

# **An archaeological watching brief at 80 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex**

**February 2002**

**on behalf of  
Colchester Borough Council**

CAT project ref.: 02/1f  
Colchester Museum accession code: 2002.27  
NGR: TL 9778 2507



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**CAT Report 171**  
February 2002

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EHCR summary sheet

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## **1 Summary**

*Observations were made during groundworks for an extension to the west side of 80 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.*

## **2 Introduction**

- 2.1** This is the report on an archaeological watching brief carried out at 80 Lexden Road by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 5th February 2002 on behalf of Colchester Borough Council. The work was necessitated by the construction of an extension to the west side of the property. Planning permission was given with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried out.
- 2.2** This modern property is located to the west of Colchester town centre along Lexden Road (Fig 1). It is centred on National Grid Reference TL 9778 2507.
- 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 preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1999).

## **3 Archaeological background**

The site occupies an area of archaeological activity, being within the Lexden cemetery area (Essex Heritage Conservation Record or EHCR 11713, 11714). Discoveries include an early Iron Age burial (EHCR 11806) and a Middle Bronze Age urn (EHCR 11720). A prehistoric ditch and pit with associated finds has also been recorded in the vicinity (EHCR 12668). A small quantity of pottery and two brooches dated to the Roman period were found in the back garden of 86 Lexden Road (EHCR 12532), and a number of other Roman brooches have also been found in the area (EHCR 11717).

## **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.

## **5 Methods**

- 5.1** The trenches were machine-dug by the building contractors.
- 5.2** The fieldwork was carried out by a professional archaeologist from CAT who made one visit to the site after the foundations had been dug on the 5th of February 2002. The size of the area excavated was 20m by 7m. Foundations were excavated to a width of 600mm and a depth of 1m. A further large hole - 2m wide, 2m long and 2m deep - was dug to the south of the site.
- 5.3** A record of the position of the site excavations was made (Fig 2). Soil types were noted and a section drawing was made of the layers which has been reproduced as Figure 3. The spoil was checked for artefacts.

## **6 Results**

The foundations were dug through a thick layer (Layer or L1) of dark brown silty sand topsoil (300-400mm) overlying a light brown/tan sandy silt layer (L2) to a depth of

between 500mm and 800mm varying across the site. L3 consisted of an orange sand which existed to a depth of at least 2m. A drain-pipe, its concrete lining and a line of modern bricks were recorded on the eastern side of the site. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

## **7 Discussion**

The watching brief produced negative results. Within the excavated area there was no evidence of any archaeological finds, features or activity.

## **8 Archive deposition**

A copy of this report will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museum under accession code 2002.27.

## **9 Acknowledgements**

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

Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council

## **10 References**

Essex County Council, 1990 Essex Heritage Conservation Record (formerly Sites and Monuments Record): Colchester District, 1990

*Laura Pooley, February 2002*

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### **Distribution list:**

Martin Winter, Colchester Borough Council  
Essex Heritage Conservation Record, Essex County Council



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*Date:* 21.02.02

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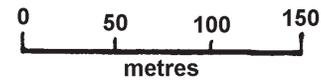
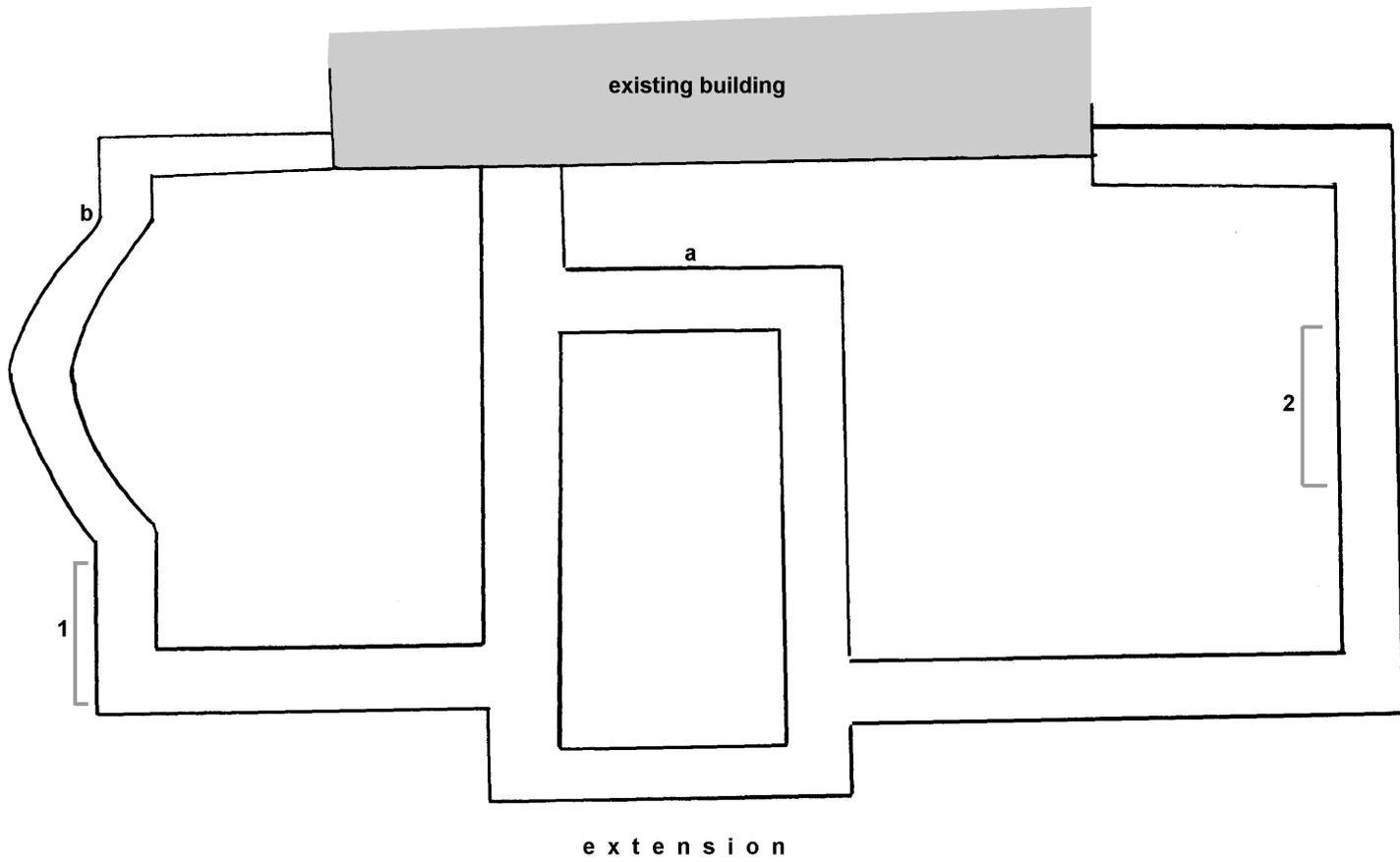
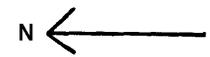
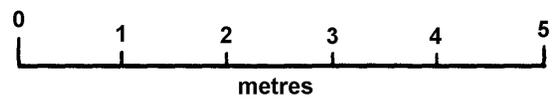


Fig 1 Site location.

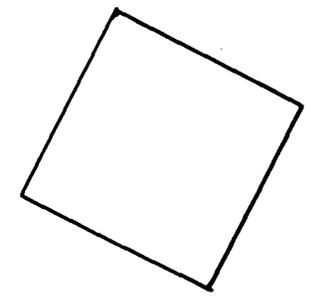


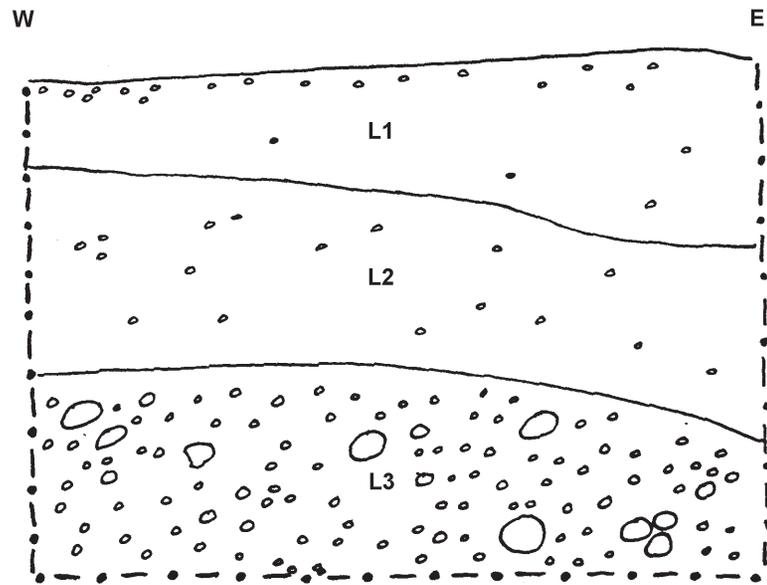
extension

Fig 2 Site plan.

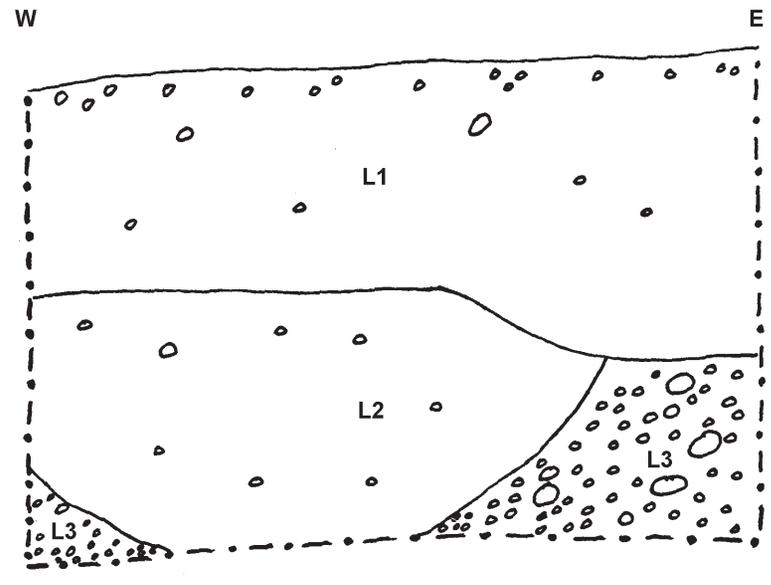


- 1-2 location of sections
- a location of concrete layer and drain-pipe
- b location of column of bricks





Section 1, facing south



Section 2, facing south

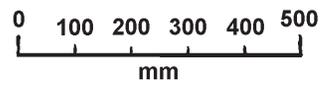


Fig 3 Section drawings.

# ESSEX HERITAGE CONSERVATION RECORD

## SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name/address:</b> 80 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester Borough
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9778 2507	<b>Site code:</b> 2002.27
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> February 2002	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 20m x 7m
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Colchester Borough Council
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHCR nos:</b> 11713, 11714, 11717, 11720, 11806, 12532, 12668
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 171 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Observations were made during groundworks for an extension to the west side of 80 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> N/A	
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> February 2002