

# **An archaeological evaluation at 41a Castle Road, Colchester**

**September 2000**

**on behalf of  
Mr and Mrs Edmunds**



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**  
12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF

*tel.:* (01206) 541051  
*tel/fax:* (01206) 500124  
*email:* [archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk](mailto:archaeologists@colchester-arch-trust.co.uk)

**CAT Report 98**

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CAT Report 98  
CAT project ref.: 00/9H  
Archive code 2000-113



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NGR: TM 0039 2554

## Background

On the 25th September, a field evaluation commissioned by Mr and Mrs Edmunds took place to investigate the archaeological implications of a proposal to install a swimming pool in the rear garden at 41a Castle Road. The site lies within the north-east corner of the Roman walled town, fronting the east side of the street between Insulas 7 and 8, which leads to the nearby Duncan's Gate. Earlier in the year, construction of the new house at 41a revealed Roman metalled yards or pathways, and also a possible clay floor. The garden adjoins Castle Park, much of which is a scheduled ancient monument.

The evaluation followed the specification contained in the site Evaluation Brief issued by Colchester Borough Council's Museums Service, observing the requirements detailed in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996b). The current development proposal is the subject of Colchester Borough Council application no F/COL/00/1264.

## Excavation

The evaluation consisted of a single trench, 2 metres square, dug by hand to a depth of 1.4m. The trench location is shown in Figure 2.

## Results

The first 40cm was composed of a dark greyish brown sandy loam garden topsoil with occasional small mortar fragments, oyster shell and charcoal flecks. Finds included fragments of clay tobacco pipe, peg-tile, and several sherds of pottery ranging in date from Roman to post-medieval.

Beneath the topsoil was a thick layer of dark yellowish brown sandy loam which extended down beyond the 1.4m limit of excavation. Within this material were occasional fragments of peg-tile, post-medieval and Roman pottery, an animal mandible, several small lumps of volcanic stone, and also fragments of Roman building material which tended to be increasingly common towards the lower part of the trench.

The uppermost 1.4m in this part of the property appears to be composed entirely of post-Roman to modern deposits containing some residual Roman pottery and building debris. No archaeologically significant features were revealed.

## **Archive**

The fieldwork archive, comprising site notes, processed finds and photographs, will be deposited with Colchester Museum for permanent storage under cover of museum archival code 2000-113.

## **Acknowledgements**

The investigation was commissioned by the site owners, Mr and Mrs Edmunds. The evaluation brief was prepared by Mr M Winter, Borough Archaeological Officer, and the excavation was carried out by Nigel Rayner of Colchester Archaeological Trust with the assistance of Mr Edmunds.

*Carl Crossan  
28th September 2000*

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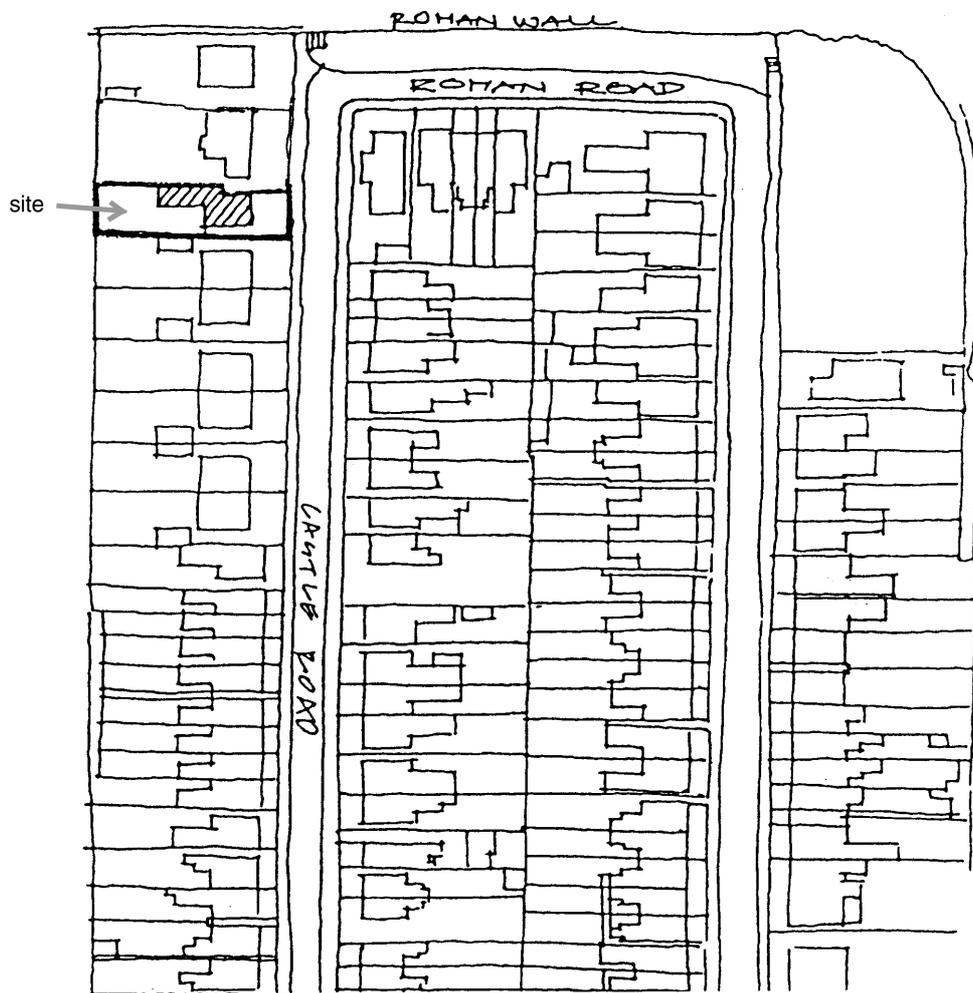
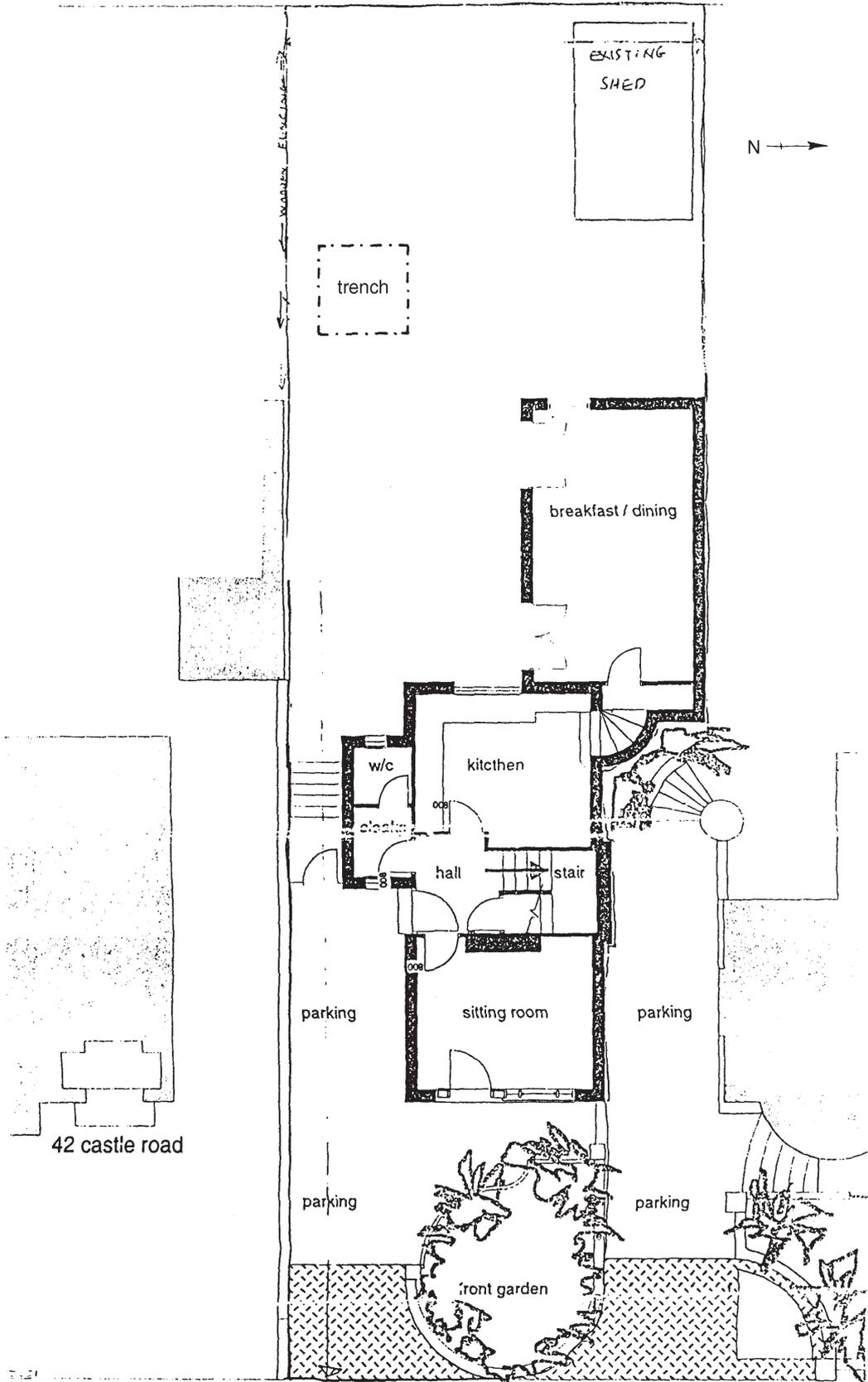


Fig 1 Site location.



ground and site plan

Fig 2 Trench location.