



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ
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CAT Report 1846

**Archaeological monitoring at
65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester,
Essex, CO1 1UB: August 2022**

Planning reference: 212936

CHER Event no.: ECC4743

OASIS ref.: colchest3-508140

Grid Reference: TL 99756 25423 (centre)

Number of site visits: 2

Dates of visit: 23rd and 24th August 2022

Nature of the work

Observation of groundworks for a new extension to the rear of the property.

Reason for condition

The site lies within Insula V of the Roman town (MCC9314), approximately 40m south of the Roman theatre (MCC2080, ECC193, ECC424, ECC425) and some 120m south of the Roman town wall (Scheduled Ancient Monument, NHLE no. 1003772).

% 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 Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

An area measuring approximately 21m² was reduced by 0.4m to accommodate a raft foundation for the new extension.



Photograph 1 Site shot, looking east

Three horizons were observed:

- modern made-ground L1 (c 0.12-0.35m thick) sealed L2 and L3;
- layer L2 was a patch of sandy-silty-clay in the centre of the site (c 0.27m thick) which overlay
- made-ground L3 (only excavated to 0.05m deep).

The wall foundation of the recently demolished extension was uncovered along with a number of services. The foundation was constructed from soft, unfrogged red bricks laid in lime mortar, with the individual bricks measuring 22cm x 11cm x 6cm. Part of an associated brick floor was also present, constructed from unbonded fragments of unfrogged red brick.

No archaeological remains were impacted by the groundworks.

Context information:

L1, modern made-ground, loose/soft, moist medium/dark yellow/grey/brown sandy-loam with charcoal and CBM flecks;

L2, patch of soft, moist medium yellow/brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal flecks and 1% stones;

L3, made-ground, soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clayey-loam with charcoal and oyster shell flecks.



Photograph 2 Internal brick wall and brick floor – looking east

Prepared by: Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)

Date: 05/09/2022

Reviewed by: Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)

Date: 26/09/2022

Reviewed and approved by:

Date: 27/09/2022

Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)

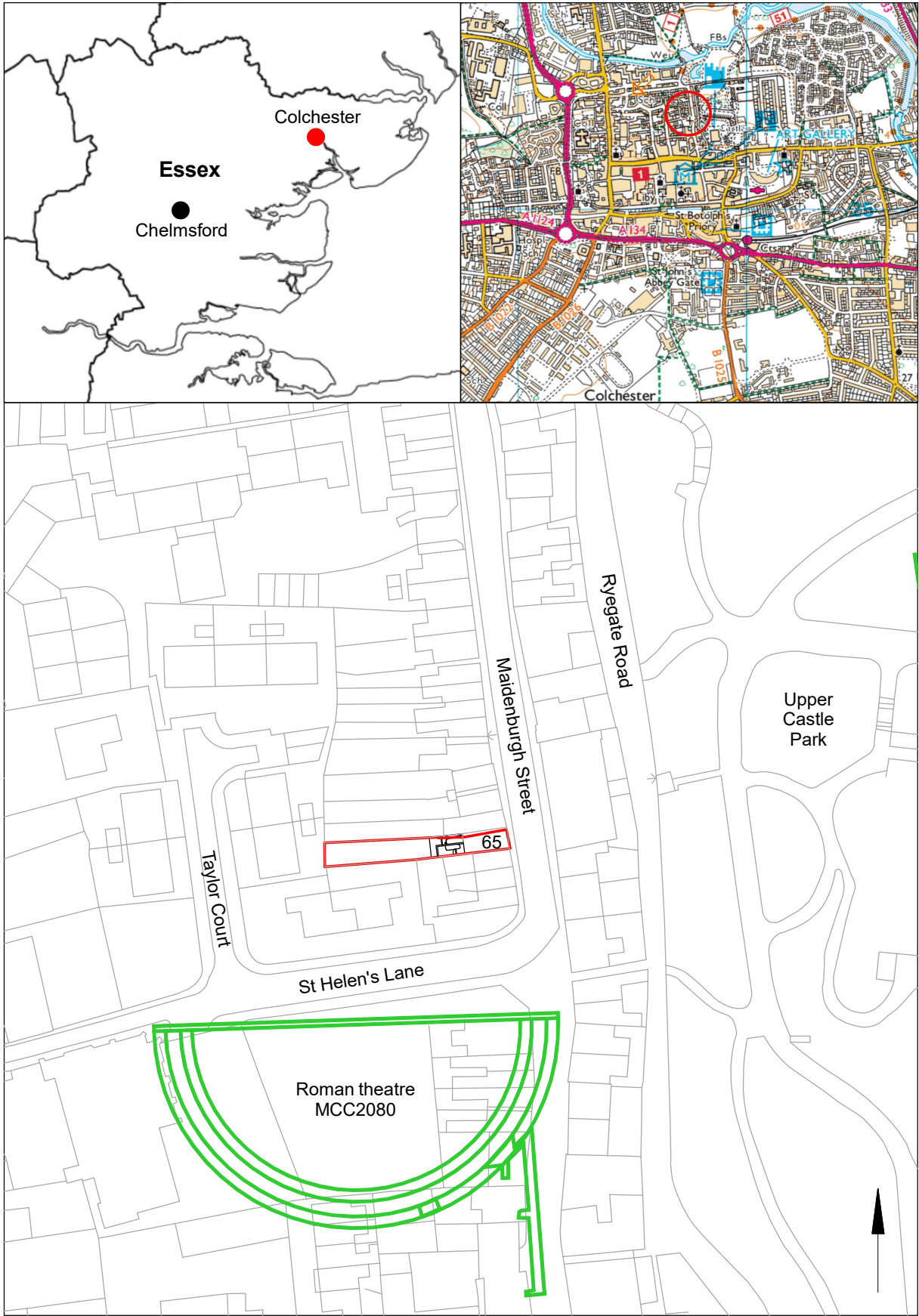


Fig 1 Site location.

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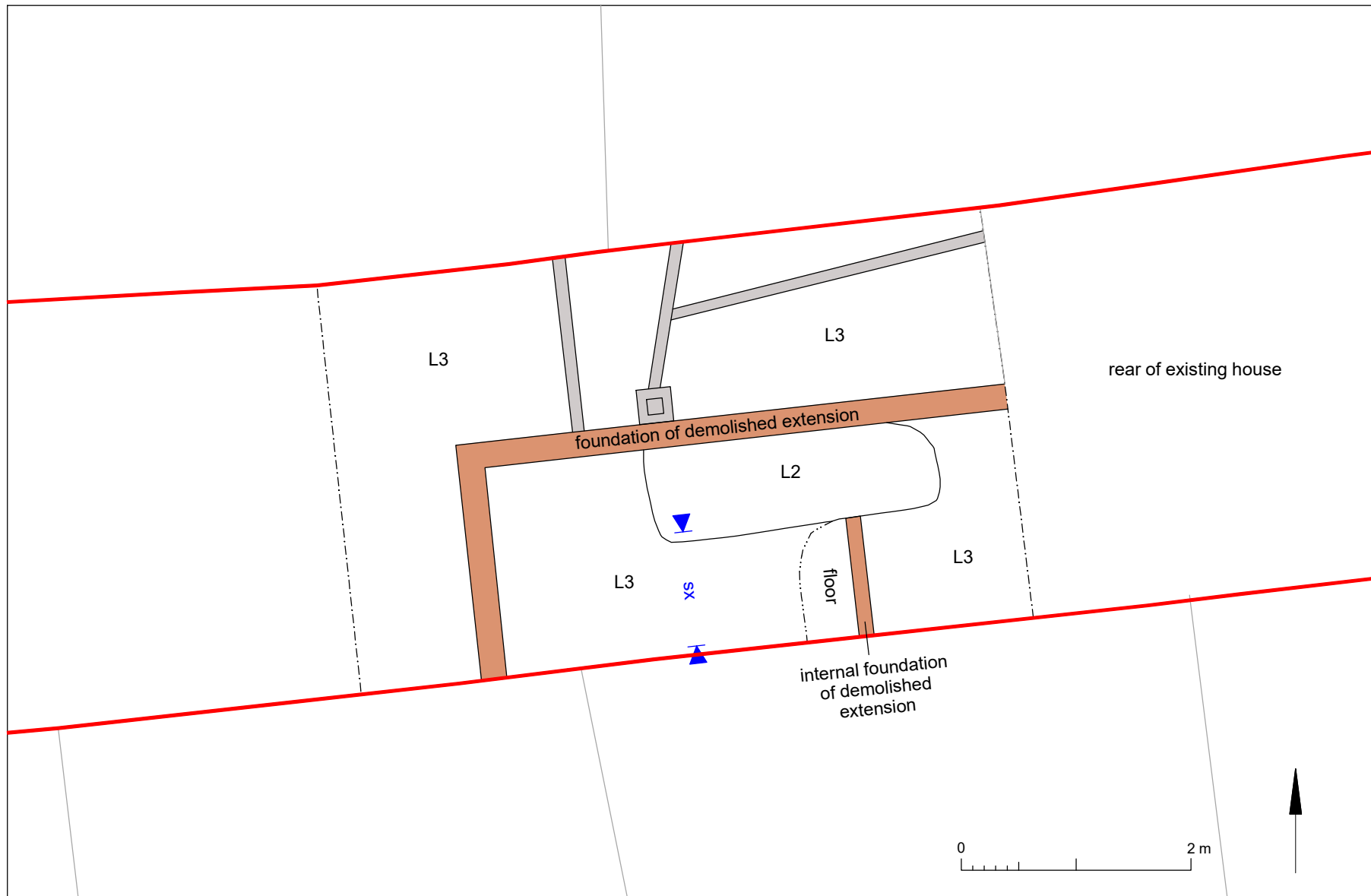


Fig 2 Results (modern services in grey, wall foundations in orange).

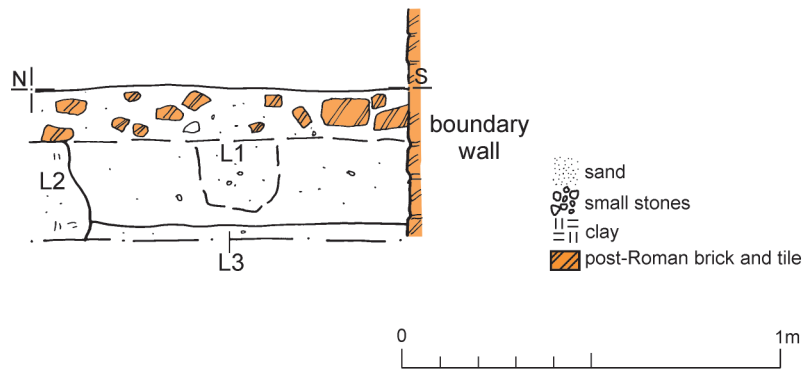


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UB	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99756 25423 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/06i CHER ref.: ECC4743 OASIS ref.: colchest3-508140
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd-24th August 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.01ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Homeowner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC9314
Final report: CAT Report 1846	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a new rear extension. Located within <i>Insula V</i> of the Roman walled town, the development site is located within an area of rich archaeological remains. However, groundworks only went 0.4m deep and no archaeological remains were impacted. The only features uncovered were the brick foundations and part of a brick floor from the old and recently demolished extension.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: September 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UB

NGR: TL 99756 25423 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Colchester

Planning reference: 212936

Client: Homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/06i

OASIS project number: colchest3-508140

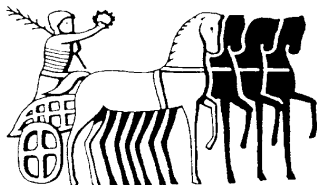
Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 18/07/2022



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located within the historic core and Conservations Area (DEX22998) of Colchester town centre at 65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99756 25423.

Proposed work

The development comprises of the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the property and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The current site is located within Insula V of the centre of the Roman town of *Colonia Claudia Victricensis* (MCC9314), c 120m south of the Roman town wall (Scheduled Ancient Monument, NHLE no. 1003772. For an overview of the town wall see *CAR 6*, Hull (1958, 25-6), and CAT Report 347). The site is adjacent to Castle park which includes Colchester Castle.

Approximately 42m south of the site are the remains of a D-shaped Roman theatre. Although small fragments of the theatre had been observed previously, the theatre was primarily excavated in 1981-2 by CAT (MCC2080, ECC193, ECC424 and ECC425). The theatre was built entirely from stone and tile, and would have been large enough to accommodate a seating audience of at least 3,000 people (Crummy 1997, 58). During a watching brief in 1982 a Roman foundation was recorded near close to the pavement and a stanchion hole north-west of the foundation was cut through a sequence of well-preserved Roman layers. These appeared to be a badly damaged *opus signinum* floor overlying a layer of demolished daub walls (make-up or debris in situ) (*CAR 6*, 368, MCC1703, MCC1706 and MCC1717).

The surface geology of the Castle park area is a mix of Kesgrave sands and gravels and London clay. The park to the immediate east is dominated by the 11th-century Norman castle keep and its associated earthwork defences (MCC1732). The majority of the park is a Scheduled Monument (SM EX 1, HA 1002217). Evidence for a number of Roman town houses' walls, numerous tessellated pavements, metalled streets, masonry drains and a water works have been recorded within the park (MCC852, MCC854 and MCC856), much of this is summarised by Hull (1958), Crummy in *CAR 6* and Brooks (1997).

Planning background

A planning application (212936) was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2021 for the *erection of single storey rear extension*.

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 monitoring of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022).

Specifically:

The monitoring 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)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2022).

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.

Monitoring methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits. 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 investigate 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). 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 monitoring.

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 Historic England guidance (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 (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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). 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): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

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: Tom Lawrence

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / 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* (Historic England 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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- 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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

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>

Brooks, H	1997	An historical survey of Castle Park
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 6	1992	<i>Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85, Colchester Archaeological Report 6. By Philip Crummy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006.</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester. By S Wood</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Revised June 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 2021
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory – the story of Colchester, Britain's first Roman</i>

		<i>town</i>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole & P Backhouse</i>
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</i>
Hull, MR	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>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

E Holloway



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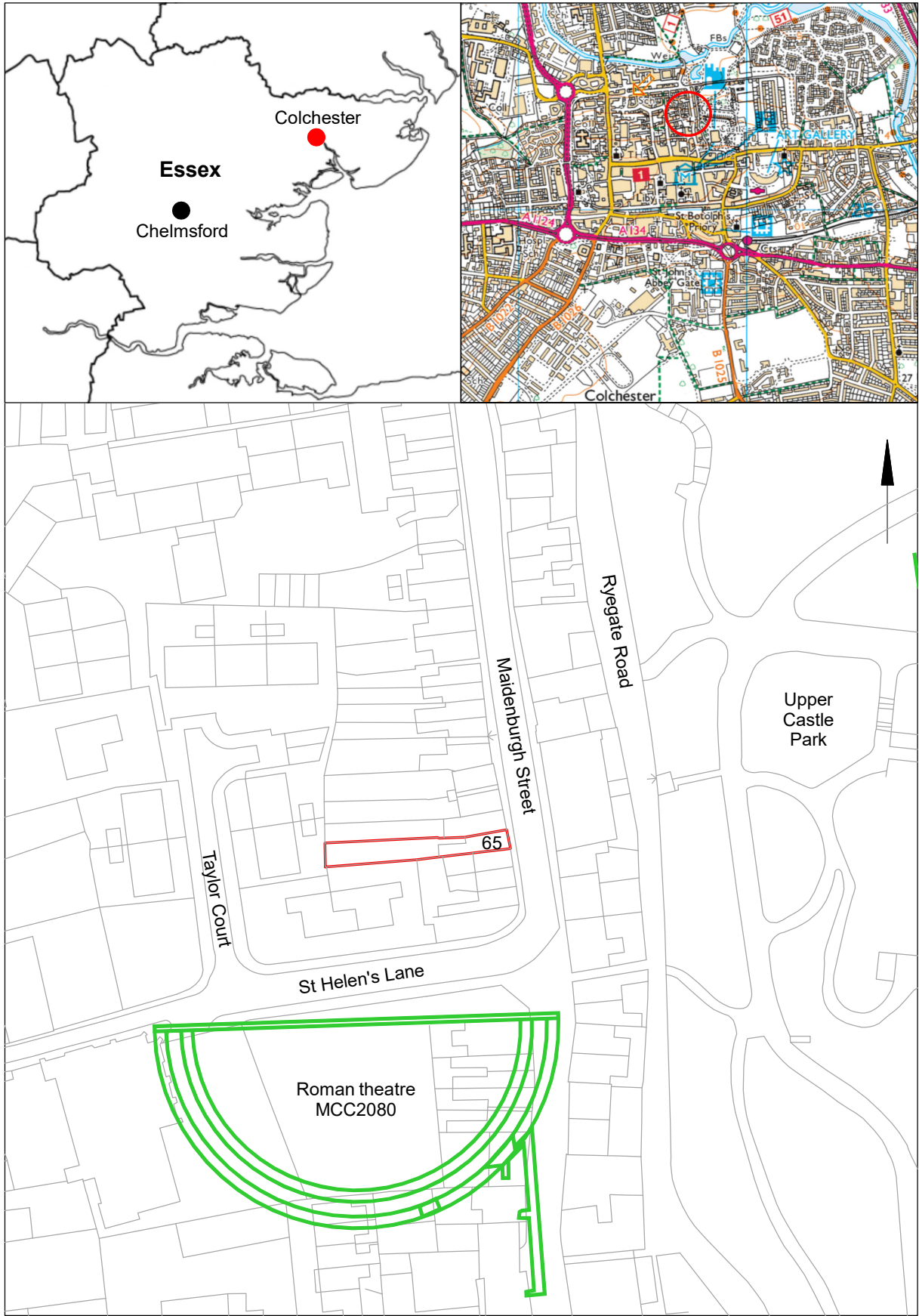


Fig 1 Site location.

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Summary for colchest3-508140

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-508140
Project Name	Watching Brief at 65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UB
Sitename	65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UB
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/06i
Planning Id	212936
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	23-Aug-2022 - 24-Aug-2022
Location	65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UB NGR : TL 99756 25423 LL : 51.891552066221, 0.901544774768715 12 Fig : 599756,225423
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Monitoring of all groundworks as per the Brief and WSI
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 65 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a new rear extension. Located within Insula V of the Roman walled town, the development site is located within an area of rich archaeological remains. However, groundworks only went 0.4m deep and no archaeological remains were impacted. The only features uncovered were the brick foundations and part of a brick floor from the old and recently demolished extension.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	E, Hicks
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4743
Archives	