

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 43 Constantine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DX

November 2017



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commissioned by Ryan Mills

NGR: TL 98725 24307 (centre)

Planning reference: 171958

CAT project ref.: 17/10e

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2017.138

CHER ref: ECC4092

OASIS reference: colchest3-298113



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CAT Report 1205
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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Methodology	2
6	Results	2
7	Finds	4
8	Conclusion	4
9	Acknowledgements	4
10	References	4
11	Abbreviations and glossary	5
12	Contents of archive	5
13	Archive deposition	6

Figures after p7

Appendix 1 CAT WSI

Appendix 2 OASIS Summary

List of photographs and figures

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1	Excavation of foundation trench, looking NNW	2
Photograph 2	Removal of old services, looking SW	3
Photograph 3	Excavation of soakaway, looking SW	4

Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Results

Fig 3 Representative sections

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 43 Constantine Road in advance of the construction of a single-storey side and rear extension. Despite being located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum and an area of known Roman burials, there were no significant archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at 43 Constantine Road, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out from the 14th November 2017 to the 8th January 2018. The work was commissioned and funded by Ryan Mills. The development involves the construction of a new single-storey side and rear extension and associated groundworks. Archaeological work was undertaken by the 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 Monitoring and Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was carried out 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 briefs* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. Each dyke consisted of a V-shaped ditch with a simple bank behind, constructed so that the inner face of the ditch continued as the outer face of the bank (Crummy 1997, 14). Moat Farm Dyke (EHER 11627) is located 950m west (CAR 11, 34), with Heath Farm Dyke (EHER 11626) and Prettygate Dyke (EHER 11639) about 1km west.

The site is also situated to the south-west of the Roman walled town, and numerous Roman cemeteries that cluster around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. To the northeast, several Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 along with the famous 'Colchester Sphinx' when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (CAR 9, 258). A number of burials have been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5), with eighteen Roman inhumation burials excavated in 1971, on the western side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (CAR 9, 261). Also to the northeast, over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in

the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the police station on Butt Road (CAR 9, 4-202). To the east/northeast, cemetery sites are known from excavations at Abbey Field (EHER 12384) and on land both sides of Circular Road North (Areas J1, C2, H and others; CAT Reports 412 and forthcoming). A cremation burial was found on the corner of Maldon and Constantine Roads (EHER 13179) with graves also being found at the south end of Constantine Walk (EHER 11860).

A substantial Roman temple complex (Temple 6) was also partly excavated in 1947 (EHER 13128), 520m WNW of the site in the playing fields of the Colchester Royal Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of the countryside (Crummy 1997, 107).

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that existed on the site, and to identify the need for any further archaeological work.

5 Methodology

All groundworks were carried out by the contractors under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

7 Results (Figs 2-3)

The whole of the extension area (14.6m²) was reduced by c 0.35m from modern ground level. Of this, 13.6m of foundation trenches were excavated. The foundations measured 0.5m wide by 0.7m deep. They were excavated through 0.2m modern topsoil (L1, dark brown loam, which included modern debris). 0.5m subsoil (L2, mid-dark brown silt) onto post-glacial natural (L3, light orange sand and gravels).



Photograph 1 Excavation of foundation trench, looking NNW.

A length of old drain pipe was also excavated and removed to the side of the house (Photograph 2). Excavations took place through a modern backfill of dark yellowy-brown sandy-loam (L1).



Photograph 2 Removal of old services, looking SW.

A soakaway measuring 1.2m² was added 5.6m to the rear of the new extension. It was dug to a depth of 1.5m through 0.36m of modern topsoil and pond debris (L1), 0.62m of subsoil (L2), containing a fragment of post-medieval-modern brick (not retained), and 0.51m of natural sands and gravels (L3).



Photograph 3 Excavation of soakaway, looking SW.

8 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

9 Conclusion

Monitoring and recording was undertaken at 43 Constantine Road due to the proximity of the site to the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum and major Roman burial areas. Despite the archaeological potential, no significant archaeological remains were found.

10 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Ryan Mills for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by M Baister, S Carter, B Holloway and N Rayner. Figures were prepared by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

11 References

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

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|----------|------|--|
| Brown, D | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| 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 & C Crossan |

CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by Hawkes and Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 43 Constantine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DX.</i>
CAT Report 412	2011	<i>Archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.</i>
CAT Report 1033	forthcoming	<i>Archaeological excavations on Area H of the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex (working title)</i>
CBCPS	2017	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 43 Constantine Road, Colchester, CO3 3DX</i> , by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching briefs</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Crummy, P	2001	<i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hawkes, C.F.C., and Hull, M.R.	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , RRCSAL, 14
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, 20
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)

12 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 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
ws	written scheme of investigation

13 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1205)

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

14 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 2017.138

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Distribution list

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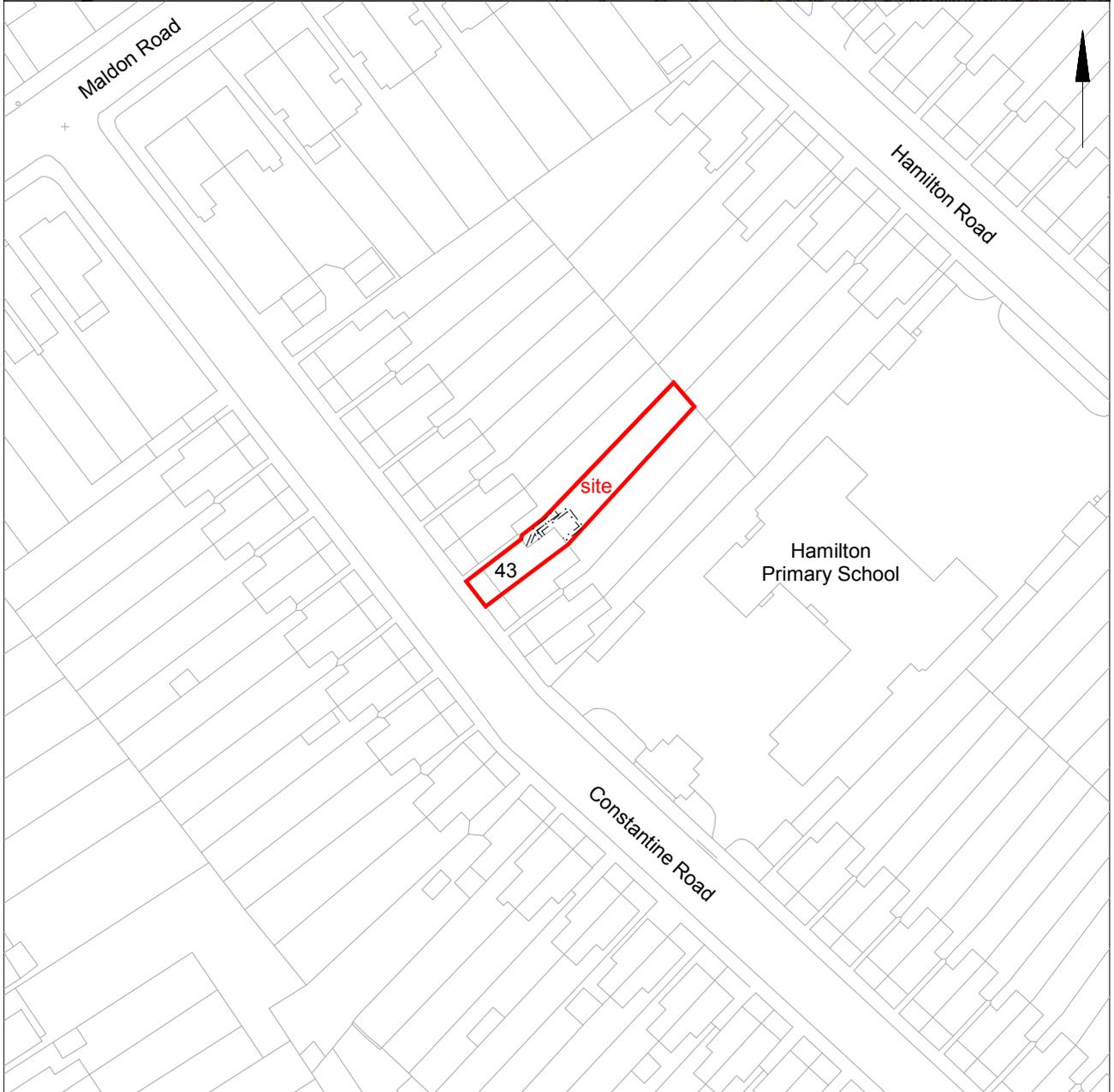
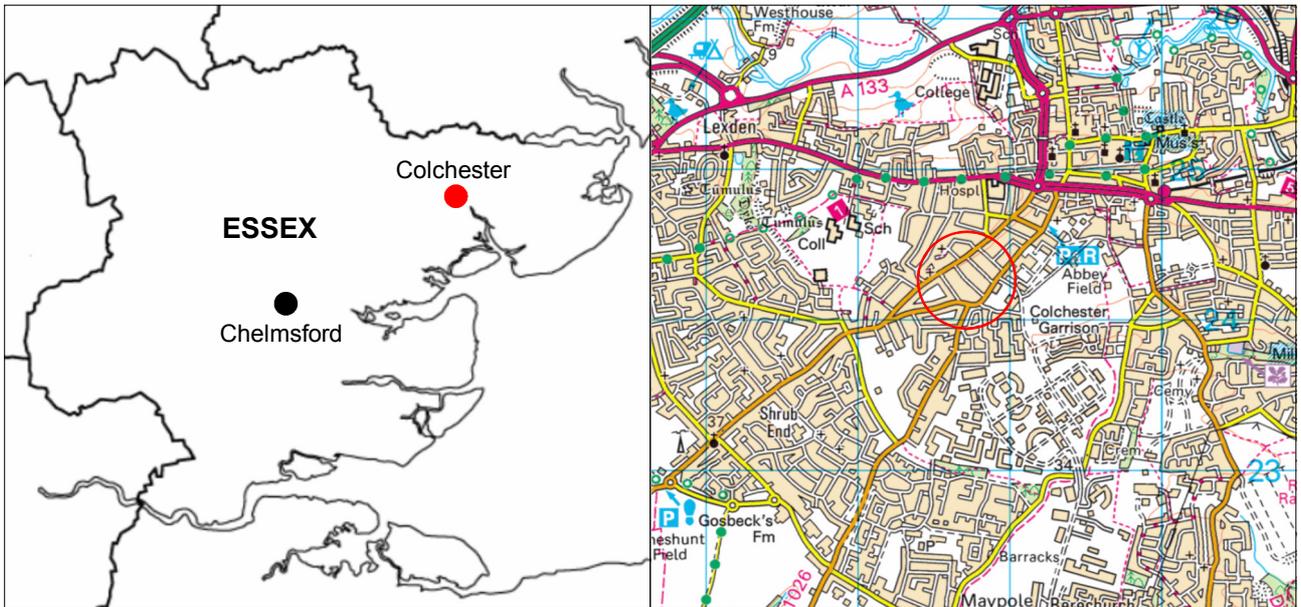
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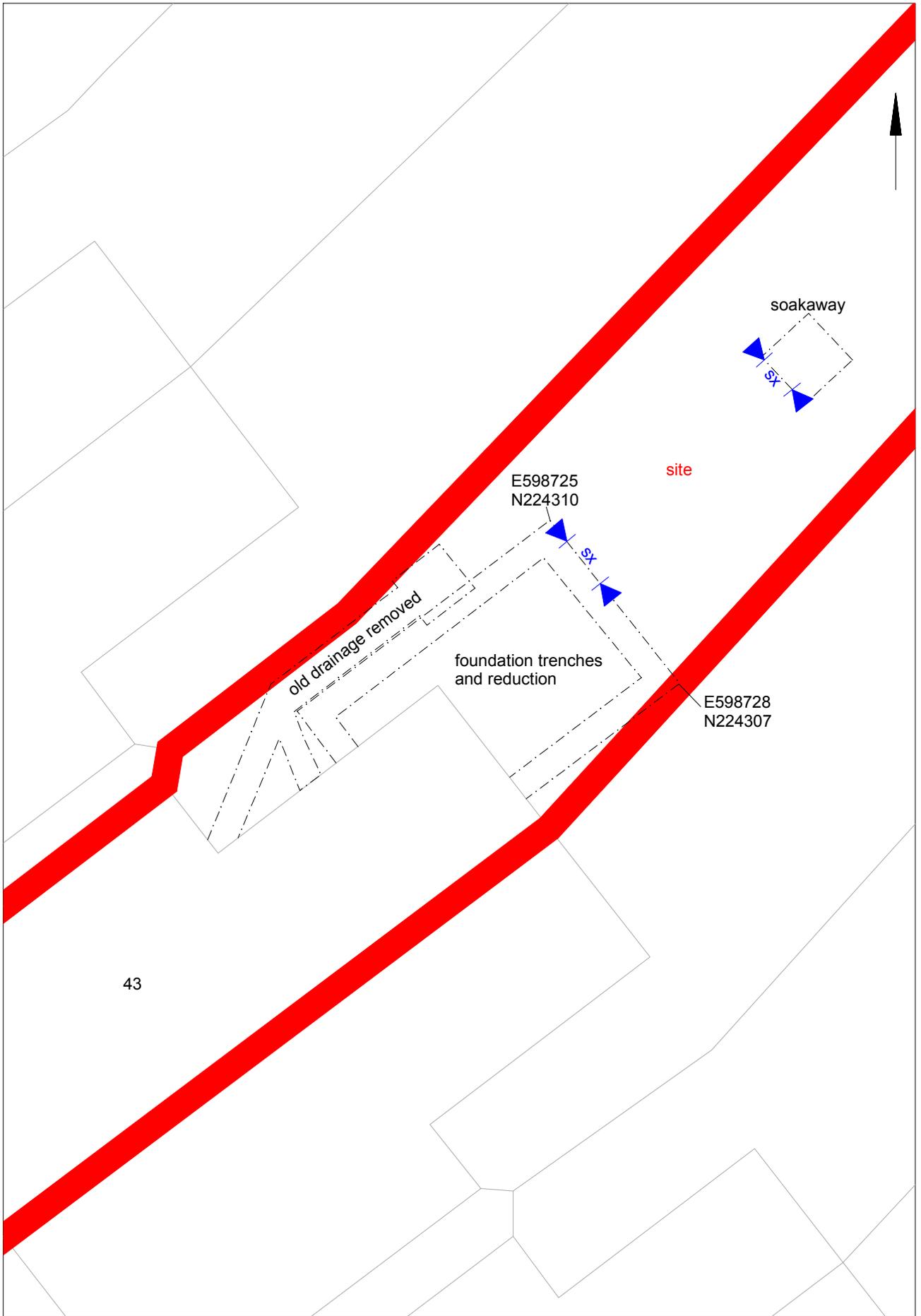
Date: 22.01.2018



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

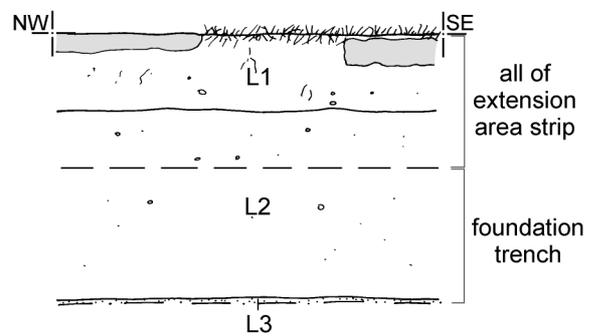


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Fig 2 Results.



foundation trench



- sand
- small stones
- ## charcoal flecks
- concrete
- ▨ modern brick
- √ roots

soakaway

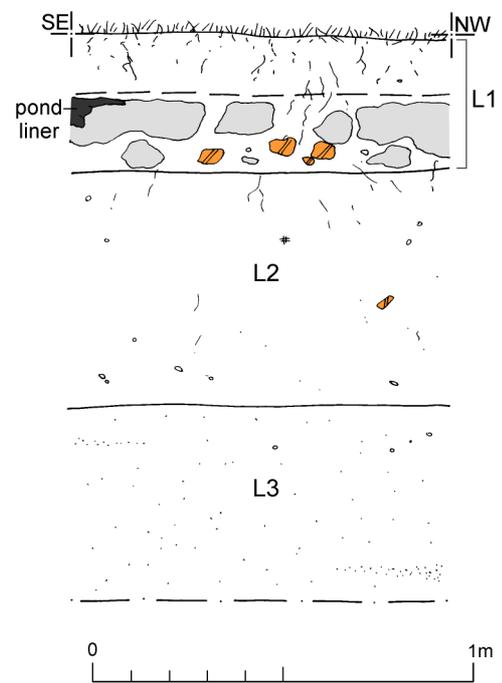


Fig 3 Representative trench sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 43 Constantine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DX	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98725 24307 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/10e CHER ref: ECC4092 OASIS ref: colchest3-298113
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 14th November 2017-8th January 2018	Size of area investigated: 14.6m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.138	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/EHER/SMR number: EHER 11627, 11626, 11639, 12384, 13179
Final report: CAT Report 1205	
Periods represented: Modern (20th century)	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 43 Constantine Road in advance of the construction of a single-storey side and rear extension. Despite being location within the Late Iron Age <i>oppidum</i> of Camulodunum and an area of known Roman burials, there were no significant archaeological remains.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Emma Holloway	Date of summary: January 2018