



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

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

CAT Report 1705

**Archaeological monitoring at
58a Halstead Road, Colchester, Essex,
CO3 9AF: August 2021**

Planning reference: 202857

CHER Event no.: ECC4627

OASIS ref.: colchest3-421892

Grid Reference: TL 96087 25187 (centre)

Number of site visits: 2

Dates of visit: 9-10th August 2021

Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for two-storey side extension

Reason for condition: The site lies within the western part of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* as defined by a system of defensive dykes, close to the route of both Grimes Dyke and the Triple Dyke.

% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.

Results

The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Richard Hoggett of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

The foundation trenches for the extension totalled 33m long, 0.6m wide and 1-1.1m deep. Three horizons were observed, and modern topsoil (L1, c 0.4m thick) sealed an accumulated subsoil (L2, c 0.3m thick) which overlay natural geological deposits (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.7m below current ground level).

L1, topsoil, soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 6% gravel.

L2, subsoil, very soft, moist, light-medium grey/brown silty-sand with 10% gravel.

L3, natural sand and gravel.

Large amounts of modern debris (ash, clinker and brick fragments) were observed in L1 but none of this material was retained. Three modern services crossed the site but there were no archaeological features or finds.



Photograph 1 Representative section 1, looking east



Photograph 2 Western foundation trench, looking north



Photograph 3 Central foundation, looking east



Photograph 4 North foundation, looking west



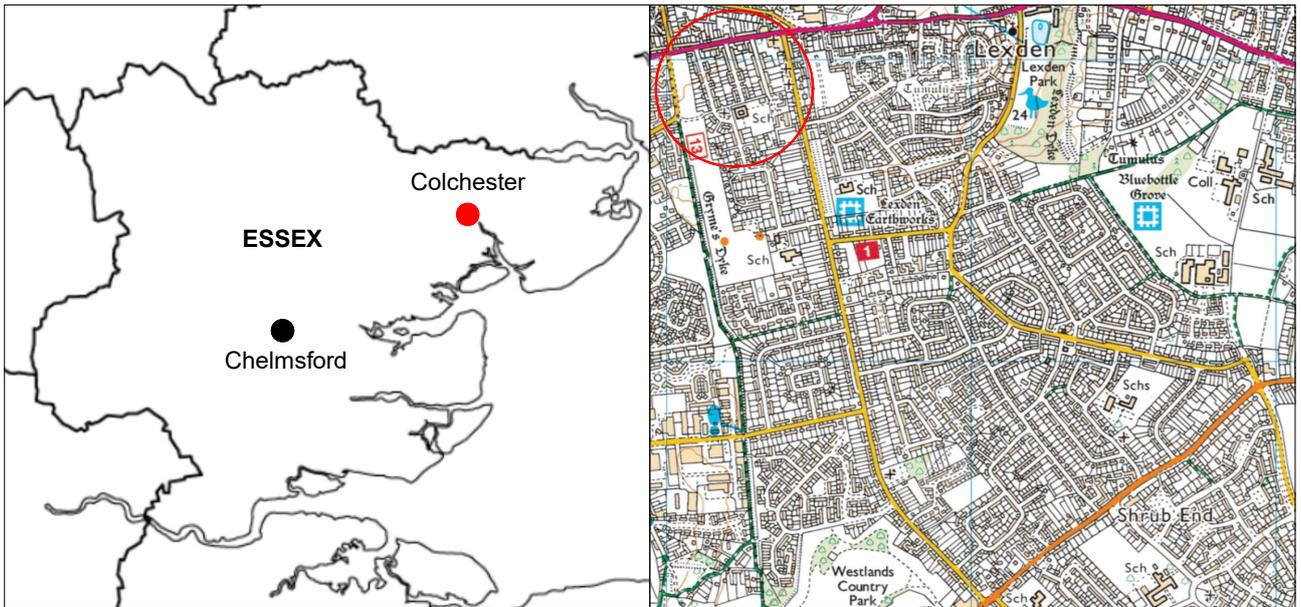
Photograph 5 General site shot, looking south

Recorded by: Ben Holloway (bh@catuk.org)

Date: 6/9/2021

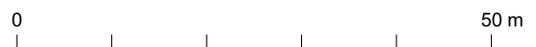
Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)

Date: 10/9/2021



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Fig 1 Site location



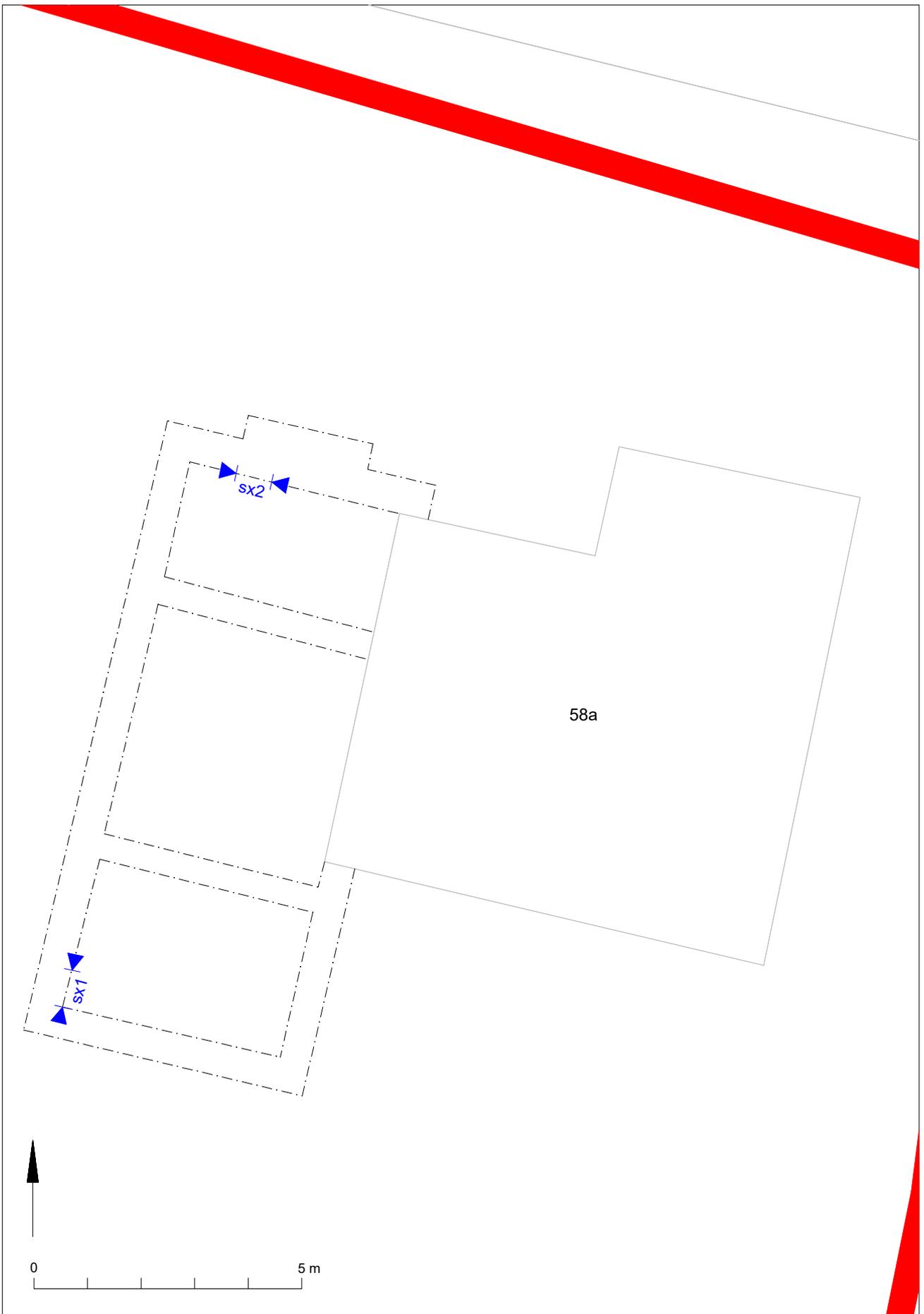


Fig 2 Results

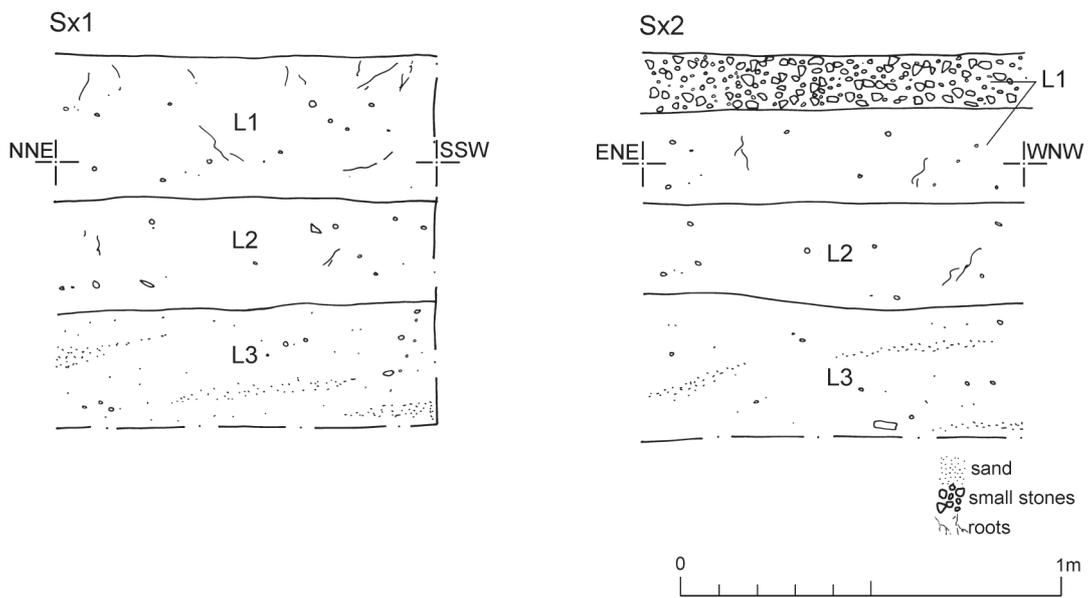


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 58a Halstead Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9AF	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 96087 25187 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2021/05j CHER ref: ECC4627 OASIS ref: colchest3-421892
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 9th-10th August 2021	Size of area investigated: 0.08ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: -
Final report: CAT Report 1705	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 58a Halstead Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a two-storey extension. Despite being located close to both Grymes Dyke and the Triple Dyke, no significant archaeological features or finds were exposed by the groundworks.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett and Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: September 2021

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at 58a Halstead Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9AF

NGR: TL 96087 25187 (centre)
District: Colchester

Planning reference: 202857

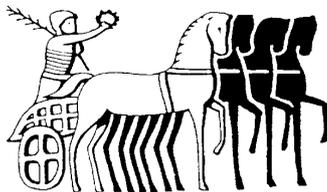
Commissioned by: Garry Trim
On behalf of: Antony Cavill

Curating museum: Colchester
CHER number: ECC4627

CAT project code: 2021/05j
OASIS project number: colchest3-421892

Site manager: Chris Lister
CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett

This WSI written: 20/05/2021



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 3.4km east of Colchester town centre at 58a Halstead Road, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 96087 25187.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises the construction of a two-storey extension and amendments of the existing fenestration.

Archaeological background

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

The development site is located within the western part of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. 350m to the east of the site is the Triple Dyke (Scheduled Ancient Monument NHLE 1019993, MCC7041 & 7463). The Triple Dyke was a Roman addition to the dyke system, added to strengthen the line of the Shrub End Dyke (MCC7467). In 2021 CAT undertook a two-trench evaluation to identify to exact location of the Triple Dyke (CAT Report 1635). The inner (the original Shrub End Dyke) and central ditches were located, however site constraints prevented the identification of the outer ditch.

100m to the west of the development site is the route of Grymes Dyke (Scheduled Ancient Monument NHLE no. 1019992, MCC7464 & MCC7465). Grymes Dyke is the outermost, longest and latest of all the dykes on the western side of the town. The dyke can be divided into three distinct sections on topographical grounds, i.e. Gryme's Dyke North, South and Middle (CAR 11, 27-9) The dyke survives for much of its length as a visible but badly damaged and denuded earthwork.

There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11 (CAR 11)*, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995).

200m south of the development site is the location of Lexden Heath (MCC9144) and Stanway Heath (MCC9143). There is no distinct boundary between the heaths, as such they appear as one large heathland on the 1777 Chapman and André. 300m north-east is the site of a rectilinear enclosure cropmark (MCC7708).

Finds spots surrounding the site include a Roman denarius of Tiberius (MCC1212), a Thames Pick worked flint (MCC8158) and a palaeolithic flint tool (MCC8065).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in December 2020 (planning ref. 202857) proposing the *erection of a two storey side extension and amendment of existing fenestration*..

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 (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

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-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

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

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

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

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

Site surveying

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

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

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 micromorphological 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 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 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: 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: 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 if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

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.

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

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
	2nd ed	
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1635	2021	<i>Archaeological evaluation at the former Lexden Springs School and Fire Station, Halstead Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2021</i> By L Pooley and A Wightman
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at 58a Halstead Road, Colchester</i> By R Hoggett
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2019
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hawkes, CFC, and Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i>

(HE)		(MoRPHE)
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
(HE)		
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	National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Sarah Veasey



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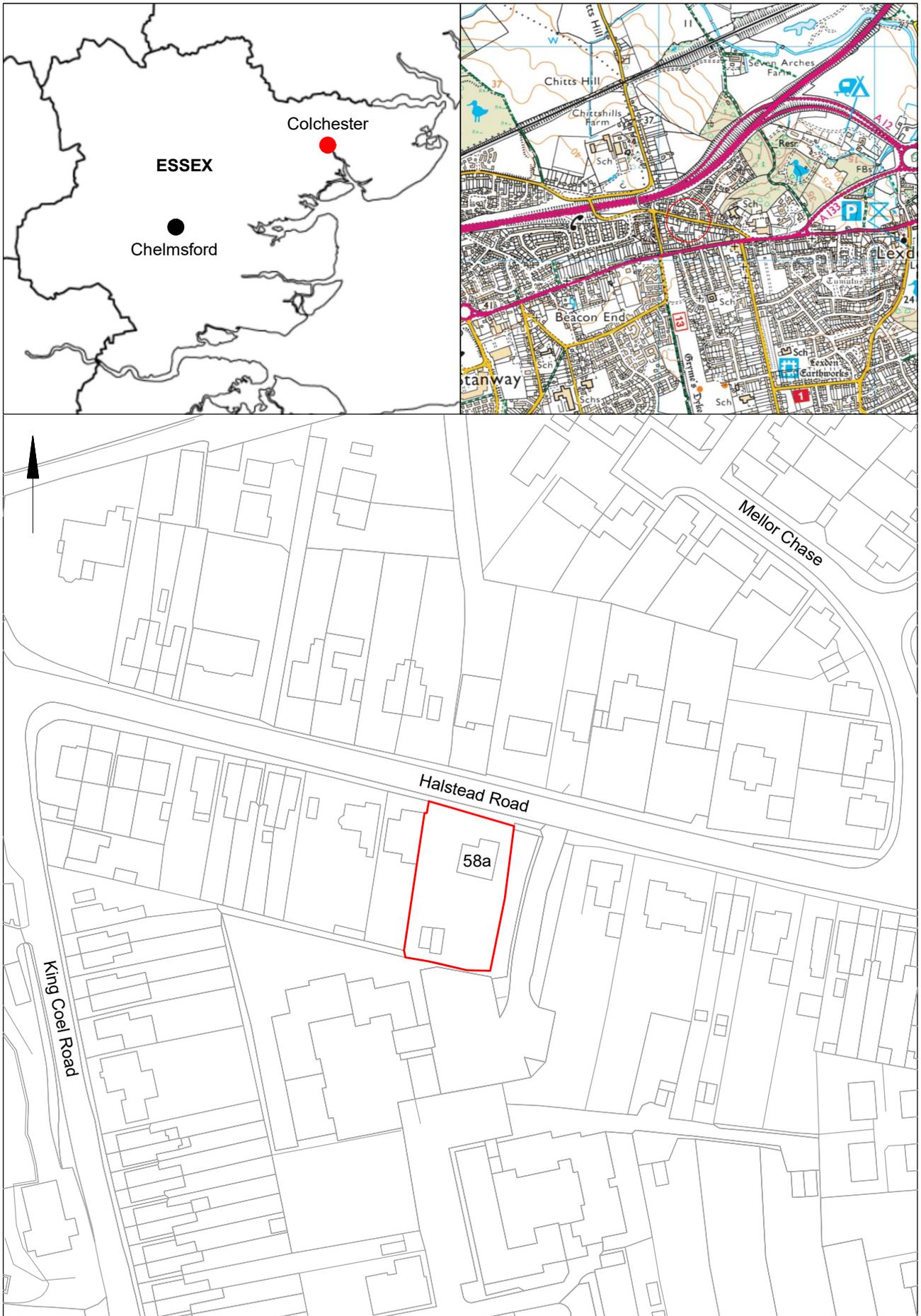


Fig 1 Site location.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-421892

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at 58a Halstead Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9AF
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring took place at 58a Halstead Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a side extension. The site lies within the western part of the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum as defined by a system of defensive dykes, close to the route of both Grimes Dyke and the Triple Dyke. No significant archaeological remains were exposed by the groundworks.
Project dates	Start: 09-08-2021 End: 10-08-2021
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	202857 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4627 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/05j - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 58a Halstead Road
Postcode	CO3 9AF
Study area	0.08 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 96087 25187 51.890173064773 0.849898818873 51 53 24 N 000 50 59 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Sarah Veasey
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Adam Wightman
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Archive ID	ECC4627
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4627

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

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological monitoring at 58a Halstead Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9NF: August 2021
Author(s)/Editor(s) Holloway, B.
Other bibliographic details
Date 2021
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
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