Archaeological monitoring at 34 London Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4DE

May 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks figures by Laura Pooley and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Robin Mathieson

Commissioned by Stephen Gillett

NGR: TL 96593 25077 (centre) Planning reference: 180282 CAT project ref.: 18/04m Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2018.41 CHER ref: ECC4204 OASIS reference: colchest3-315645



Colchester Archaeological Trust Roman Circus House Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785 email: lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1271 May 2018

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 34 London Road during the erection of a single-storey rear conservatory extension. No trace of a Roman road projected to run through the site was encountered during the evaluation but, as groundworks did not encounter natural, the road may have been protected beneath the subsoil.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at 34 London Road, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out on the 22nd May 2018. The work was commissioned by Stephen Gillett in advance of the erection of a single-storey rear conservatory extension, 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 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 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 briefs* (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 Colchester Historic Environment Record, accessed via the Colchester Heritage Network (https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/).

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. The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. *Camulodunum* was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. These have been described fully in *Colchester Archaeological Report* **11** (*CAR* **11**): *Camulodunum* 2, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995). Specifically, the Triple Dyke (CHER MCC7041) and Gryme's Dyke north (MCC7464) are located approximately 180m and 577m (respectively) west of the development site.

The development site also lies on Stane Street, the Roman road from Colchester to Coggeshall (MCC7518), which roughly follows the line of Lexden Road/London Road. A second Roman road is projected to run through the development site (MCC1928) (see Fig 1). However, two possible lines of the road are projected (Hull 1958, 273-4; *CAR* **11**, fig 6.1) heading west from the Grammar School, and archaeological investigations

along the route projected to pass through 34 London Road have not identified any evidence for the existence of the road, such as metalling and/or roadside ditches (15 West Lodge Road, CAT Report 318; 4 Park Road, CAT Report 1199).

Cropmarks 430m to the NW consist of a rectilinear enclosure (MCC7708); finds from the immediate area include a Palaeolithic axe (MCC8158) and early Roman pit (MCC8475); and there are a number of 15th-18th/19th century listed buildings in the vicinity (MCC3429, MCC3430, MCC3440, MCC3441).

4 **Results** (Figs 2-3)

During 22nd May 2018, a CAT archaeologist supervised the excavation of approximately 12.3m of foundation trenching to the rear of the house. The trench measured 0.6-0.7m wide by 0.8m deep.

Once the paving slabs and concrete sub-base had been removed (L1, c 0.11-0.13m thick), the foundation trench was excavated through modern topsoil (L2, c 0.29-0.32m thick, soft, moist dark brown silty-loam) and subsoil (L3, soft, moist medium brown silty-sand).

The eastern N-S length of the trenching was cut along its entire length by a modern pipe.



No significant archaeological features were encountered.

Photograph 1 The site of the extension – looking north-west

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were retrieved.

6 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring at 34 London Road was primarily undertaken to investigate a Roman road which is projected to run through the development site. No trace of the road was found, however.

This failure to detect the road might be the outcome of problems encountered in previous archaeological investigations of the nearby Colchester-Gosbecks Roman road. This was sectioned in 1995, and was found to consist of two pairs of parallel ditches defining walkways *c* 2m in width and a central carriageway *c* 7m in width (CAT Report 127). Excavations of this road conducted in 1989 found, however, that both the parallel ditches and the metalling of the road were difficult to detect (*CAR* **11**, 121). In 2017 further investigations at the former Alderman Blaxill School failed to trace any metalling, and the existence of the road at this site could only be speculated to on the basis of the features which possibly represented one set of the parallel ditches flanking the thoroughfare, although heavily truncated (CAT Report 1167). Additionally, archaeological monitoring undertaken at 50 Cambridge Road in 2018 did not uncover any evidence of the road (CAT Report 1228).

At this site, groundworks occurred in the centre of the projected course of the Roman road, and so could not encounter the parallel ditches which, in the absence of metalling, have been taken to indicate the presence of the Colchester-Gosbecks road. Furthermore, groundworks did not penetrate as far as the natural. It cannot therefore be concluded that the road does not run beneath the property.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Stephen Gillett for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by R Mathieson. Figures were prepared by Laura Pooley and S Carter. 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, compilation, transfer and curation
CAR 11	1995	Colchester Archaeological Report 11 : Camulodunum II, by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2014	Health & Safety Policy
CAT	2018	Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 34 London Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4DE
CAT Report 127	2008	Excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex, 1995-1996
CAT Report 318	2005	An archaeological evaluation, watching brief and limited excavation at 15 West Lodge Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2004- September 2005
CAT Report 1167	2017	Archaeological evaluation at Alderman Blaxill County Secondary School, Paxman Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DQ: September 2017
CAT Report 1199	2017	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 4 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL: November 2017
CAT Report 1228	2018	Archaeological monitoring at 50 Cambridge Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NR: January-February 2018
CBCAA	2018	Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 34 London Road, Colchester, CO3 4DE by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives

DCLG English	2012 2006	National Planning Policy Framework Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment
Heritage		(MoRPHE)
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hull, M R	1958	Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	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 <i>c</i> 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_
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
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 1271) 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 2018.41.

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Distribution list

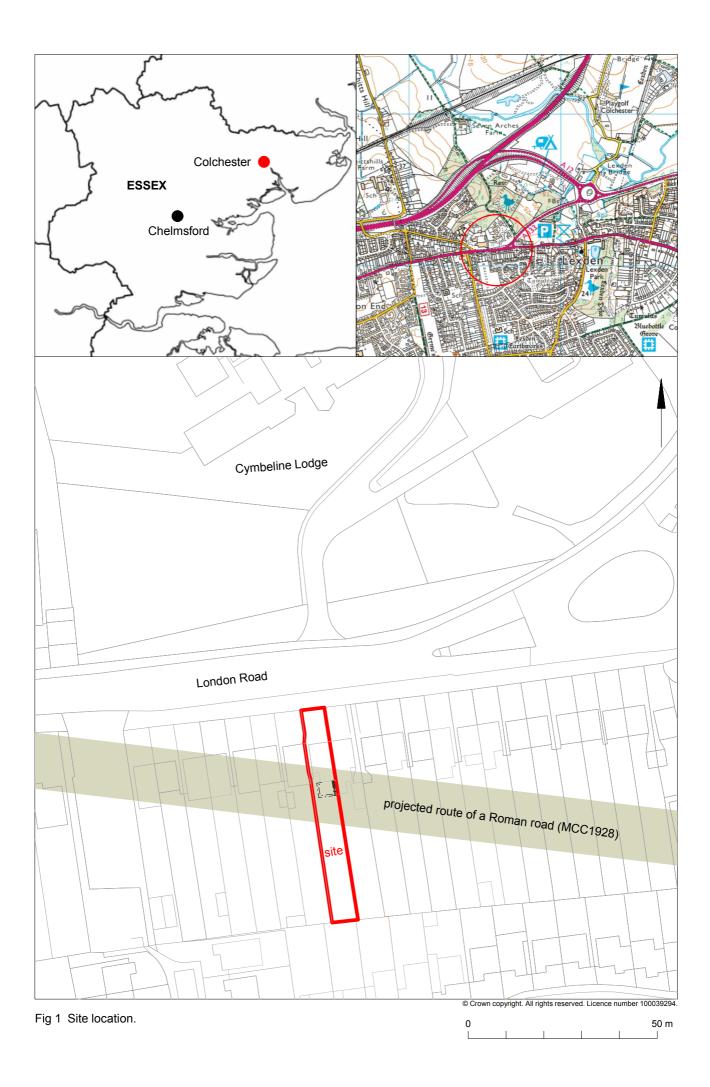
Stephen Gillett Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust Roman Circus House Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785 email: <u>lp@catuk.org</u>

Checked by: Philip Crummy Date: 23.05.2018



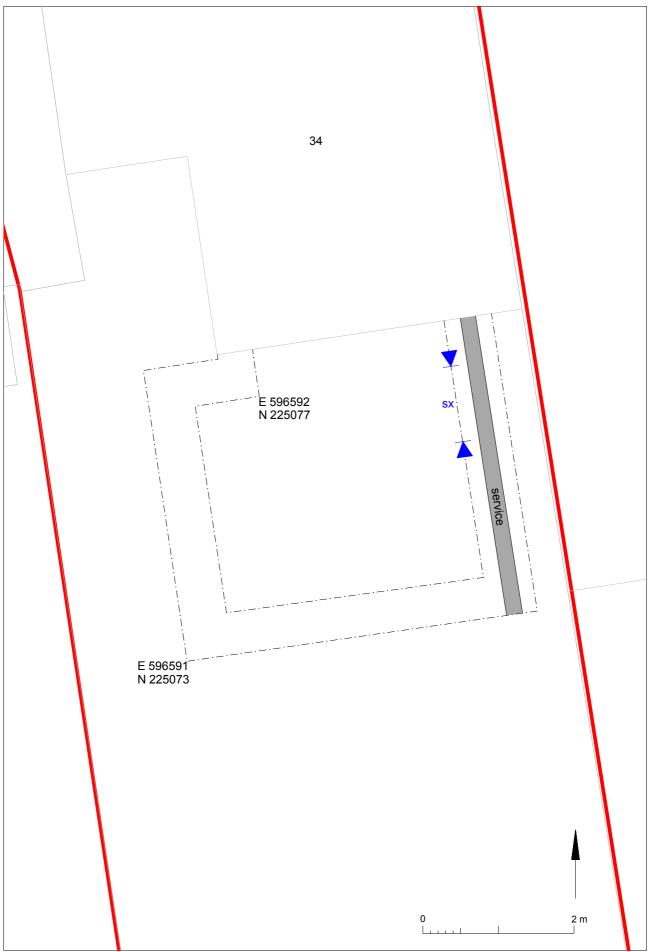


Fig 2 Results

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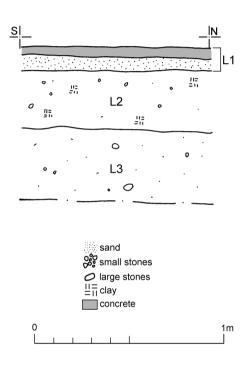


Fig 3 Representative section

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Parish: Colchester District: Colchester NGR: TL 96593 25077 (centre) Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/04m CHER ref: ECC4204 OASIS ref: colchest3-315645 Type of work: Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust Monitoring Size of area investigated: 0.04 ha Date of work: Size of area investigated: 0.04 ha Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.41 Further seasons anticipated? Not known Related CHER/SMR number: Final report: CAT Report 1271 Periods represented: - Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 34 London Road during	Address: 34 London Road, Cold	chester, Essex, CO3 4DE
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the erection of a single-storey rear conservatory extension. No trace of a Roman road projected to run through the site was encountered during the evaluation but, a groundworks did not encounter natural, the road may have been protected beneath the subsoil.		
Previous summaries/reports: None		
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: - Significance: -	Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Date of summary:	Author of summary:	Date of summary:
Dr Elliott Hicks May 2018		

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 34 London Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4DE

NGR: TL 96593 25077 (centre)

Planning reference: 180282

Client: Stephen Gillett

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc CHER number: tbc CAT project code: 18/04m OASIS project id: colchest3-315645

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 27.4.2018



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785 *email:* <u>lp@catuk.org</u>

Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 3.2km west of Colchester town centre at 34 London Road (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 96593 25077.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a single-storey rear conservatory extension.

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, accessed via the Colchester Heritage Network (<u>https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/</u>).

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. The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. *Camulodunum* was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Colchester Archaeological Report* **11** (*CAR* **11**): *Camulodunum* 2, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995). Specifically, the Triple Dyke (CHER MCC7041) and Grimes Dyke north (MCC7464) are located approximately 180m and 577m (respectively) west of the development site.

The development site also lies on Stane Street, the Roman road from Colchester to Coggeshall (MCC7518), which roughly follows the line of Lexden Road/London Road. A second Roman road is projected to run through the development site (MCC1928) (see Fig 1). However, two possible lines of the road are projected (Hull 1958, 273-4; *CAR* **11**, fig 6.1) heading west from the Grammar School, and archaeological investigations along the route projected to pass through 34 London Road have not identified any evidence for the existence of the road, such as metalling and/or roadside ditches (15 West Lodge Road, CAT Report 318; 4 Park Road, CAT Report 1199).

Cropmarks 430m to the NW consist of a rectilinear enclosure (MCC7708); finds from the immediate area include a Palaeolithic axe (MCC8158) and early Roman pit (MCC8475); and there are a number of 15th-18th/19th century listed buildings in the vicinity (MCC3429, MCC3430, MCC3440, MCC3441).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2018 (application no. 180282) proposing the erection of a single-storey rear conservatory extension.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was 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 2018).

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that will be damaged or destroyed by any development (including services and landscaping) permitted by the current planning consent.

The method and form the development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief, and this wsi, are based.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief, and this wsi, are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

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 Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2018)

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), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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.

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 will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Processing will be carried out by trained CAT staff with analysis and reporting done by VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG 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. As the requirement for work is for full excavation any human remains encountered on the site will be subject to the following criteria: 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 Ministry 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:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

<u>flints</u>: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

<u>animal bones (large groups) and human remains</u>: Julie Curl (Sylvanus) <u>environmental processing and reporting</u>: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray <u>conservation</u> of finds: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) /

Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include: <u>Roman brick/tile</u>: Ernest Black <u>Roman glass</u>: Hilary Cool <u>Prehistoric pottery</u>: Paul Sealey <u>Other</u>: 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:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the excavation/monitoring areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- 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

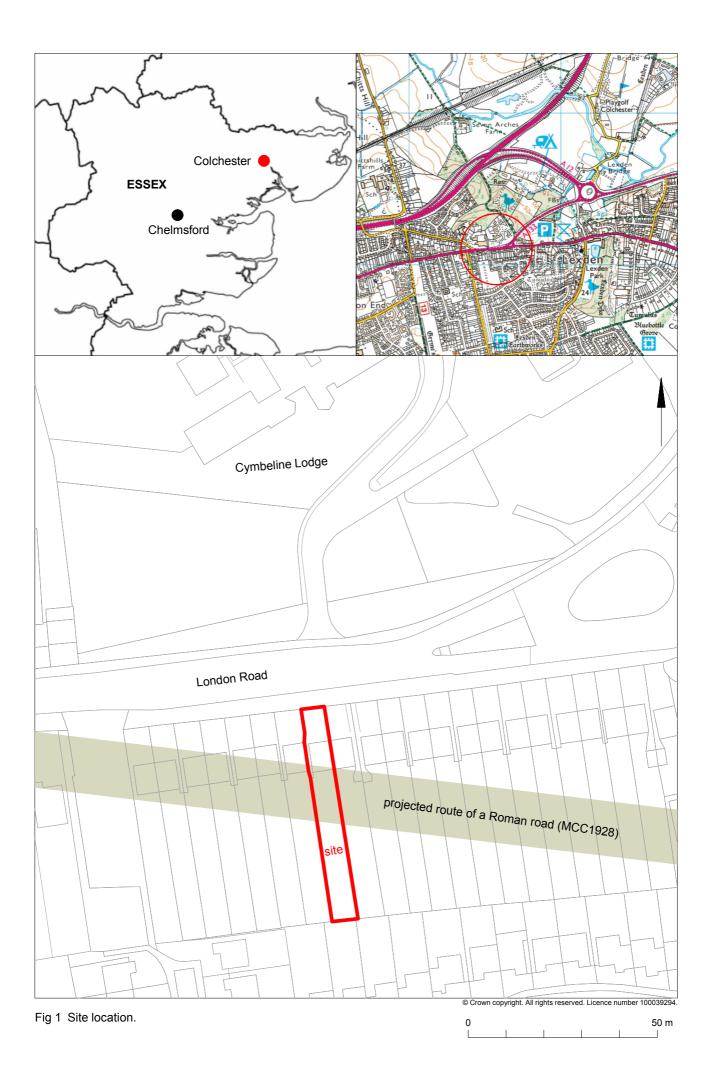
Brown, D	2007	Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation
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Hull, M R	1958	Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20
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L Pooley



Colchester Archaeological Trust Roman Circus House Roman Circus Walk Colchester Essex CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785 email: <u>lp@catuk.org</u>



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OASIS ID: colchest3-315645

Project details

Project name Archaeological monitoring and recording at 34 London Road, Colchester, CO3 4DE Short description Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 34 London Road during the erection of a single-storey rear conservatory extension. No trace of a Roman road projected to run through the site was encountered during the evaluation but, as groundworks did not encounter natural, the road may have been protected beneath the subsoil. of the project Start: 22-05-2018 End: 22-05-2018 Project dates Previous/future No / Not known work Any associated 18/04m - Contracting Unit No. project reference codes Any associated 180282 - Planning Application No. project reference codes Any associated ECC4204 - HER event no. project reference codes Any associated COLEM 2018.41 - Museum accession ID project reference codes Type of project Recording project Site status None Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential N/A None Monument type Significant Finds N/A None Investigation type ""Watching Brief"" Planning condition Prompt

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 34 London Road
Postcode	CO3 4DE
Study area	0.04 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 96593 25077 51.889006146035 0.857180397759 51 53 20 N 000 51 25 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

No
Colchester Museum
COLEM 2018.41
"Images raster / digital photography"
Colchester Museum

Paper Media available

"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at 34 London Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4DE: May 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1271
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 Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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