

# **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

# CAT Report 1562

# Archaeological monitoring at 2 Hospital Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NA: June 2020

Planning reference: 191788 CHER Event no.: ECC4392 OASIS ref.: colchest3-371172

Grid Reference: TL 98953 24997 (centre)

Number of site visits: 1

Dates of visit: 15th June 2020

**Nature of the work:** Observation of groundworks for a new conservatory to the rear of the property.

**Reason for condition:** The Colchester-London Roman road is projected to run beneath the property.

% 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.

An area 7m² in size was stripped to a depth of 0.45m to accommodate the conservatory. Foundation trenching was then excavated in the base of this stripped area. It was 7.7m long, 0.5m wide and a further 0.15m deep.

All groundworks occurred through a modern accumulation or demolition layer (L1, a dark grey/brown sandy-loam with frequent mortar and CBM and occasional concrete pieces, and CBM flecks).



Photograph 1 Site shot

No archaeological features were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate beyond modern layers. Nor was any archaeological material recovered.

Recorded by: Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)	Date: 22.06.2020
Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)	Date: 23.06.2020

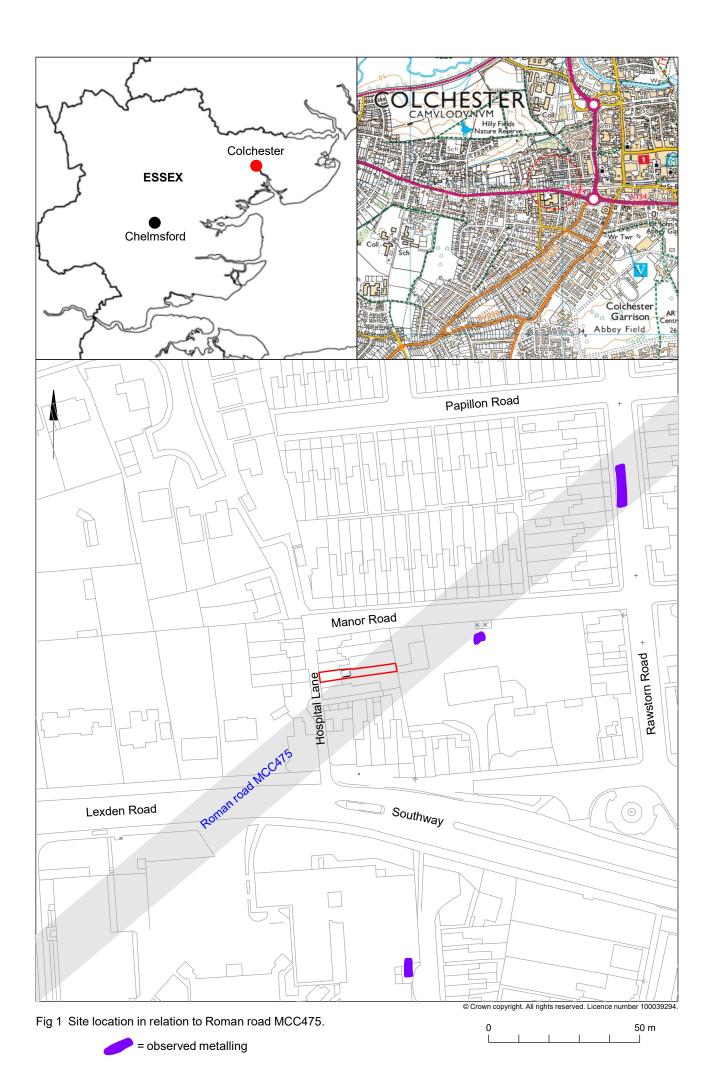




Fig 2 Monitoring results in relation to Roman road MCC475.

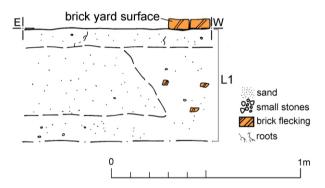


Fig 3 Representative section.

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at 2 Hospital Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NA.

**NGR:** TL 98953 24997 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

Planning references: 191788

Commissioned by and on behalf of: Carly Turnage

Curating museum: Colchester CHER number: ECC4392

CAT project code: 2019/10h

OASIS project number: colchest3-371172

**Site manager:** Chris Lister **CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 21/10/2019



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# Site location and description

The proposed development site is located just to the west of the main historic core of Colchester town centre, on the eastern side of Hospital Lane at 2 Hospital Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NA (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98953 24997.

#### **Proposed work**

The development comprises the replacement of a conservatory at the rear of the property, including removal of the old soil pipe, which will be re-routed around the proposed new foundation and any other associated groundworks.

#### Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER MCC numbers are accessible for viewing via Colchester Heritage Explorer (https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map).

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

The redevelopment site is situated outside the Roman walled town which lies approximately 285m to the east and 334m southwest of Balkerne Gate. The site is surrounded by important archaeological remains, principally of Roman date. These remains are dominated by the major road (MCC475 and MCC1928) projected to cross the current property. The road led from the walled town to London (Hull 1958, 2-3).

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

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

Two Roman kilns were recorded by Wire in 1855 as being located on the corner of Hospital Lane and Lexden Road (MCC2302-3) and approximately 140m to the northwest is a concentration of Roman kilns (MCC8077 and MCC1226-8) uncovered during the construction of Oaks Drive for the residential development in 1973 and recorded by CAT (*CAR* **6**, 338-340).

The site is also situated within an area within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (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 this can be found in *CAR* 9. Roman burials found close by include nine burials and a wooden coffin with lead straps forming it's base were found at nearby 3 Lexden Road during the

excavation of a basement in 1896 (MCC1911-1920) a tombstone recorded as being from the area of 5 Hospital Lane (MCC1367) and a number of find spots in the area for Roman vessels, likely to have been from disturbed burials (MCC2299).

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

The site is also located just to the north of the former Essex County Hospital in the process of redevelopment. Groundworks carried out in 1821 shortly after the construction of the Hospital in 1819-20 revealed one or two burials and the large Colchester Sphinx stone sculpture and smaller bronze figurine (MCC2133, MCC7654). The survival of the stone sphinx is significant as it indicates the presence of an elaborate high-status tomb. Multiple Roman burials have been found on the site in the past including inhumations (MCC1081, MCC2427), cremations (MCC1081, MCC2498), high status tombstones (MCC1366, MCC2676) and evidence of mausoleums, shrines or high-status domestic buildings (MCC1079). There are also references to Roman kilns being found on the development site in 1819 (MCC1812) but very little is known about them. A recent geophysical survey of the front and rear car park revealed a cluster of possible burial remains and a number of uncertain anomalies (Udvrvsz 2017). Test-pits and evaluations by CAT so far exposed several Roman features consisting of pits, ditches, a kiln-related feature, layer of Roman building debris, some undated features including a possible grave, modern features and the corner of a post-medieval wall foundation which forms part of the remains of an old hospital building. The finds recovered during this investigation included 1st-4th century pottery, a fragment of Roman vessel glass, a piece of Roman painted wall plaster, animal bone, a piece of worked stone and post-medieval pottery and CBM (CAT Reports 1186, 1255 and 1401).

### Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in July 2016 (application No. 191788) proposing a replacement of conservatory with rendered structure; including foundation design.

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 groundworks for the new boundary wall and any other areas of ground reduction. 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 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 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:

<u>ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material)</u>: 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

<u>prehistoric pottery:</u> 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 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 <a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk">http://cat.essex.ac.uk</a>

Brown, D	2011 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed	Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation,
CAR 3	1984	compilation, transfer and curation Colchester Archaeological Report 3: Excavations at Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane, and Middleborough, Colchester, Essex, by P Crummy
CAR 6	1992	Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85, by P Crummy
CAR 9	1993	Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88, by N Crummy, P Crummy, and C Crossan.
CAR 11	1995	Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2, by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2018	Health & Safety Policy
CAT Report 134	2001	Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Topfield, Rawstorn Road, Colchester, by K Orr
CAT Report 463	2008	An archaeological watching brief at 37 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex
CAT Report 1186	2017	Archaeological evaluation at Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NB: October 2017
CAT Report 1255	2018	Archaeological evaluation by test-pitting, Stage 1, Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NB: March-April 2018
CAT Report 1401	2019	Pre-development archaeological evaluation (Phase 2) and archaeological monitoring at Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester – December 2018 - March 2019
CBCAA	2019	Brief for Archaeological Investigation at St Johns Green, Colchester. By J Tipper.
CIfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,
		conservation and research of archaeological materials.
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hawkes, C, & Hull, R	1947	Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester, 1930-1939 RRSCAL 14
Historic England (HE)	2015a	Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.  By S Cole & P Backhouse.
Historic England (HE)	2015b	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).
Historic England (HE)	2018	The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell.
Hull, MR	1958	Roman Colchester, RRCSAL 20
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24).
MHCLG	2019	National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing,

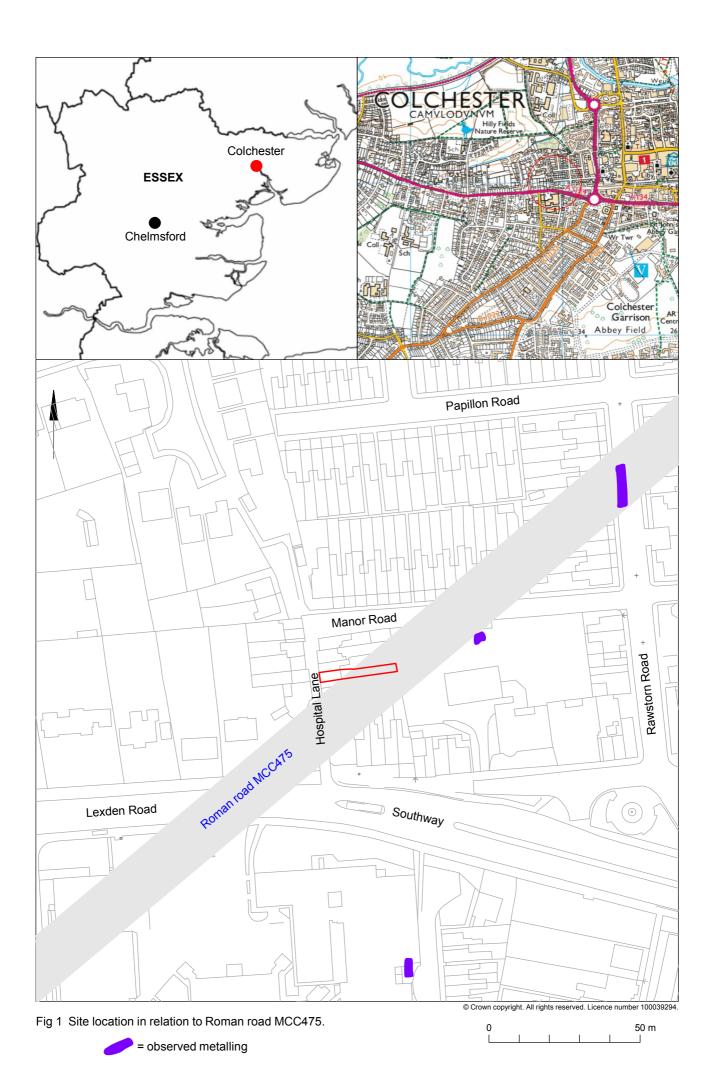
Niblett, BRK	1985	Communities and Local Government.  Sheepen: an early Roman Industrial site at Camulodunum, CBA Research Report, 57
Udyrysz, M	2017	Geophysical Survey Report: Essex County Hospital, Colchester. Sumo Services Ltd. Survey Report 11788.

# E Holloway



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# **OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

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#### Printable version

#### OASIS ID: colchest3-371172

#### **Project details**

Project name An archaeological investigation at 2 Hospital Lane, Colchester, Essex

Short description of the

project

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 2 Hospital Lane, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a new conservatory to the rear of the property. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological deposits or material were

Project dates Start: 15-06-2020 End: 15-06-2020

Previous/future work

Any associated project reference codes

191788 - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference codes

2019/10h - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes

ECC4392 - HER event no.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over Investigation type "'Watching Brief"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

#### **Project location**

Country England

ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 2 Hospital Lane, Colchester, Essex Site location

CO3 3NA Postcode Study area 0.01 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 98953 24997 51.887446527956 0.891386432836 51 53 14 N 000 53 28 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 Nigel Rayner Type of sponsor/funding Owner

body

Name of sponsor/funding C Turnage

body

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4392

Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Section"

#### Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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