

An archaeological watching brief at 33 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex

August 2001

**on behalf of
Colchester Borough Council**

CAT project ref.: 01/8b
NGR: TL 9840 2511
Colchester Museum accession code: 2001.170



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CAT Report 152

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Figure

Fig 1 Site location, scale 1:150.

1 Summary

Observations were made during the digging of a small hole to test the depth of foundations to 33 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex. This property lies within the scheduled area of Sheepen. However, no archaeological finds or features were observed.

2 Introduction

- 2.1** This is the report of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 17th August 2001. The work was necessitated by the digging of a hole to assess the depth of the foundations, for the addition of one storey to the bungalow. Planning permission and Scheduled Ancient Monument consent were given with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried out.
- 2.2** The site is located to the west of Colchester town centre just off Lexden Road, on the eastern side of Sussex Road. It is centred on National Grid Reference TL 9840 2511. The property, which probably dates from the mid 20th century, stands over a metre higher than the footpath and woods to the north and is separated from them by a fence.
- 2.3** This report follows the standards set out in the Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and *Guidelines on the preparations and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996b), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1999).

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1** The site occupies an area of Roman pottery- and tile-making as is shown by the numerous kilns which have been found. In 1877 Joslin excavated five kilns to the north-west of the site (EHCR 11693). One has also been found at Kingswode Hoe School nearby.
- 3.2** Occasional Roman burials have also been found in this area. A burial in a lead coffin was found at another house, on Endsleigh Court, under the porch (EHCR 12530).
- 3.3** The site lies just within the Scheduled Ancient Monument area of Sheepen, a late Iron Age settlement and industrial centre established by the Trinovantes tribe and maintained in the years after the Roman conquest (Scheduled Ancient Monument no 46). Extensive excavations in the 1930s and smaller-scale work in 1970 and later have produced evidence of workshops engaged in a range of industrial activities including metal-working, enamelling, pottery-making and leather-working in the areas to the west of the site (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985).

4 Aims and objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features, finds or deposits revealed by the groundworks. Particular attention was paid to potential Roman inhumations and kilns.

5 Methods

- 5.1** The fieldwork was carried out by a professional archaeologist from CAT. The size of the hole excavated was 800mm x 700mm, with a depth of 1.4m.
- 5.2** A record of the position of the site excavation was made which has been reproduced on Figure 1. Soil types were noted. The spoil heap was also checked for finds.

6 Results

6.1 Two visits were made on the 17th of August. The following soil profile was observed in the hole:

Layer 1 - 0-500mm – mid brown sandy loam with modern brick, modern pot and asphalt.

Layer 2 - 500mm - 1.4m - darker brown loam.

Natural ground was not reached. There were no features showing in the sections.

Peg-tile was observed on the spoil heap but no pottery other than modern pottery was observed.

7 Discussion

7.1 There was no sign of any archaeological activity such as Roman kilns or burials.

7.2 A large amount of soil was dumped on the site before the property was built, which accounts for the difference in ground surface between the property and the footpath below and also for the depth of the topsoil.

8 Archive deposition

A copy of this report will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museum under accession code 2001.170.

9 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust is grateful to the following for their help and co-operation:

Deborah Priddy, English Heritage Inspector

Martin Winter, Archaeological Officer for Colchester Borough Council

Kate Orr, September 2001

Distribution list:

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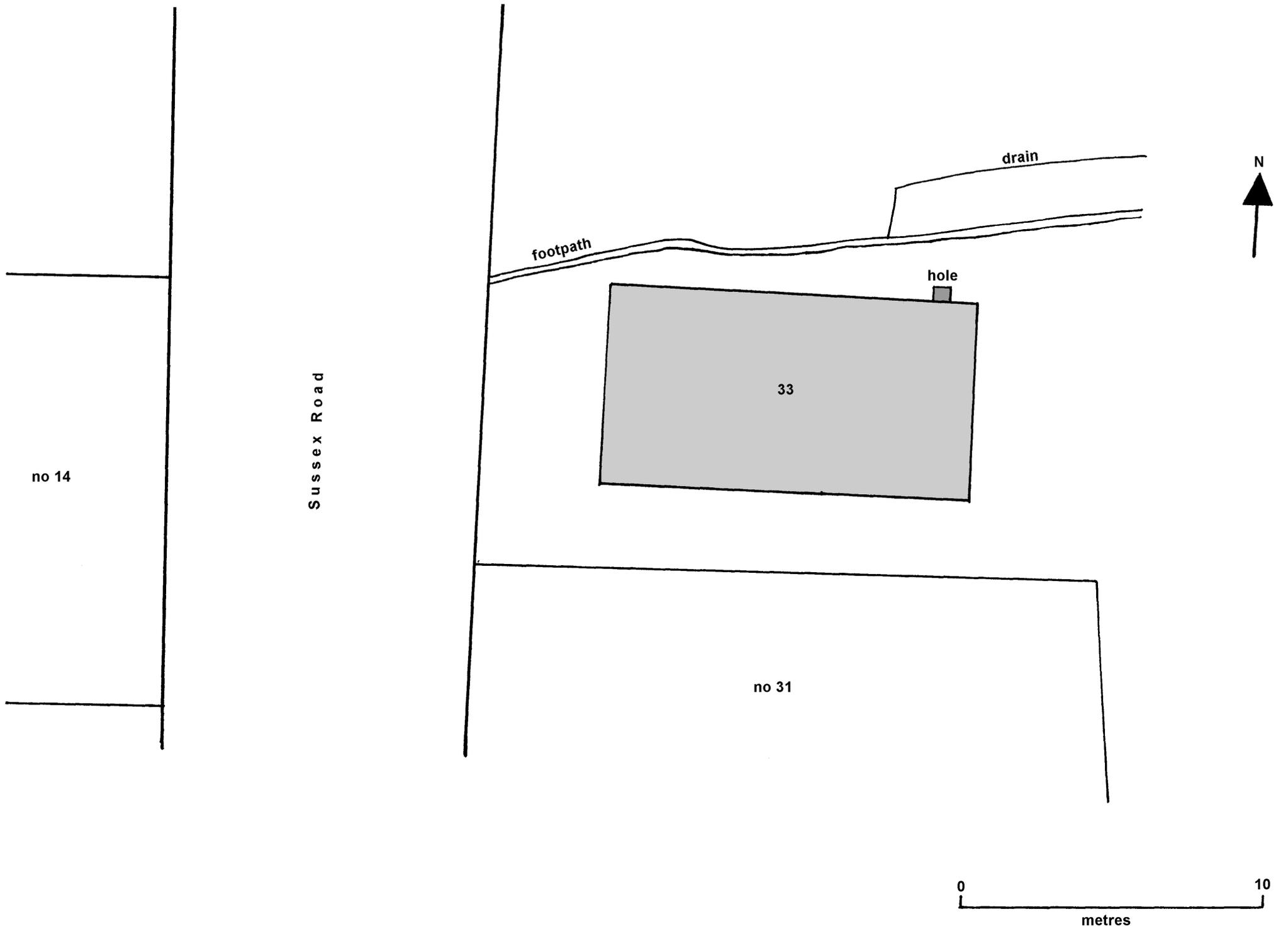


Fig 1 Site location, scale 1:150.

Essex Heritage Conservation Record

Summary sheet

Site name/address: 33 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 9840 2511	Site code: 2001.170
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: August 2001	Size of area investigated: 800mm x 700mm
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHCR nos: 12530 & 11693, 12556, 12557
Final report: CAT Report 152 and summary in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i>	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Observations were made during the digging of a small hole to test the depth of foundations to 33 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex. This property lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument area of Sheepen. However, no archaeological finds or features were observed.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: September 2001