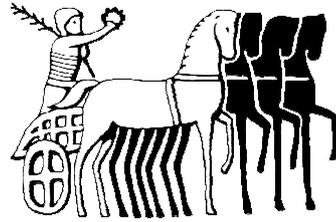


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2056
issued June 2024**

**Archaeological monitoring at
7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR:
April 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/02L
ECC code: ECC4837**

**Archaeological monitoring at
7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR:
April 2024**

NGR: TL 98702 25076 (centre)

**Planning district.: Colchester
Planning ref.: 231990**

**Scheduled monument number: SM EX 46, HA 1002173
Scheduled monument consent number: S00245467**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/02L
CAT Report 2056**

**ECC code: ECC4873
OASIS id: colchest3-523055**

report prepared by Dr Elliott Hicks & Emma Holloway

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commissioned by Ross Bain, Vaughan & Blyth

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Issued:	07/06/2024	

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a rear extension. Although located within the southern edge of the Scheduled Monument at Sheepen there were no archaeological features or finds.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex on 23rd April 2024. The work was commissioned by Ross Bain of Vaughan & Blyth and was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of a rear extension.

As the site lies within a Scheduled Monument and an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (HEIAM) and 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).

No brief for this project was issued by CCCAA. All work was carried out in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent (S00245467) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2024) and agreed with the HEIAM and the CCCAA.

In addition to the SMC 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 MCC numbers, which are accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The bedrock geology for the site is Thames Group (clay, silt and sand), with superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup (sand and gravels).¹

The site lies within an area of significant archaeology where evidence of concentrations of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation and industrial activity have been recorded in an area known as Sheepen Farm (MCC7488). Sheepen Farm is designated as a heritage asset (Scheduled Monument 1002173). The primary period of occupation at Sheepen occurred during c AD 5-60 (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985), though evidence of Bronze Age occupation has also been uncovered there (CAR 11, 132-3).

One of the key industries at Sheepen was the production of pottery and tile. Immediately opposite the current site a probable pottery kiln was found during amateur excavations in 1958 (MCC1733). Approximately 150m east of the site, a concentration of Roman kilns was uncovered during the construction of Oaks Drive in 1973 and were recorded by CAT (CAR 6, 338-340; MCC8077 & MCC1226-8).

¹ <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk>

The site is located outside the Roman walled town, which lies approximately 520m to the east. It is surrounded by important archaeological remains, principally of Late Iron Age and Roman date. These remains are dominated by the major road a short distance to the south (MCC475 & MCC1928), which led from the walled town to London (Hull 1958, 2-3). Remains of Roman buildings have been uncovered nearby, including fragments of tessellated Roman floors seen in Papillon Road (MCC1069), Rawstorn Road (MCC1074) and Crowhurst Road (MCC1734), and fragments of walls seen in Manor Road (MCC1075) and Papillon Road (MCC1084). Roman buildings and evidence of activities including horticulture and sand quarrying were recorded on areas situated away from the road frontage. A Roman quarry pit was uncovered during a watching brief carried out by CAT at 37 Oaks Drive in 2008 (CAT Report 463).

The site lies immediately south of an area of Roman burials termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but which is more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses several Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road, which roughly corresponds with the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing (Hull 1958; *CAR 11*). Numerous Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in *CAR 9*.

To the east north-east of the site, archaeological investigations were carried out by CAT on the site of the former St Mary's hospital (now known as Balkerne Heights/St Mary's Fields) between 2001 and 2003. The excavations uncovered early Roman houses destroyed during the Boudiccan revolt of AD 60/61. The suburb was rebuilt and a road leading north-west to Sheepen was created, plus smaller lanes connecting the houses. By the 4th century AD, settlement had moved back inside the town walls and the area was turned over to use as a cemetery. In all, 86 Roman burials were excavated, mainly from the north and eastern areas of the site (CAT Report forthcoming). Four Roman inhumations were also recorded at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road, adjacent to the hospital site, in 2001 (CAT Report 134; MCC5422 & MCC2889-2892).

During the development of residential properties in Oaks Drive fragments of a lead coffin and pottery were found at no. 41 (*CAR 6* 811-2; MCC1718) and a skeleton with a glass bead found at no. 52 (*CAR 6* 811-2; MCC1719). In 2019, CAT undertook monitoring works at 24 Oaks Drive, to monitor strip foundations and drainage for a new conservatory (CAT Report 1462). Nothing of archaeological significance was found, although post-medieval pottery, coal and CBM was recovered.

CAT has also found evidence of substantial modern ground disturbance in the area around Oaks Drive during the course of several watching briefs and evaluations. At 17 Rawstorn Road in 1985, 35 Oaks Drive in 1999 (CAT Report 1000), 26 Oaks Drive in 2001 (CAT Report 157), 11 Oaks Drive in 2002 (CAT Report 209), 15 Rawstorn Road in 2004 (CAT Report 291) and 27 Oaks Drive in 2021 (CAT Report 1793) some 1.25-1.5m of modern debris or sand dumps were encountered. These were thought to be the product of the construction of the houses in the 1970s, or alternatively were deposited here to raise the ground level of gardens that were previously sloping. Monitoring at the current property for a rear extension in 1997 was negative (CAT Report 1000, project 97/12d – see Appendix 1).

4 Aims

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

5 Results (Figs 1-2)

Approximately 5.20m of foundation trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench measured 0.7m in width and c 1m in depth. Modern friable mid grey-brown topsoil, with an abundance of small rooting, covered the site (L1, c 0.2-0.4m thick) sealing a soft light-yellow natural sand (L2).



Photograph 1 Foundation trench, looking north-east.



Photograph 2 Foundation trench, looking south/south-east.

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Identical to the results of a watching brief on the site in 1997 (see Appendix 1), current monitoring and recording at 7 Oaks Drive revealed two horizons, modern topsoil (L1) sealing natural sand (L2). When Oaks Drive was built the land was on a slope. Archaeological investigations in this road have shown evidence of gardens being built up to counter the slope. In this case the lack of subsoil indicates that when the house was constructed the modern ground level was lowered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Ross Bain of Vaughan & Blyth and the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Beale. Figures are by C Lister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Historic England by Adam Single and Colchester City Council by Dr Richard Hoggett.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---|
| 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). |
| CAR 6 | 1992 | <i>Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85, Colchester Archaeological Report 6.</i> By Philip Crummy |
| CAR 9 | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy and C Crossan. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2,</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy |
| CAT | 2024 | <i>Written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring and recording at 7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR: February 2024..</i> |
| CAT | 2024 | Health & Safety Policy. |
| CAT Report 134 | 2001 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road, Colchester.</i> By Kate Orr |
| CAT Report 157 | 2001 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 26 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex:</i> June and September 2001. By K Orr |
| CAT Report 209 | 2002 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 11 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex:</i> September 2002. By K Orr |
| CAT Report 291 | 2004 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 15 Rawstorn Road, Colchester, Essex:</i> October 2004. By K Orr |
| CAT Report 463 | 2008 | <i>Archaeological watching brief at 37 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex.</i> February 2008. By S Benfield |
| 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 H Brooks |
| CAT Report 1462 | 2019 | <i>Archaeological monitoring at 24 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex.</i> By P Parmenter |
| CAT Report 1793 | 2022 | <i>Archaeological monitoring at 27 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex.</i> By B Quinn |
| CIfA | 2020 | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020. |
| CIfA | 2022 | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022. |

ClfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
ClfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hawkes, CFC & Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum. First Report on the Excavation at Colchester 1930-1939.</i> Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no. 14. Oxford: The Society of Antiquaries, London.
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).</i>
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester.</i> Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no. 20. Oxford: The Society of Antiquaries, London.
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2023	National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Niblett, R	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum,</i> CBA Research Report 57

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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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 Archive deposition

Digital record: This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

Distribution list:

Homeowner

Ross Bain, Vaughan & Blyth

Adam Single, Historic England

Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council

Colchester Historic Environment Record

APPENDIX 1 Extract of CAT Report 1000, p350-351.

97/12d

Colchester
7 Oaks Drive
TL 98704 25071
Howard Brooks

Watching Brief - house Extension - negative.

Observation of footings trenches for miniscule rear extension. Nothing archaeological seen. Typical section was 30cm of garden topsoil; over 55cm of natural sand.

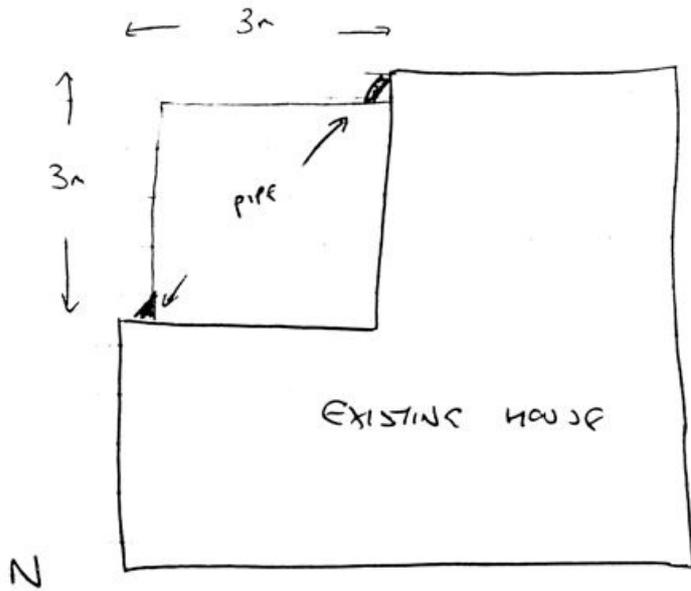


Fig 1 – Rough site plan

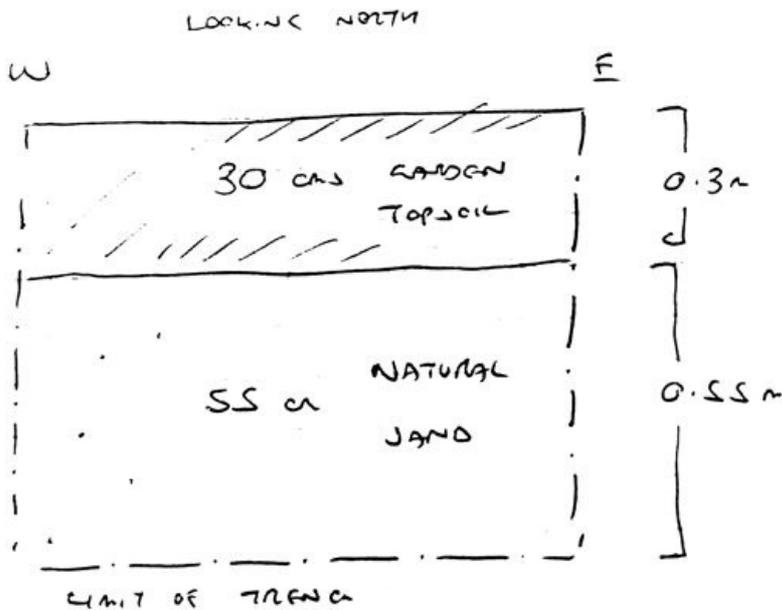
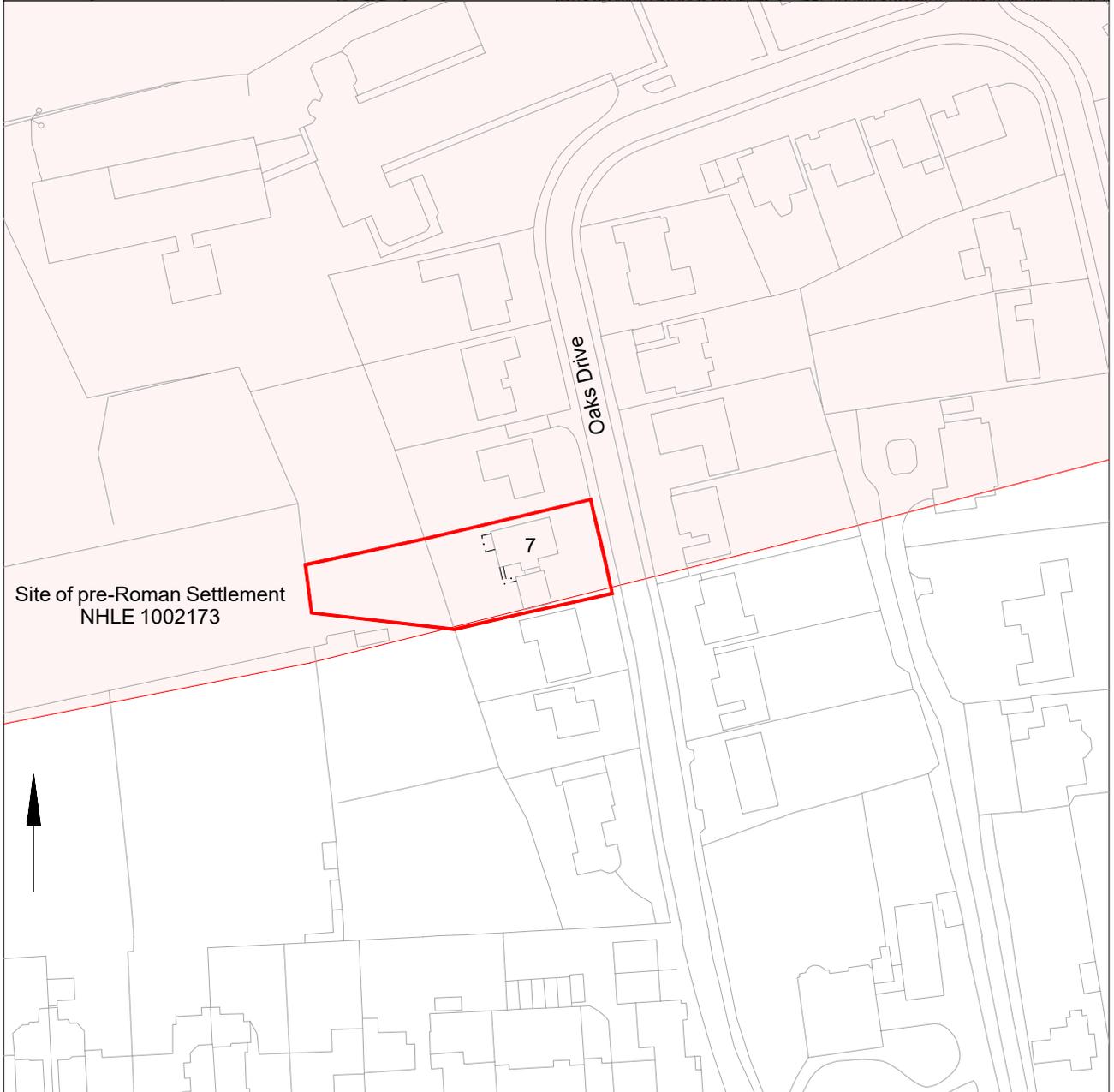
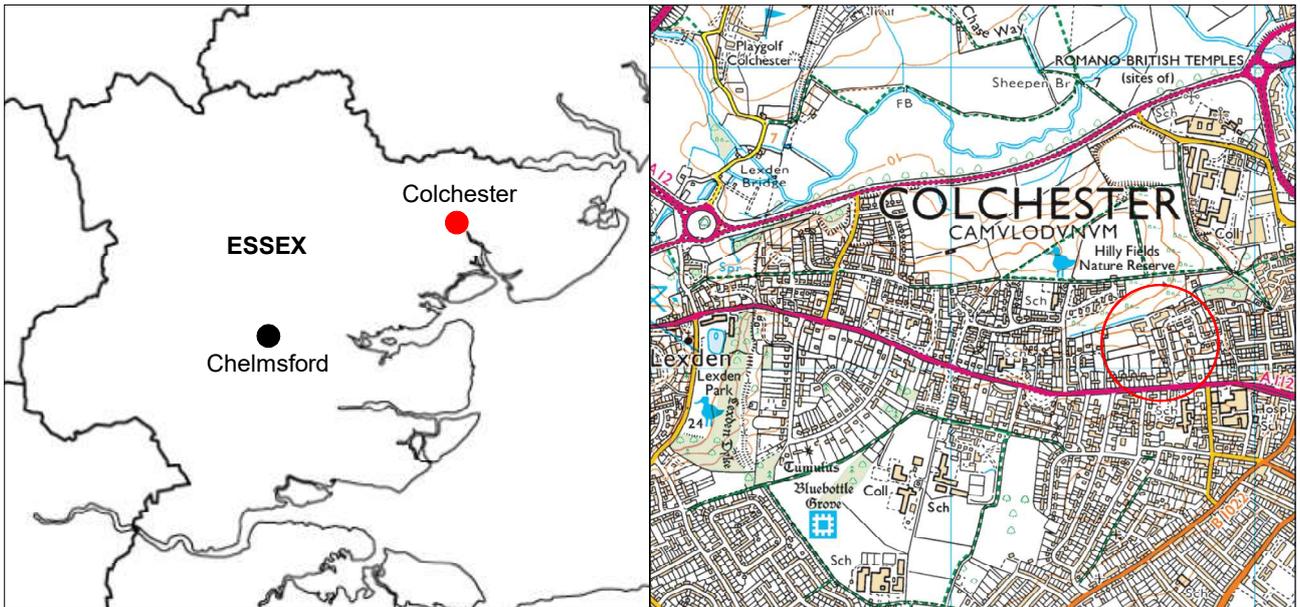


Fig 2 – Section sketch



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Fig 1 Site location.





Fig 2 Results.

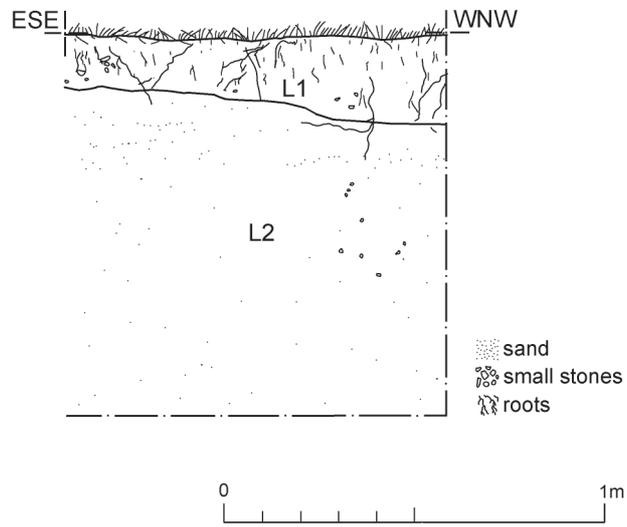


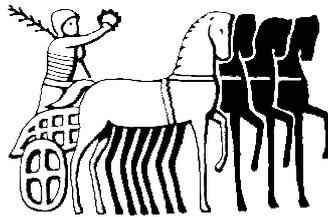
Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98702 25076 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2024/02L CHER ref.: ECC4837 OASIS ref.: colchest3-523055
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd April 2024	Size of area investigated: 7.3m ²
Location of curating museum: OASIS	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: MCC475, MCC1069, MCC1074, MCC1075, MCC1084, MCC1226, MCC1227, MCC1228, MCC1718, MCC1719, MCC1733, MCC1734, MCC1928, MCC2889, MCC2890, MCC2891, MCC2892, MCC5422, MCC7488, MCC7647, MCC8077.
Final report: CAT Report 2056	
Periods represented: modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a rear extension. Although located within the southern edge of the Scheduled Monument at Sheepen there were no archaeological features or finds.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 1000 project 97/12d	
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Emma Holloway	Date of summary: 4th June 2024

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written Scheme of Investigation
for archaeological monitoring and recording at
7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR.**

February 2024

**CAT project ref.: 2024/02L
CHER code: ECC4873**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
archaeological monitoring and recording at 7 Oaks
Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR.**

February 2024

NGR: TL 98702 25076 (centre)

Planning district.: Colchester

Planning ref.: 231990

Scheduled Monument number: SM EX 46, HA 1002173

Scheduled Monument Consent number: S00245467

CAT project ref.: 2024/02L

CHER code: ECC4873

CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett

Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments: Adam Single

OASIS id: colchest3-523055

WSI prepared by: Emma Holloway

Figure by: Chris Lister

Commissioned by: Ross Bain (Vaughan & Blyth)

Client: Vaughan & Blyth

Prepared by:	Emma Holloway	Junior Project Officer
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	21/02/2024	

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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 520m west of the walled historic core of Colchester town centre at 7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98702 25076.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises the demolition of an existing conservatory followed by the construction of a new two-storey rear extension, garage conversion and associated groundworks including services.

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 bedrock geology for the site is Thames Group (clay, silt and sand), with superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup (sand and gravels)¹.

The site lies within an area of significant archaeology where evidence of concentrations of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation, and industrial activity, have been recorded in an area known as Sheepen Farm (MCC7488). Sheepen Farm is designated as a heritage asset (Scheduled Monument number 1002173). The Late Iron Age and Roman site at Sheepen involves a main period of occupation between c AD 5-60 (Hawkes & Hull 1946; Niblett 1985), though Bronze Age occupation is also attested there (CAR 11, 132-3).

One of the key industries at Sheepen was the production of pottery and tile. Immediately opposite the current site a probable pottery kiln was found during amateur excavations in 1958 (MCC1733). Approximately 150m east of the site is a concentration of Roman kilns (CHER MCC8077 and MCC1226-8) was uncovered during the construction of Oaks Drive for the residential development in 1973 and recorded by CAT (CAR 6, 338-340).

The site is situated outside the Roman walled town which lies approximately 520m to the east. The site is surrounded by important archaeological remains, principally of Late Iron Age and Roman date. These remains are dominated by the major road a short distance to the south (MCC475 and MCC1928) which led from the walled town to London (Hull 1958, 2-3). There are a number of CHER spots for evidence of buildings nearby the site including fragments of tessellated Roman floors seen in Papillon Road (MCC1069), Rawstorn Road (MCC1074) and Crowhurst Road (MCC1734). And fragments of walls seen in Manor Road (MCC1075) and Papillon Road (MCC1084). Roman buildings and activities including horticulture and sand quarrying were recorded on areas away from the road frontage. During a watching brief carried out by CAT in 2008 at 37 Oaks Drive (CAT Report 463) F1 was recorded as being a Roman quarry pit.

The site is located to the immediate south of an area of Roman burials termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses several Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road, which roughly corresponds with the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing (Hull 1958; CAR 11). Numerous Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in CAR 9.

To the east/north-east of the site archaeological investigations were carried out by CAT between 2001 and 2003 on the site of the former St Mary's hospital (now known as Balcerne Heights/St Mary's Fields). Excavations in 2001-3 uncovered early Roman houses destroyed during the Boudiccan revolt of AD 60/61. The suburb was rebuilt and a road leading to

¹ <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk>

Sheepen to the north-west was created, plus smaller lanes connecting the houses. By the 4th century AD, settlement had moved back inside the town walls and the area was turned over to use as a cemetery. In all, 86 Roman burials were excavated, mainly from the north and eastern areas of the site (CAT report in forthcoming). Four Roman inhumations were also recorded at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road in 2001 (MCC5422 and MCC2889-2892), adjacent to the hospital site (CAT Report 134).

During the development of residential properties in Oaks Drive fragments of a lead coffin and pottery were found at no. 41 (CAR 6 811-2, MCC1718) and a skeleton with a glass bead found at no. 52 (CAR 6 811-2, MCC1719).

In 2019 CAT undertook monitoring works at 24 Oaks Drive, to monitor strip foundations and drainage for a new conservatory (CAT Report 1462). Nothing of archaeological significance was found, although post-medieval pottery, coal and CBM was recovered from made ground.

CAT has also found that during several watching briefs and evaluations the around Oaks Drive area that there has been substantial modern ground disturbance. At 17 Rawstorn Road in 1985 and 35 Oaks Drive in 1999 (CAT Report 1000), 26 Oaks Drive in 2001 (CAT Report 157), 11 Oaks Drive in 2002 (CAT Report 209), 15 Rawstorn Road in 2004 (CAT Report 291) and 27 Oaks Drive in 2021 (CAT Report 1793) all had between 1.25-1.5m of modern debris or sand dumps thought to be from either construction of the houses in the 1970's or to raise the height of gardens that were sloping.

Planning background

A planning application (232680) was made to Colchester City Council in November 2023 for a "proposed ground & first floor rear extension, conversion of existing garage & replacement of first floor tile handing for weatherboarding".

As the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument and 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 2023).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. A Project Brief was not provided by 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 HEIAM & CCCAA will be informed immediately and the HEIAM & CCCAA will decide if amendments 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 technique. Any variations will be discussed with the HEIAM & 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 2020, 2022 & 2023a-b).
- 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).
- Scheduled Ancient Monument consent documents.

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 HEIAM & 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 and recording 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, HEIAM or CCCAA.

The HEIAM & 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 (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 HEIAM & 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 Howard Brooks (Interim 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 HEIAM & 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 the HEIAM & 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 HEIAM & 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 HEIAM & CCCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the HEIAM & 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 HEIAM & 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 HEIAM & 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 HEIAM & CCCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

The HEIAM & CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the HEIAM & 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) 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.

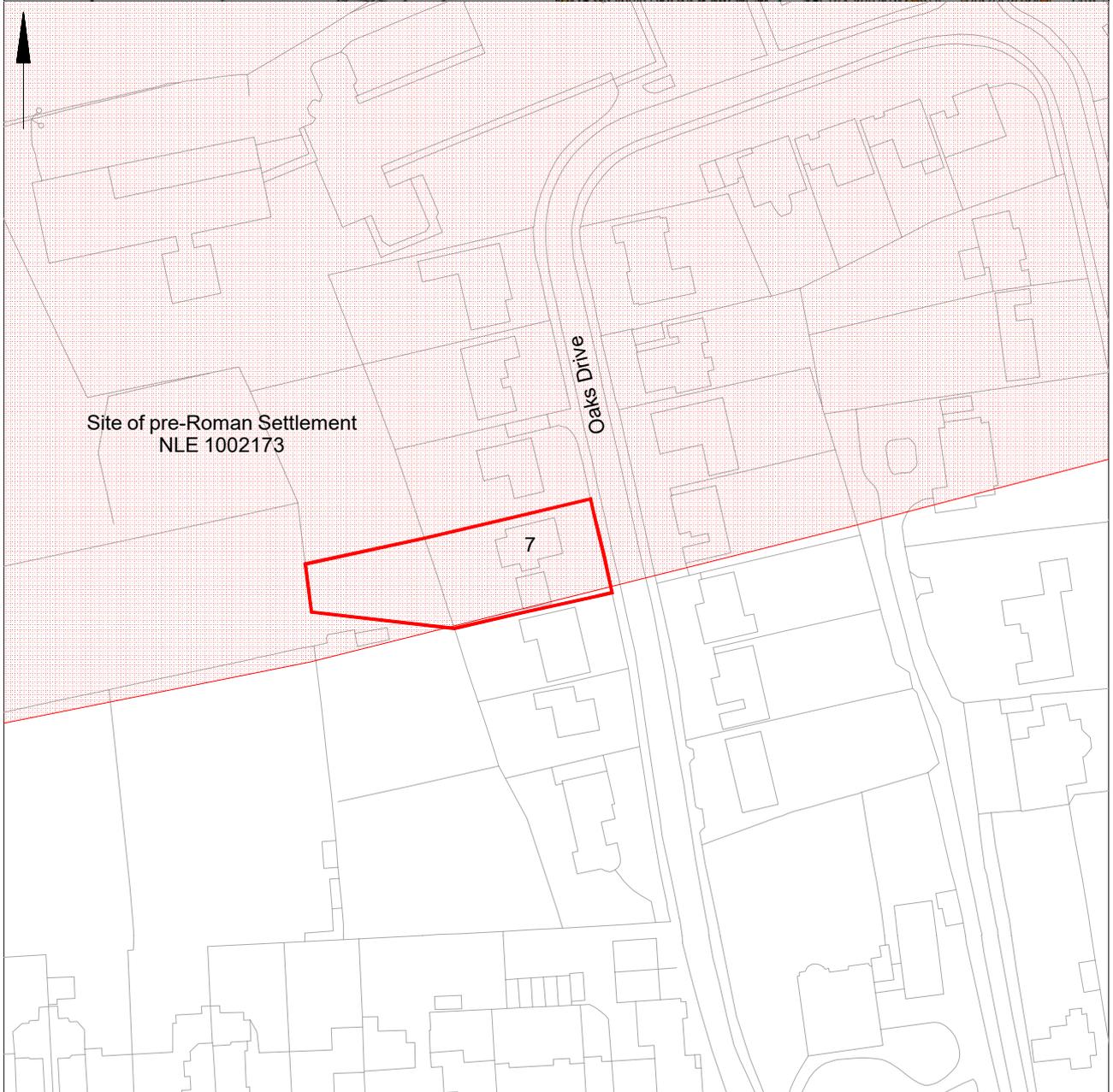
References

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

Brown, D 2011 *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, 2nd ed. compilation, transfer and curation.*

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).
CAR 6	1992	<i>Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85, Colchester Archaeological Report 6.</i> By Philip Crummy
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy and C Crossan. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2,</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2023	<i>Health & Safety Policy.</i>
CAT Report 134	2001	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road, Colchester.</i> By Kate Orr
CAT Report 157	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 26 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex: June and September 2001.</i> By K Orr
CAT Report 209	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 11 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex: September 2002.</i> By K Orr
CAT Report 291	2004	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 15 Rawstorn Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2004.</i> By K Orr
CAT Report 463	2008	<i>Archaeological watching brief at 37 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex. February 2008.</i> By S Benfield
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 H Brooks
CAT Report 1462	2019	<i>Archaeological monitoring at 24 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex</i> By P Parmenter
CAT Report 1793	2022	<i>Archaeological monitoring at 27 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex</i> By B Quinn
ClfA	2020	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2020
ClfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2022
ClfA	2023a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological monitoring and recording.</i> Published December 2023
ClfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
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 14).
Hawkes, CFC and Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum. Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, number 14</i>
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 24).
MHCLG	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Niblett, R	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum,</i> CBA Research Report 57

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Fig 1 Site location.



OASIS Summary for colchest3-523055

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-523055
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR.
Sitename	7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR
Sitecode	ECC4837
Project Identifier(s)	2024/02L
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	231990
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	12-Apr-2024 - 12-Apr-2024
Location	7 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR NGR : TL 98702 25076 LL : 51.888812603729185, 0.886048875585074 12 Fig : 598702,225076
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring of foundation strip for new rear extension. No brief for this project was issued by CCCAA. All work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2024) and Scheduled Monument Consent in response to the consultation and agreed with the HEIAM and the ECCPS. In addition to the 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). •Scheduled Monument Consent documentation (S00245467).
Project Results	Identical to the results of a watching brief on the site in 1997 (see Appendix 1) the Archaeological monitoring and recording at 7 Oaks Drive, Colchester only revealed two horizons, modern topsoil (L1) sealing natural sand (L2). When Oaks Drive was built the land was on a slope. Archaeological investigations in this road have shown evidence of gardens being built up to counter the slope. In this case the lack of subsoil indicates that when the house was constructed the modern ground level was lowered.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Scheduled Monument Casework - unRev - STANDARD Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A Wightman, C Lister, L Pooley

HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4837
Archives	

Report generated on: 06 Jun 2024, 14:18