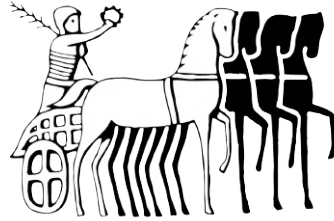


# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2050  
issued May 2024**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at  
45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN:  
April-May 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/10a  
ECC code: ECC4824**

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45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN:  
April-May 2024**

**NGR: TM 00043 25510 (centre)**

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**report prepared by Bronagh Rae-Quinn**

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**commissioned by James Bettinson,  
Beverly Ann Design  
on behalf of the homeowner**

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<b>Issued:</b>	17/05/2024	

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a single-storey rear extension. Located within the north-east corner of the Roman walled town, groundworks revealed two post-Roman layers which produced a significant quantity of Roman pottery and ceramic building material.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex from 25th April to 2nd May 2024. The work was commissioned by James Bettinson of Beverly Ann Design on behalf of the homeowner and was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of a 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 City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

A *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 45 Castle Road, Colchester*, was produced by Dr Richard Hoggett detailing the required archaeological work (CCC 2023), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CCCAA in advance of the groundworks (CAT 2023).

In addition to the project Brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024).

## 3 Archaeological background

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

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is comprised of Thames group (mainly silty clays, clay, or some sand or gravel) with no superficial deposits.

The proposed development is located within *Insula* 8 and to the immediate east of one of the main north-south streets of the Roman town of *Colonia Claudia Victricensis*. The site is located c 60m south of the Roman Town Wall, a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1003772). This stretch of wall is the longest surviving part of the wall (MCC859; Colchester Archaeological Trust Report 356). The site is also located 62m south-east of Duncan's Gate and 225m north-east of Colchester Castle (set within Colchester Castle Park, Scheduled Monument NHLE 1002217).

The Roman wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudicca. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with courses of septaria and bricks. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes monetales*). A

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<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Some sections are in relatively good condition, with large areas of intact facing surviving (such as around Balcerne Gate to the west of the town). The section of the wall around Duncan's Gate however, has lost up to 2.4m in width and nothing of the original exterior face survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced, covered in an apron of modern stone or completely rebuilt in brick and stone.

To the south-west of the development site is the location of a supposed Roman *mithraeum* or possible waterworks (MCC1518), consisting of a substantial five-roomed masonry building with a vaulted drain (MCC1515) adjoining the north-east corner of the largest room. This room was sunken and had several slots in the ground which may have been for wall partitions or to hold machinery. The room also had a sump and a spring rose in the south-west corner. To the south of this room was a narrow compartment divided into three and then two further rooms, to the north was another room.

Evidence of the building was discovered by Dr P Duncan in 1852 during his excavations within Hollytrees Meadow (ECC621). Further excavations by R Hull and PG Laver between 1927 and 1929 (ECC793, ECC795) recorded three additional rooms. The building was exposed once more in 1954 (ECC1760), again by Hull, and another room was discovered. This discounted Hull's early theory that the remains were a mithraic temple. He also concluded the building had been deliberately demolished no earlier than AD 337-50 and confirmed the walls discovered in 1928-9 were outer walls of the building. It has been suggested by Philip Crummy that the building may in fact be the site of a waterworks, which would have contained water-lifting gear. Iron shackles found within the building may indicate the use of slaves as workers.

To the immediate west of the site is Colchester Castle Park, Scheduled Monument 1002217. The castle is an 11th-century Norman keep, built on the foundations of the Roman Temple of Claudius, with bailey defences.

The CHER tells us a Roman tessellated pavement was recorded in Castle Road, opposite Radnor Terrace in 1852 (MCC7911). Roman coins, glass vessel and pottery were found in relation to the floor.

CAT have carried out numerous visits to properties around the site. Positive results included two undated features at 44 Castle Road (CAT Report 1111); a fragment of an *opus signinum* Roman floor and a collapsed wall of a Roman building at 24 Castle Road (CAT Report 158, MCC2817 and MCC5552); a Roman dump layer 0.8m below the modern ground level at 23 Castle Road (CAT Report 1220) and at 50 Roman Road (CAT Report 1468). At 67 Castle Road a thick deposit of post-medieval dumped soils sealed the natural 2.25m under the modern ground level, which were thought to be domestic material associated to the nearby Grey Friars (CAT Report 1000, 1997/7c).

A small number of sites carried out by CAT found no archaeological features or finds. This included watching briefs at 3 Roman Road (CAT Report 648); 5 Roman Road (CAT Report 230, MCC5399); 10 Roman Road (CAT Report 1126); 15 Roman Road (CAT Report 906); 41 Castle Road (CAT Report 67); 41a Castle Road (CAT Report 98); 42 Castle Road (CAT Report 1739). However, several of these sites involved work not exceeding the topsoil.

#### **4 Aims**

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

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

Approximately 7m of foundation trench was hand-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench varied from 0.45-0.8m in width and c 1.2-1.7m in depth. It was wider along the northern edge of the trench where the soil underneath a length of concrete was dug

away to the meet the existing wall foundation. Modern topsoil covered the site (L1, c 0.2-0.3m thick) sealing a layer of dark earth (L2, c 0.62-1.2m thick) beneath which was a layer of lighter soil (L3, c 0.25m thick to base of trench). In the northern foundation trench, there was also a layer of modern disturbance (L4, c 0.21m thick) between L1 and L2. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.



**Photograph 1** Excavation of the foundation trenches, looking north-east.



**Photograph 2** Foundation trench, looking north.



**Photograph 3** Foundation trench, looking east.



**Photograph 4** Foundation trench showing excavation underneath the strip of concrete to the north of the site, looking north.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Monitoring uncovered 72 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 12.5kg and EVE of 0.27 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is high at 174g which reflects the greater contribution of heavier CBM to the assemblage.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	25	605	24	0.27
CBM	47	11,949	254	-
<b>All</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>12,554</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>0.27</b>

**Table 1** Summary of the pottery and ceramic building material.

#### 6.1.1 Roman pottery

The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999) and vessel types were via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR 10*, Bidwell & Croom 1999, 468-487). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles, and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

There was a small-sized assemblage of Roman pottery with 21 sherds with a weight of 578g and EVE of 0.27 (Tables 4-5). The mean sherd weight is high at 28g, and the material is fresh and unworn. The Roman pottery was recovered from layers L2 and L3 (Table 6). This material ranges in date from the early Roman to the late Roman period. The latest pottery is a Nene valley Cam 535 mortaria (EVE:0.10) broadly dateable to the 4th century AD. In fabric GX there are examples of the early Roman Cam 243-244/246 (EVE:0.08) bowl and the 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century AD Cam 268 (EVE:0.06) jar. In a fineware grey ware fabric (GP) there is an example of the Cam 108 (0.03) beaker which dates from the Claudian period onwards.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	AD 110-220
BAET	Inland Baetican (Guadalquivir) amphorae	Roman
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman
DJ (S)	Coarse oxidised and related wares (sandy)	Roman
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	AD 225/250-425
GP	Fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type and north Kent wares)	AD 43-110
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae (Gauloise)	Roman
TE	Nene valley mortaria, white fabric, unslipped	AD 275/300-425

**Table 2** Late Iron Age-Roman pottery fabrics recorded. \*NRFRC

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	1	1	1	0.00
BAET	Inland Baetican (Guadalquivir) amphorae	1	76	76	0.00
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	2	123	62	0.00
DJ (S)	Coarse oxidised and related wares (sandy)	1	3	3	0.00
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	1	2	2	0.00
GP	Fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type and north Kent wares)	2	22	11	0.03
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	3	26	9	0.14



Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae (Gauloise)	3	135	45	0.00
TE	Nene valley mortaria, white fabric, unslipped	1	28	28	0.10
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0.27</b>

**Table 3** Details on the Roman pottery.

Fabric group	Form	EVE
GP	All	0.03
	CAM 218	0.03
GX	All	0.14
	CAM 243-244/246	0.08
	CAM 268	0.06
TE	All	0.10
	CAM 535	0.10
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.27</b>

**Table 4** Roman pottery quantification via vessel form.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
L2	Dark earth	15	416	28	0.19
L3	Lighter soil layer	6	162	27	0.08
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0.27</b>

**Table 5** Quantities of Roman pottery from specific contexts.

### 6.1.2 Medieval pottery

Medieval pottery was classified according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000). Four sherds (27g) of Medieval sandy greywares (fabric 20), dating to c 1150-1375/1400, were recovered from layers L2 and L3.

### 6.1.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were 47 sherds of CBM with a weight of 11.9kg with a mean sherd weight of 254g (Table 7). CBM came from the layers L2 and L3 (Table 8). All of the CBM dates to the Roman period and includes a variety of material which is in a fresh condition and includes some substantial fragments (Table 7). Noteworthy Roman CBM included one fragment of painted wall plaster decorated with deep red (maroon) and white painted bands (42cm<sup>2</sup>) and a tegulae with lower cutaways of types C4 (AD 160-260) and D16 (AD 240-380). There was also a small fragment from a curved column brick.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
RB	Roman brick	7	3,255	47
RI	Roman imbrex	14	2,470	176
RT	Roman tegulae	13	5,174	398
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	3	344	115
RFT	Roman box flue tile	1	39	39
Colm BR	Column brick	1	135	135
Tess	Tesserae	2	34	17
Op sig.	Opus signinum	3	65	22
Mortar		2	76	38
Wall-plaster		1	357	357
<b>Total</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>11,949</b>	<b>254</b>

**Table 6** Roman Building material by type.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
L2	Dark earth	36	6,639	184
L3	Lighter soil layer	11	5,310	483
<b>Total</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>11,949</b>	<b>254</b>

**Table 7** Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.

#### 6.1.4 Conclusion

Table 9 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and ceramics.

Context	Roman pottery	Medieval pottery	CBM	Spot date
L2	BACG, BAET (DR20), DJ, DJ (S), EA, GP (CAM 218), GX (CAM 243-244/246), NARB, TE (CAM 535)	F20	RB, RI, RT (LCA C4, D16), RFT, COLM BR, OP SIG	Medieval
L3	GX (CAM 268), NARB	F20	RB, RI, RT, OP SIG, W-PL	Medieval

**Table 8** Approximate dates for the individual layers.

#### 6.2 Animal Bone

by Alec Wade

Monitoring produced a small assemblage of six pieces of hand collected animal bone that included cattle and sheep or goat. Five of the pieces were recovered from L2 and a single piece from L3. The bone was in fair to poor surface condition with some discolouration in the form of darker speckling. No cut marks or signs of bone working were noted on the material.

Context	Finds no.	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
L2	1	1	10	Sheep or goat sized	Distal tibia diaphysis fragment.
	4	2	242	Cattle	(1) Right mandible with complete permanent cheek tooth row except for the P2 which is absent (age > 24 months). (1) 1st phalanx, near complete but discoloured and abraded.
		2	22	Cattle or horse sized	(1) Rib fragment. (1) Scapula fragment.
L3	2	1	56	Cattle or horse sized	(1) Pelvic fragment (ilium).
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>330</b>		

**Table 9** Quantities of animal bone.

#### 6.3 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Three fragments of septaria from L2 (finds no.4) had a combined weight of 2,481g. Covered in mortar they probably came from the Roman town wall.

### 7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 45 Castle Road, Colchester revealed two post-Roman horizons, a dark earth layer (L2) sealing a layer of lighter soil (L3). The nature of L3 could not be determined within the confines of the groundworks. Both layers produced substantial quantities of Roman pottery and ceramic building material including pieces of roof tile, column brick, tesserae and wall plaster, originating from the demolition of a Roman building located on or close to the site. Roman building remains have previously been found at 24 Castle Road (CAT Report 158, MCC2817 and MCC5552) with a tessellated pavement also recorded nearby (MCC861/MCC7911) and other remains identified to the west in Colchester Castle Park.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks James Bettinson of Beverly Ann Design and the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and B Rae-Quinn. Figures are by B Rae-Quinn and S Veasey. The project was monitored for CCC by Dr Richard Hoggett.

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

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## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds archive:** None retained.

**Digital archive:**

CAT Report 2050

CCC Brief  
Digital photographs  
Survey data  
Site data

## **12 Archive deposition**

The digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

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### **Distribution list:**

Homeowner  
James Bettinson, Beverly Ann Designs  
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council  
Colchester Historic Environment Record

## Appendix 1 Context list

<b>Context</b>	<b>Finds no.</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
L1	-	Topsoil	Soft, dark grey/brown silty loam.	Modern
L2	1, 3, 4	Dark earth	Soft, moist dark brown/grey silty clay with occasional stones.	Post-Roman
L3	2	Demolition material	Soft, light grey/brown silty clay.	Post-Roman
L4	-	Modern disturbance	Firm, mid/dark brownish orange sandy clay with frequent gravel.	Modern

## Appendix 2 Pottery list

Context	Feature type	Find number	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wmd	Sooting (ext)	Charing (int)	Burning	Misfired	Overfired	Gritted	Spout	Pedestalling	Abraison	Modified	Mark	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam	Comments	Start Date	End Date
L2	Dark earth	1	1	76	76	X																BAET	DR20	AMPHORAE				20/30	270
L2	Dark earth	1	1	1	1	X																BACG						110	220
L2	Dark earth	1	1	3	3	X																DJ (S)				BR/BUFF SANDY	43	425	
L2	Dark earth	1	1	2	2	X																GP				B-DOTS	43	110	
L2	Dark earth	1	2	16	8	X																GX					43	425	
L2	Dark earth	1	1	20	20	X	1	0	0													GP	CAM 218	BOWL	0.03	100	BL SURF, GREY CORE, THIN-W, MICA	43	120
L2	Dark earth	3	1	2	2	X																EA					225/250	425	
L2	Dark earth	3	1	10	10	X	1	0	0	X												GX	CAM 243-244/246	BOWL	0.06	170	S EXT & UP SURF FL	43	140
L2	Dark earth	3	1	83	83	X	0	0	1													DJ				PY/BUFF ORE/RED NODS	43	425	
L2	Dark earth	4	1	6	6	X																F20					1150	1375/1400	
L2	Dark earth	4	2	77	39	X																NARB					-30	300	
L2	Dark earth	4	1	28	28	X	1	0	0													TE	CAM 535	MORTARIA	0.10	280		275/300	425
L2	Dark earth	4	1	40	40	X																DJ				P-BUFF	43	425	
L2	Dark earth	4	1	58	58	X																NARB					-30	300	
L3	Lighter soil layer	2	2	138	69	X																NARB		AMPHORAE				-30	300
L3	Lighter soil layer	2	3	21	7	X				X												F20						1150	1375/1400
L3	Lighter soil layer	2	1	6	6	X																GX					43	425	
L3	Lighter soil layer	2	3	18	6	X	1	0	0													GX	CAM 268	JAR	0.08	150		125/150	280/320

## Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	JCA	Sign.	Comb.	TH.	Wall Pl. Col.	cm2	Mortar	Burnt	Abraded	Comments	Date
L2	Dark earth	1	2	76	38	X	Mortar																ROMAN
L2	Dark earth	1	2	34	17	X	TESS												X				ROMAN
L2	Dark earth	1	1	39	39	X	RFT							X						X			ROMAN









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Fig 1 Site location.

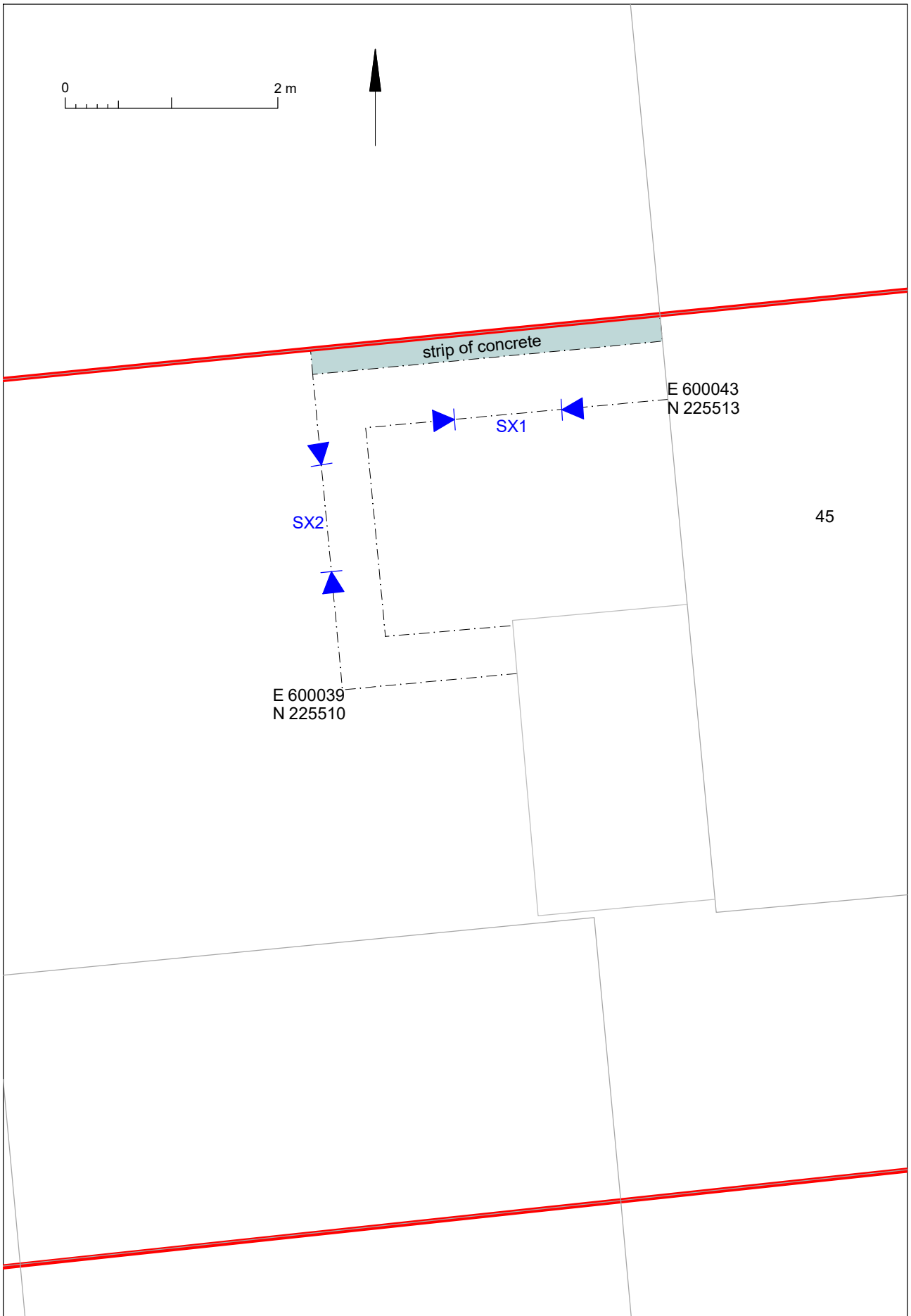
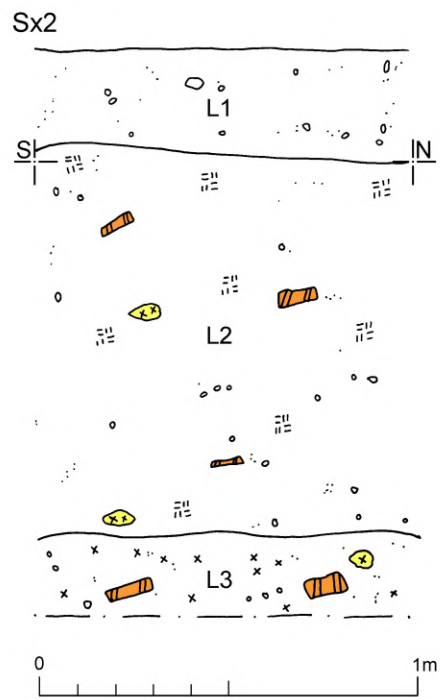
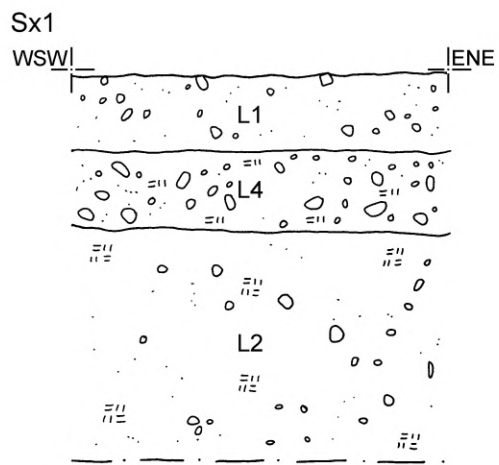


Fig 2 Results.



- ||= clay
- X<sub>x</sub>X mortar flecks
- X<sub>x</sub>X mortar fragments
- /// post-Roman CBM
- stones

Fig 3 Representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 00043 25510 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2023/10a CHER ref.: ECC4824 OASIS ref.: colchest3-520538
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 25th April to 2nd May 2024	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.02ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Archaeology Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 2050	
<b>Periods represented:</b> post-Roman, modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a single-storey rear extension. Located within the north-east corner of the Roman walled town, groundworks revealed two post-Roman layers which produced a significant quantity of Roman pottery and ceramic building material.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CCC monitor:</b> Dr Richard Hoggett	
<b>Keywords:</b>	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> 16th May 2024

# **Colchester Archaeological Trust**



**Written scheme of investigation  
for archaeological monitoring at 45 Castle Road,  
Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN.**

**November 2023**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/10a  
CHER code: tbc**

**Written scheme of investigation for  
archaeological monitoring at 45 Castle Road,  
Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN.**

**November 2023**

**NGR: TM 00043 25510 (centre)**

**Planning district.: Colchester  
Planning ref.: 231344**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/10b**

**CHER code: tbc  
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett  
OASIS id: colchest3-520538**

**WSI prepared by: Emma Holloway  
Figure by: Chris Lister**

**Commissioned by: James Bettinson (Beverley Ann Design)  
Client: Homeowner**

Prepared by:	Emma Holloway	Junior Project Officer
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	14/11/2023	

**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located within the historic core of Colchester town centre at 45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). Specifically, the site is situated within the north-east corner of the Roman walled town, c 60m south of the Roman wall (Scheduled Monument HA 1003772) and Duncan's Gate and within the Colchester Town Centre conservation area (DEX22998). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 00043 25510.

## Proposed work

The proposed development comprises the construction of a new single-storey extension to the rear of the existing dwelling.

## Archaeological and geological background

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

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is comprised of Thames group (mainly silty clays, clay, or some sand or gravel) with no superficial deposits.

The proposed development is within insula 8 and to the immediate east of one of the main north-south streets of the Roman town of *Colonia Claudia Victricensis*. The site is located c 60m south of the Roman Town Wall, a Scheduled Monument (NHLE no. 1003772). This stretch of wall is the longest surviving part of the wall (MCC859; Colchester Archaeological Trust Report 356). It is also located 62m south-east of Duncan's Gate and 225m north-east of Colchester Castle (set within Colchester Castle Park, Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002217).

The Roman wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with courses of septaria and bricks. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Some sections are in relatively good condition, with large areas of intact facing surviving (such as around Balkerne Gate to the west of the town). The section of the wall around Duncan's Gate however, has lost up to 2.4m in width and nothing of the original exterior face survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced, covered in an apron of modern stone or completely rebuilt in brick and stone.

To the south-west of the development site is the location of a supposed Roman *mithraeum* or possible waterworks (MCC1518), consisting of a substantial five-roomed masonry building with a vaulted drain (MCC1515) adjoining the north-east corner of the largest room. This room was sunken and had several slots in the ground which may have been for wall partitions or to hold machinery. The room also had a sump and a spring rose in the south-west corner. To the south of this room was a narrow compartment divided into three and then two further rooms, to the north was another room.

Evidence of the building was discovered by Dr P Duncan in 1852 during his excavations within Hollytrees Meadow (ECC621). Further excavations by R Hull and P.G. Laver between 1927 and 1929 (ECC793, ECC795) recorded three additional rooms. The building was exposed once more in 1954 (ECC1760), again by Hull, and another room was discovered. This discounted Hull's early theory that the remains were a *mithraic* temple. He also concluded the building had been deliberately demolished no earlier than AD337-50 and confirmed the walls discovered in 1928-9 were outer walls of the building. It has been suggested by Philip Crummy that the building may in fact be the site of a waterworks, which

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<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>



would have contained water-lifting gear. Iron shackles found within the building may indicate the use of slaves as workers.

To the immediate west of the site is Colchester Castle Park, Scheduled Monument 1002217. The castle is an 11th-century Norman keep, built on the foundations of the Roman Temple of Claudius, with bailey defences.

The CHER tells us a Roman tessellated pavement was recorded in Castle Road, opposite Radnor Terrace in 1852 (MCC7911). Roman coins, glass vessel and pottery were found in relation to the floor.

CAT have carried out numerous visits to properties around the site. Positive results included two undated features recorded at 44 Castle Road (CAT Report 1111); a fragment of an *opus signinum* Roman floor and a collapsed wall of a Roman building was recorded during monitoring at 24 Castle Road (CAT Report 158, MCC2817 and MCC5552); a Roman dump layer 0.8m below the modern ground level was recorded at 23 Castle Road (CAT Report 1220) and at 50 Roman Road (CAT Report 1468). At 67 Castle Road a thick deposit of post-medieval dumped soils sealed the natural 2.25m under the modern ground level, which were thought to be domestic material associated to the nearby Grey Friars (CAT Report 1000, 1997/7c).

A small number of sites carried out by CAT found no archaeological features or finds. This included watching briefs including 3 Roman Road (CAT Report 648); 5 Roman Road (MCC5399, CAT Report 230); 10 Roman Road (CAT Report 1126); 15 Roman Road (CAT Report 906); 41 Castle Road. (CAT Report 67); 41a Castle Road (CAT Report 98); 42 Castle Road (CAT Report 1739). However, several of these sites involved work not exceeding the topsoil.

## **Planning background**

A planning application (231344) was made to Colchester City Council in June 2023 proposing the construction of a "brick built 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 City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

## **Requirement for work** (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an archaeological monitoring of all groundworks. A Project Brief was not provided by the CCCAA.

### *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 CCCAA will be informed immediately and the CCCAA 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 CCCAA 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 2020a-b and 2022).
- 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 2023).
- The archaeological brief (CCCAA 2023)

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 the CCCAA 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CCCAA 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' groundworks 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), at least 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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be at least 40 litres in size (assuming 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.
- 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 process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or 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 the CCCAA.

The CCCAA 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.

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 CCCAA 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.

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/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)  
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley  
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley  
flint: Adam Wightman  
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn  
osteology: (human remains): Megan Beale

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:  
Historic England 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 the ECCHEA.

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 CCCAA 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 the CCCAA as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- 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 CCCAA.

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 City 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 Museum *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 the CCCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the CCCAA. 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 CCCAA 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 CCCAA for integration into the HER.

## Monitoring

The CCCAA 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 the CCCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

The CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

## Public outreach

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

## Events, activities and social media

In addition, the CAT website ([www.catuk.org](http://www.catuk.org)) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

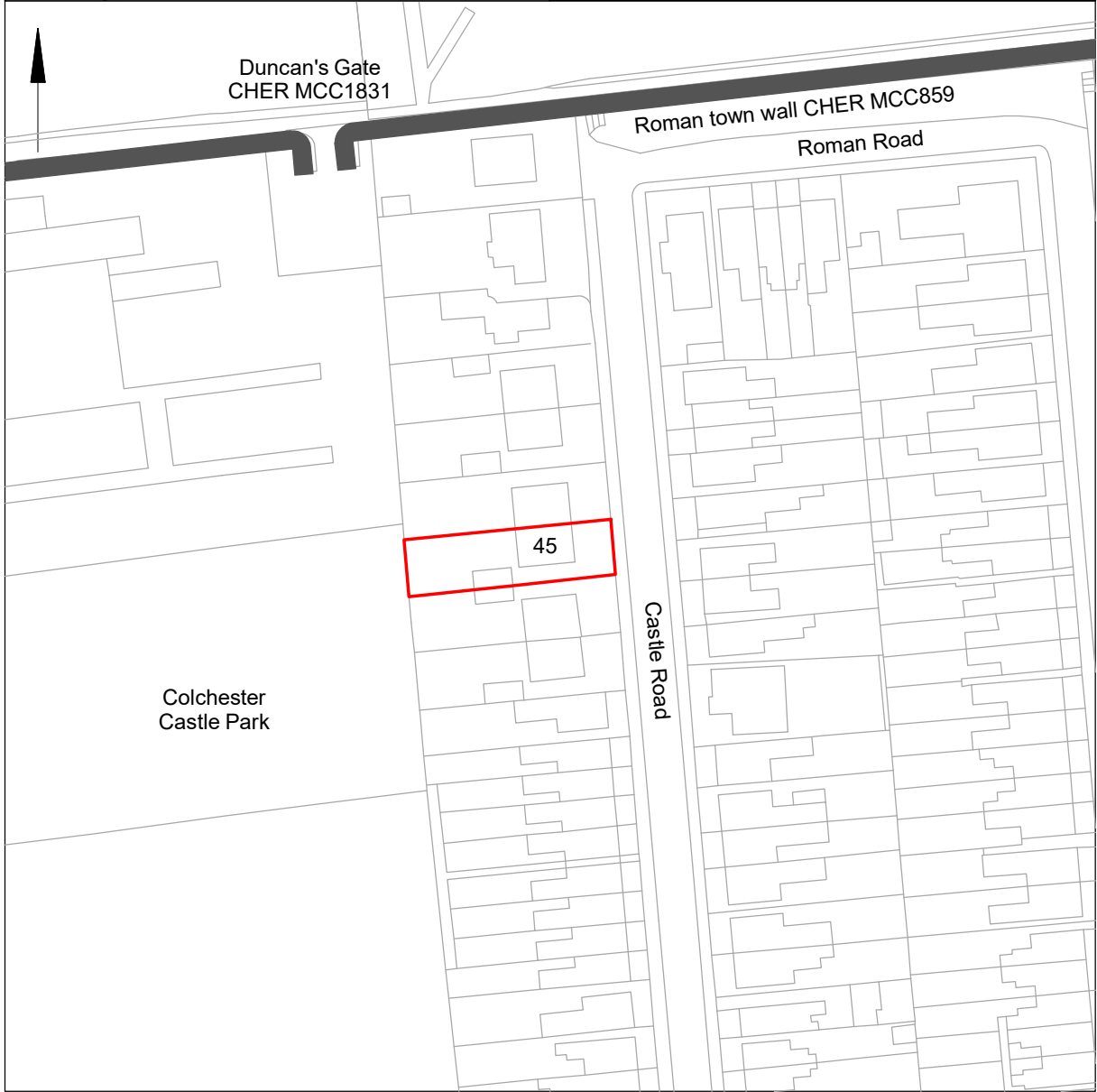
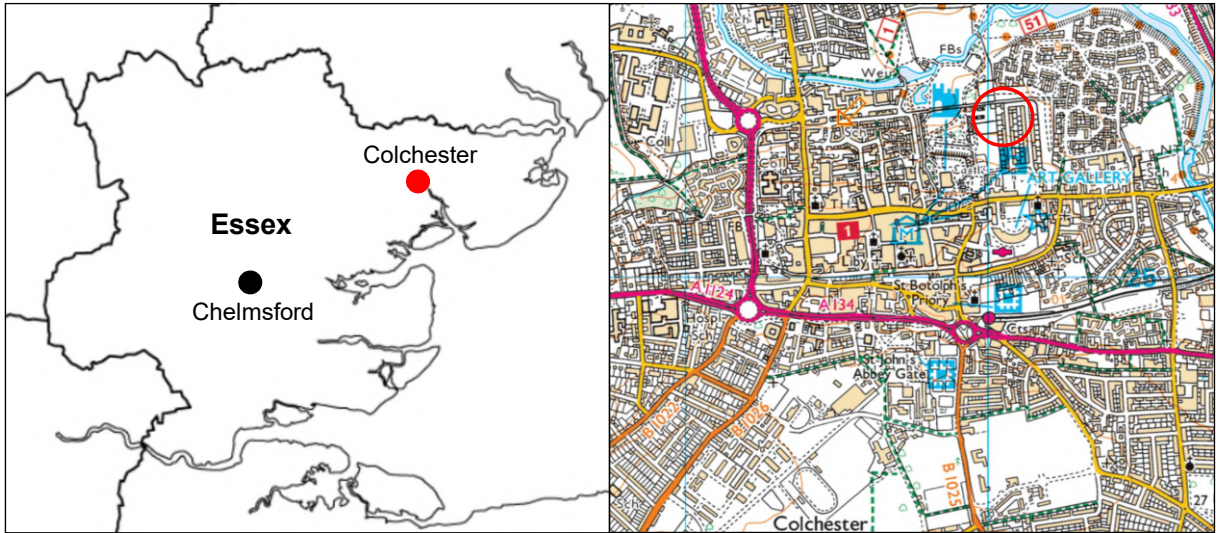
## References

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. |   |
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000    | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8). |

CAT	2023	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy.</i>
CAT Report 67	2000	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 41a Castle Road, Colchester: September 2000.</i> By Carl Crossan.
CAT Report 98	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 24 Castle Road, Colchester Essex: September 2000-October 2001.</i> By Kate Orr
CAT Report 158	2003	<i>5 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: Report on negative watching brief – March 2003.</i> By Howard Brooks.
CAT Report 230	2003	<i>5 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: Report on negative watching brief – March 2003.</i> By Howard Brooks.
CAT Report 356	2006	<i>An archaeological investigation of the Roman town wall at Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2004 and February 2006.</i> By Mariusz Gorniak, Chirs Lister and Kate Orr.
CAT Report 648	2012	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 3 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex – May 2012.</i> By Chris Lister
CAT Report 906	2015	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 15 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UR: September 2015.</i> By Laura Pooley
CAT Report 1000	2017	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997).</i> By Howard Brooks
CAT Report 1111	2017	<i>Archaeological recording at 44 Castle Road, Colchester Essex CO1 1UN.</i> By Dr Elliott Hicks
CAT Report 1126	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 10 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UR: July 2017.</i> By Dr Elliott Hicks.
CAT Report 1739	2021	<i>Archaeological monitoring at 42 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN.</i> By Megan Seehra
CAT Report 1220	2018	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 23 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UW.</i> By Dr Elliott Hicks
CCCAA	2023	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring at 45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN.</i> By Dr R Hoggett
CifA	2020a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2020
CifA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2020
CifA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2022
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.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).
Historic England	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 (MoRPHE).</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project,</i> by S Mays, M Brickley & 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 <b>24</b> ).
MHCLG	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Emma Holloway  
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Fig 1 Site location.



# OASIS Summary for colchest3-520538

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-520538
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN: April-May 2024
Sitename	45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN
Sitecode	ECC4824
Project Identifier(s)	2023/10a
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	231344
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	25-Apr-2024 - 02-May-2024
Location	45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN NGR : TM 00043 25510 LL : 51.892230417086736, 0.90576027500389 12 Fig : 600043,225510
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks as per the archaeological brief and wsi.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 45 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a single-storey rear extension. Located within the north-east corner of the Roman walled town, groundworks revealed two post-Roman layers which produced a significant quantity of Roman pottery and ceramic building material.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Monument No - ECC4824
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;