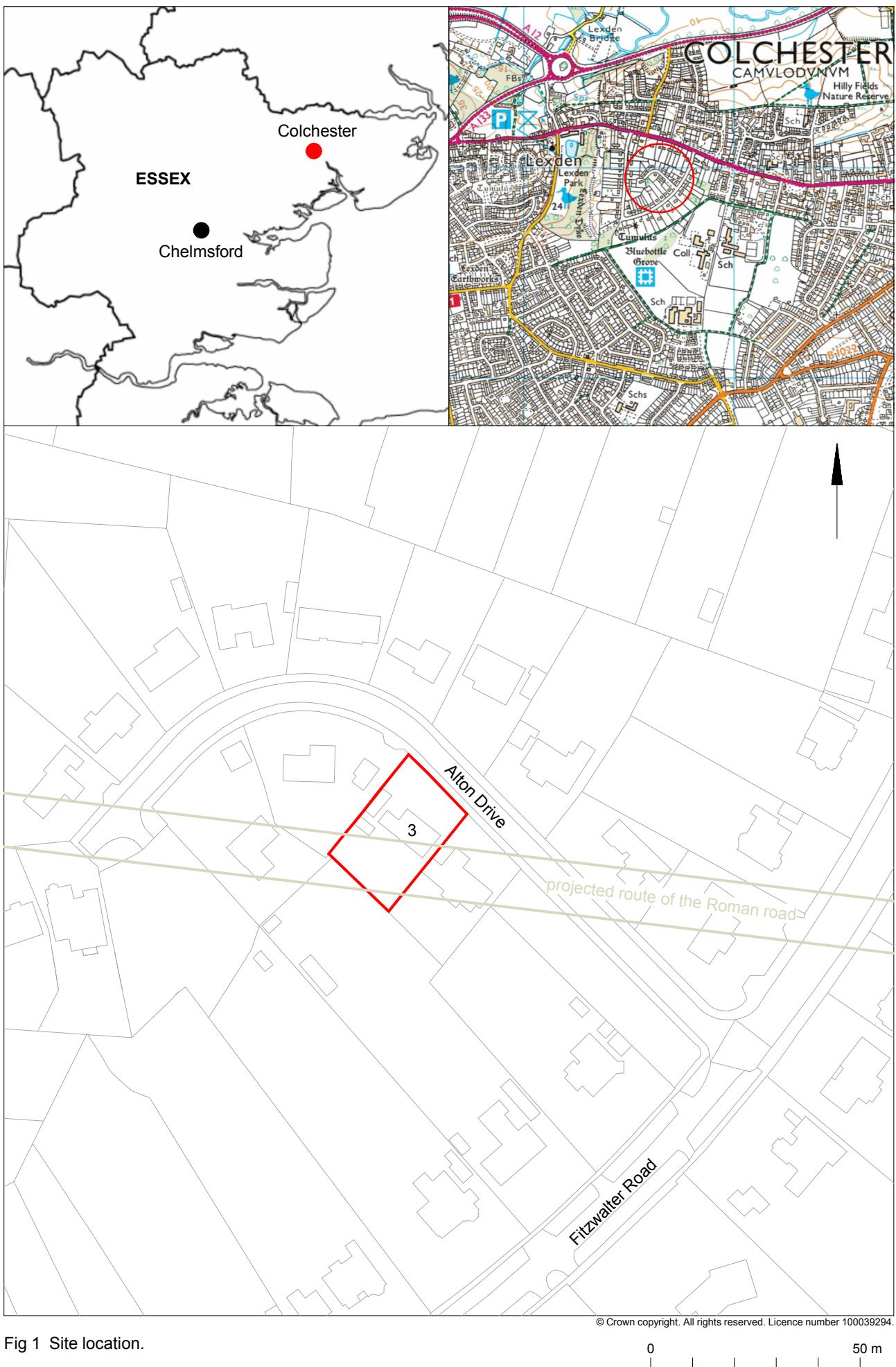


Fig 1 Site location.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-303929**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester during groundworks for the construction of a five-bedroom house. There was no trace of the Roman road projected to run through the site, and it appears that this road seems to be located slightly to the south. Instead, three ditches, a pit or area of disturbance, two pits or treethrows, and a pit or natural hollow were exposed by the groundworks. With the exception of one pit, which was of medieval date or later, no closely-datable finds were recovered from these features, and so they could not be dated. A single tessera cube and some grey ware sherds were found during the groundworks, evidencing some Roman activity at the site.
Project dates	Start: 05-02-2018 End: 03-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/12e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	172685 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	PIT/DISTURBANCE Uncertain
Monument type	PIT/TREETHROW Uncertain
Monument type	PIT/HOLLOW Uncertain
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds	TESSERA Roman
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 3 Alton Drive
Postcode	CO3 3ST
Study area	0.06 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9764 2495 51.887493677658 0.872303612364 51 53 14 N 000 52 20 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	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.2
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.2
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at 3 Alton Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ST: February 2018-January 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.

Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1412
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	17 May 2019

## OASIS:

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