

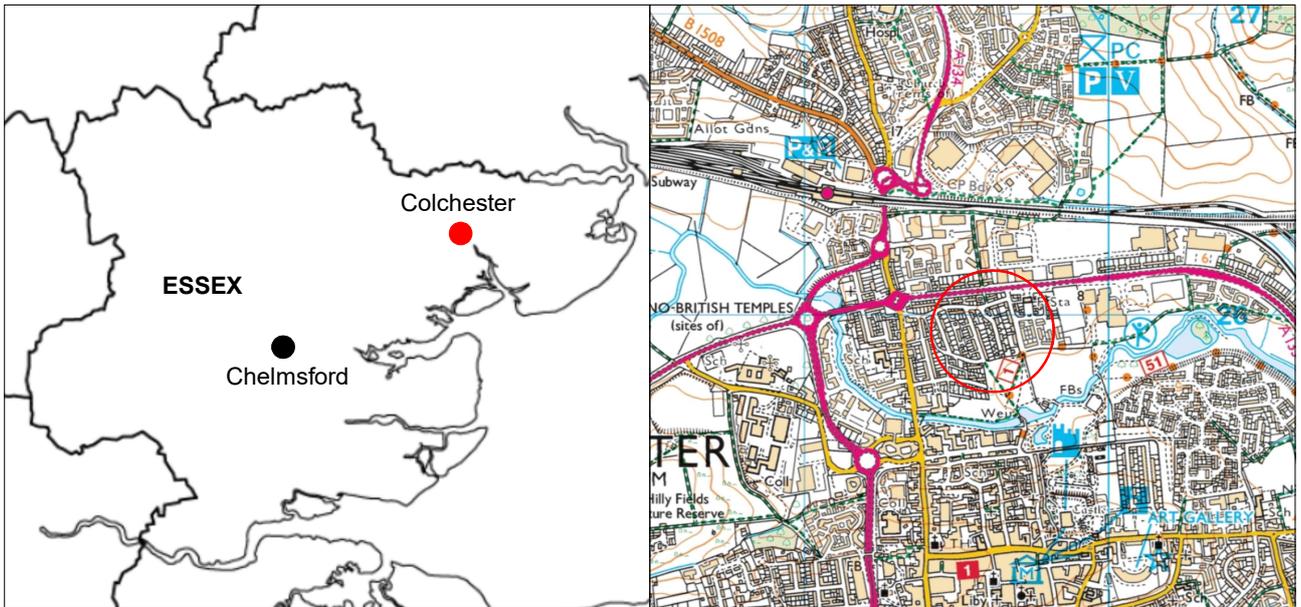


Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org

CAT Report 1524 Archaeological monitoring at 18 Kings Meadow, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XS: February 2020	Planning reference: 192399
	CHER Event no.: ECC4407
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-375082
	Grid Reference: TL 99622 25918 (centre)
	Number of site visits: 1
	Dates of visits: 12th February 2020
Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for a new extension to the side and rear of the property.	
Reason for condition: The site lies within an area of known Roman burials and in the midst of a number of findspots of Iron Age and Roman artefacts.	
% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.	
Results: All groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services. Foundation trenching 41.6m long, 0.5m wide and 1.1m deep was excavated. Three layers were recorded: a) modern topsoil, a soft moist dark brown loam, 0.65-0.67m thick; b) subsoil, a friable moist dark orange/brown silty clay, 0.36-0.39m thick; c) natural, a firm moist dark orange sand, encountered at a depth of 1.03-1.06m below current ground level.	
	
Photograph Site shot	
No archaeological features or material were encountered.	
Recorded by: Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)	Date: 11.02.2020
Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)	Date: 16.03.2020



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

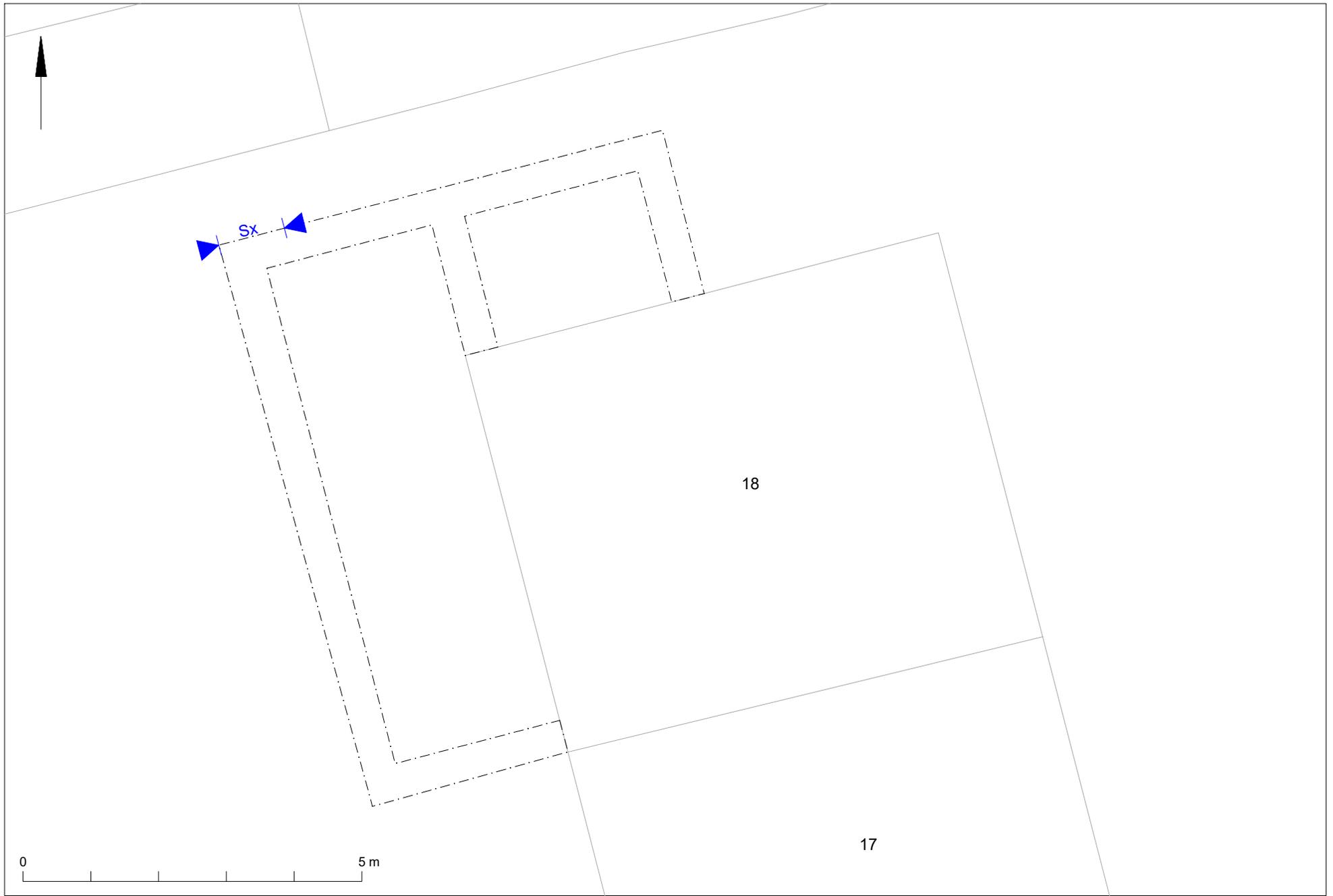


Fig 2 Results.

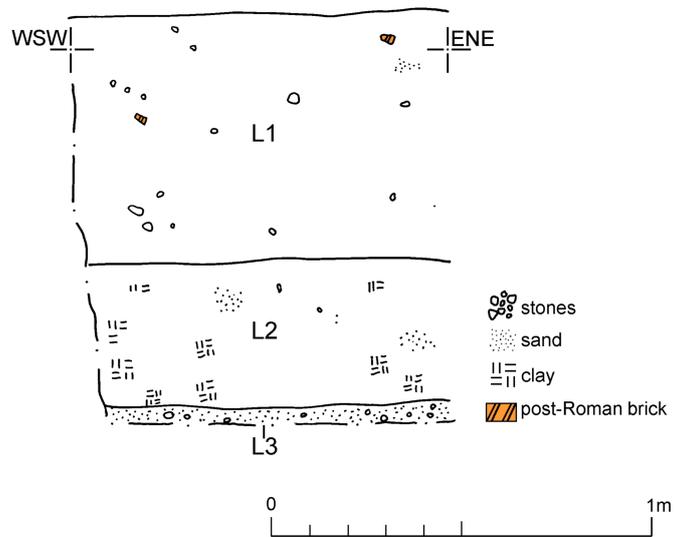


Fig 3 Representative section.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for an archaeological investigation at
18 Kings Meadow Road, Colchester, Essex,
CO1 1XS.**

NGR: TL 99622 25918 (centre)

District: Colchester

Planning references: 192399

Commissioned by and on behalf of: Harriet Sneddon

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: ECC4407

CAT project code: 2019/11g

OASIS project number: colchest3-375082

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 26/11/2019



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located 714m north of the of the main historic centre of Colchester, at 18 Kings Meadow Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XS (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99622 25918.

Proposed work

The development comprises of a single storey extension to the side and rear of the existing 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 (CHER ECC/MCC numbers are accessible for viewing via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site is located to the north of Colchester Castle Park and the River Colne and close to the location of a number of Roman burials. Nearby burials include a grave group found at 22 Mercers Way in 1939 during the construction of an air-raid shelter; at the junction of Serpentine Road and Margaret Road there are three recorded burials on the HER, including an urned cremation (MCC2516), tile tomb (MCC2515) and a burial with 11 beads (MCC2517); A scatter of Roman urned cremations is recorded between Kings Meadow and the railway (MCC7690).

Little archaeological work has been undertaken in this area, but there are a number of recorded find spots. Close to the current site the CHER has records of ?Iron Age and Roman pottery found when a trench for a water main was cut (MCC1899). Other nearby find spots include a Roman coins found at 1 Mercers Way (MCC1208) and 18 Cowdray Avenue (MCC1252). A quantity of Roman pot was recorded from around the junction of Serpentine Walk and Margaret Road, this is thought to be from a site Hull refers to as a possible pottery kiln site (MCC1341). There are pottery kilns within this area as a kiln was discovered in the former Strowgler's Ground nursery gardens (MCC2305). Roman pottery was recorded during construction of the Colchester Fire Station on Cowdray Avenue (MCC1332) and two civil war cannon balls were found in the garden at 14 Mercer Way (MCC2524).

Work carried out by CAT nearby include an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in the car-park of the Globe Hotel on North Station Road in 2003 (CAT Report 248). Two phases of Roman building were recorded. The later Roman phase featured a large building, the evidence for which was four robbed-out walls running on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment, which appear to match up with other Roman buildings excavated along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appeared to have been of high status, having evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls. The watching brief was required to locate more of these features, particularly the robbed-out walls and also the course of the Roman road.

An evaluation to the east at Jarmin Road revealed at least two Roman ditches and pits containing domestic waste (CAT Report 409, MCC2923). A further watching brief on the site revealed a spread of burnt daub and Roman brick/tile, this was interpreted as deriving from a Roman tile kiln on or near the site (CAT Report 604, kiln MCC2305).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2019 (application No. 192399) for the *proposed additions to house*.

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 2019).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological investigation of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Specifically:

The investigation 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 and WSI are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

General methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 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 2019).

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. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Investigation methodology

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

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits. If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

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 investigation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

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

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

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the investigation.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the investigation, 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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the 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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a)

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Robin Mathieson/Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis. This can include soil micromorphological assessment, absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice on this.

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* (HE 2015b).

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 inventory of the archive and any statement of retention and discard strategy based on specialist advice. CAT has a non-site specific finds retention strategy approved by Colchester Museum (CAT 2016).

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. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

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

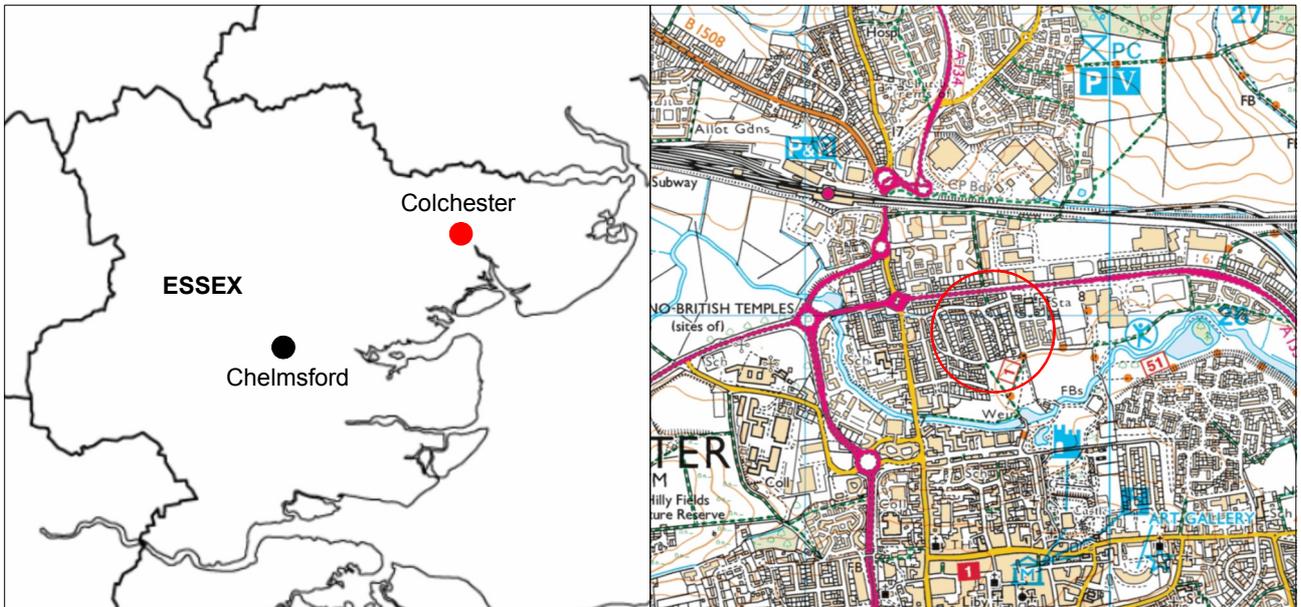
Brown, D	2011 2 nd ed	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Colchester Archaeological Trust Finds Retention Policy</i> . By S Benfield
CAT	2019	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 248	2003	<i>An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, October 2003</i> . By Kate Orr
CAT Report 409	2007	<i>An archaeological evaluation at Jarmin Road, Colchester, Essex, January 2007</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 604	2011	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the former CBC depot, Jarmin Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2008</i> . By D Shimmin
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at 18 Kings Meadow Road, Colchester, CO1 1XS</i> . By J Tipper.
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> .
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse.
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> .
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell.
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).
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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Fig 1 Site location.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-375082

Project details

Project name	An archaeological investigation at 18 Kings Meadow Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XS.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 18 Kings Meadow Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a side and rear extension. The site lies near the locations of a number of Roman burials and a Roman kiln. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 12-02-2020 End: 12-02-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	192399 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/11g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4444 - 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 18 Kings Meadow Road, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO1 1XS
Study area	0.02 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 99622 25918 51.895477085361 0.901628674159 51 53 43 N 000 54 05 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	Emma Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	H Sneddon

Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4407
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4407
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at 18 Kings Meadow, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XS: February 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1524
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	16 March 2020

OASIS:

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

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