Archaeological monitoring and recording during the installation of an interpretation panel near the north-eastern corner of the Town Wall (Land Lane), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UP

July 2016



by Laura Pooley figures by Robin Mathieson

fieldwork by Robin Mathieson

on behalf of Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council

NGR: TM 00169 25581 (centre) Planning reference: 152605 CAT project ref.: 16/06m

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.67

UAD ref: ECC3807

OASIS reference: colchest3-256004



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CAT Report 987 August 2016

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out 20m east of the north-eastern corner of the Roman Town Wall (a scheduled monument, NHLE no. 1003772), Colchester during the installation of a new interpretation panel. The hole for the panel measured 400mm long, 400mm wide, 400mm deep and was dug through modern topsoil. No significant archaeological horizons were exposed.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording near the north-eastern corner of the Roman Town Wall, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 22nd July 2016. The work was commissioned by Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council in advance of the installation of a new interpretation panel, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016)

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA **14** and **24**). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The proposed development is near the north-eastern corner of the Roman town of *Colonia Claudia Victricensis* and immediately outside the Town Wall (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1003772). This stretch of wall is the longest surviving part of the wall (UAD event no. EVT3994; Colchester Archaeological Trust Report 356).

The 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 coursed septaria and tile. 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 previous work shows that the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the

existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

A single hole was hand-dug by contractors under archaeological supervision. The hole measured 400mm long, 400mm wide and 400mm deep. It was excavated through modern topsoil. Area area in front of/around the hole, measuring approximately 1.1m long by 0.6m wide, was stripped of turf before paving slabs were laid.



Photograph 1 Hole for the interpretation panel and area strip for paving, looking W

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were recorded.

6 Discussion

Despite being located near the north-eastern corner of the Roman Town Wall, the shallow dig-depth required for the installation of the new interpretation panel meant that no significant archaeological horizons were identified.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by R Mathieson. Figures were prepared by RM and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

8 References

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

Brown, D	2007	Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation,
CAT CAT	2014 2016	compilation, transfer and curation Health & Safety Policy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording during the installation of an interpretation panel at north-
CAT Report 347	2009	east corner of Town Wall (Land Lane), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UP Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006
CBC	2016	Brief for continuous archaeological recording at installation of interpretation panel at north-east corner of Town Walls, Colchester, by J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,
O	1007	conservation and research of archaeological materials
Crummy, P Crummy, P	1997 2003	City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town 'Colchester's town wall' in The archaeology of Roman towns: studies in honour of John S Wacher, ed by P Wilson
David Gurney	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
Hawkes, C.F.C., and Hull, M.R.	1947	Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39, RRCSAL, 14
Hull, M R	1958	Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT Colchester Archaeological Trust

CBCPS Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

CBM brick/tile (ceramic building material)
ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

context specific location of finds on an archaeological site

feature (F) an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'

layer (L) distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil medieval period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII modern period from c AD 1800 to the present

natural geological deposit undisturbed by human activity

NGR National Grid Reference post-medieval from Henry VIII to *c* AD 1800

residual something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit

Roman the period from AD 43 to c AD 410

Section (abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s

UAD Urban Archaeological Database WSI Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 987)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2016.67.

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Distribution list

Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Howard Brooks Date: 17.08.2016

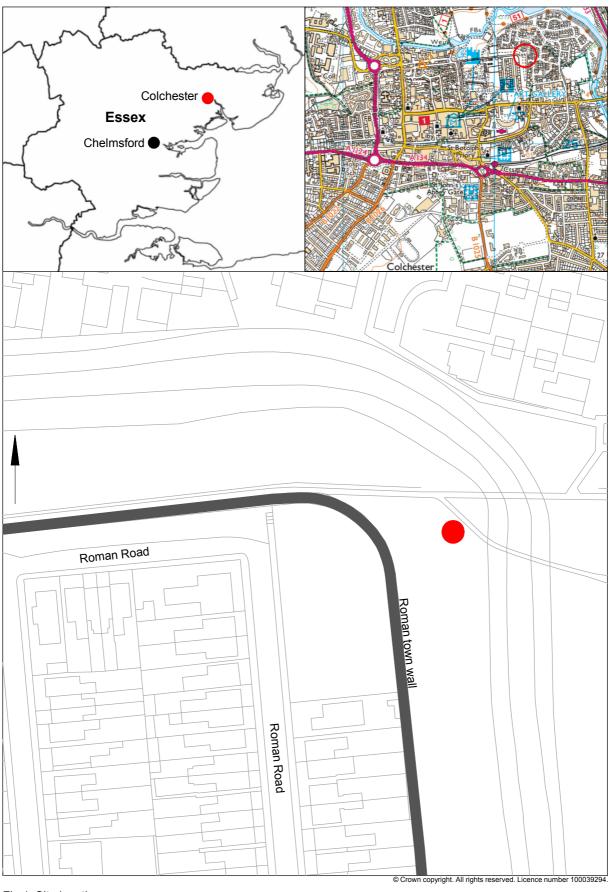


Fig 1 Site location.





Fig 2 Results.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Near north-eastern corner of the Town Wall (Land Lane), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UP							
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester						
NGR: TM 00169 25581 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/06m UAD ref: ECC3807 OASIS ref: colchest3-256004						
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust						
Date of work: 22nd June 2016	Size of area investigated: 0.16m ²						
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.67	Funding source: Borough Council						
Further seasons anticipated?	Related UAD/SMR number:						
Final report: CAT Report 987							
Periods represented: modern							
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out 20m east of the northeastern corner of the Roman Town Wall (a scheduled monument, NHLE no. 1003772), Colchester during the installation of a new interpretation panel. The hole for the panel measured 400mm long, 400mm wide, 400mm deep and was dug through modern topsoil. No significant archaeological horizons were exposed.							
Previous summaries/reports: None							
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper							
Keywords: -	Significance: -						
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: August 2016						

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording during the installation of an interpretation panel on the north-east corner of the Town Wall (Land Lane), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UP

NGR: TM 00169 25581 (centre)

Planning reference: 152605

Client: Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc ECC Project code: ECC3807 CAT Project code: 16/06m OASIS ref.: colchest3-256004

Historic England scheduled monument consent ref.: S00128447

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 27.06.2016



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Site location and description

The interpretation panel will be located on the north-east corner of the Roman Town Wall to the south of Leciester Close (Fig 1). This area along the eastern side of the Town Wall is known locally as Land Lane. Site centre is TM 00169 25581.

Proposed work

Installation of an interpretation panel at Land Lane, on the NE corner of the Roman town walls.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background derives from the CBCAA brief with data from the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

The proposed development is on the north-east corner of the Roman town of *Colonia Claudia Victricensis* and immediately outside the Town Wall (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1003772). This stretch of wall is the longest surviving part of the wall (UAD event no. EVT3994; Colchester Archaeological Trust Report 356).

The 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 coursed septaria and tile. 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 previous work shows that the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in November 2015 (application No. 152605) proposing the installation of a new interpretation panel.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / UAD 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* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

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 2014a, b)

- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Briefs issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2016).

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 CBCAA 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 work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

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' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

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) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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 proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

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

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

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. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA 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.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (Sylvanus)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black Roman glass: Hilary Cool Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH 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 CBCAA.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA 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* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- 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).
- · 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 CBCAA.

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

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough 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. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full *copy* of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

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.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

Monitoring

CBCAA 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 CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out. CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

Brown, D	2007	Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation,
		transfer and curation
CAT	2014	Health & Safety Policy

CBC	2016	Brief for continuous archaeological recording at Installation of interpretation panel at North-east corner of Town Walls, Colchester
ClfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
David	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian
Gurney		Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

L Pooley



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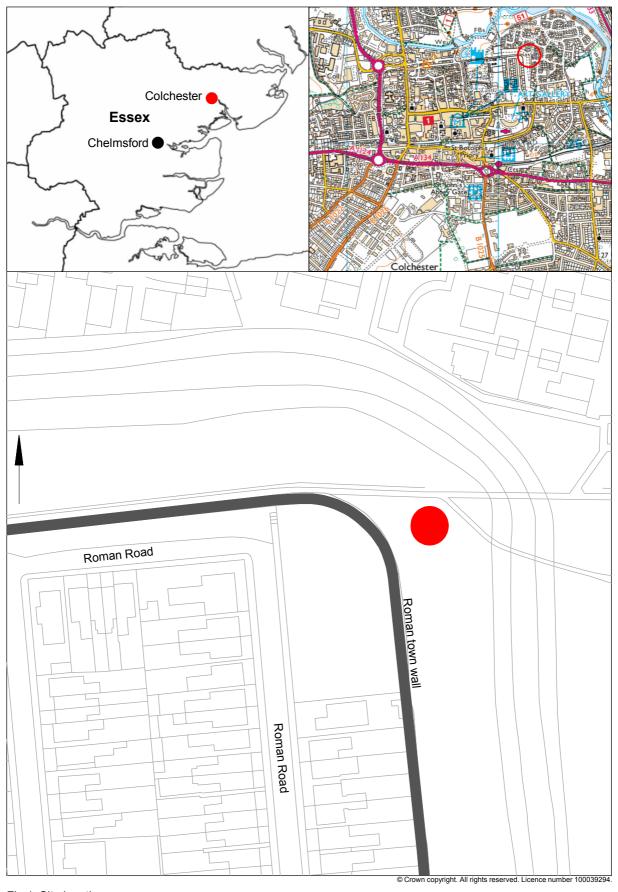


Fig 1 Site location.



OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-256004

Project details

Project name Archaeological monitoring and recording near the north-eastern corner of the Roman

Town Wall, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UP

Short description of the project

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out 20m east of the north-eastern corner of the Roman Town Wall (a scheduled monument, NHLE no. 1003772), Colchester

during the installation of a new interpretation panel. The hole for the panel measured 400mm long, 400mm wide, 400mm deep and was dug through modern topsoil. No

significant archaeological horizons were exposed.

Project dates Start: 22-07-2016 End: 22-07-2016

Previous/future

work

codes

No / Not known

Any associated project reference

16/06m - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes

152605 - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference codes

ECC3807 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes

COLEM: 2016.67 - Museum accession ID

Type of project

Recording project

Site status

Scheduled Monument (SM)

Current Land use

Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument

Monument type

TOWN WALL Roman

Significant Finds

N/A None

Investigation type

"Watching Brief"

Prompt

Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Near north-eastern corner of the Roman Town

Wall (Land Lane)

Postcode CO1 1UP

Study area 0.16 Square metres

Site coordinates TM 00169 25581 51.892253622452 0.909372991869 51 53 32 N 000 54 33 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Colchester Archaeological Trust

Organisation

Project brief originator

CBC Archaeological Officer

Project design originator

Laura Pooley

Project

director/manager

Chris Lister

D : :

Project supervisor Robin Mathieson

Type of Borough Council

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive recipient

Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID

COLEM: 2016,67

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient

Colchester Museum

recipient

Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.67

Paper Media available

"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Archaeological monitoring and recording during the installation of an interpretation panel

near the north-eastern corner of the Town Wall (Land Lane), Colchester, Essex, CO1

1UP: July 2016

Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.

Other

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