



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

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**CAT Report 1739**

**Archaeological monitoring at  
42 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex,  
CO1 1UN: October 2021**

**Planning reference:** 211140  
(resubmission of 202818)

**CHER Event no.:** ECC4667

**OASIS ref.:** colchest3-426940

**Grid Reference:** TM 00040 25534 (centre)

**Number of site visits:** 3

**Dates of visits:**

19th, 21st & 26th October 2021

**Nature of the work:** Observation of groundworks for a single-storey extension.

**Reason for condition:** The development site is located adjacent to a possible Roman Mithraeum/waterworks (MCC1518), and is nearby to Colchester Castle Park (Scheduled Ancient Monument 1002217). Previous CAT excavations in the vicinity have resulted in many possible Roman, medieval and post-medieval features.

**% of total seen:** 100% of the groundworks.

**Results:** The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services in July 2021.

A total of 12m of foundation trenching was mechanically excavated to a depth of 1.3m, was 0.50m wide and a maximum of 1.3m deep. Turfed modern topsoil (L1, c 0.46m thick, soft dry/moist medium-dark brown loam) was seen on top of a make-up layer (L2, c 0.45m thick, friable dry/moist medium brown sandy silt). Under L2 was a layer of similar made ground (L3, c 0.31m thick, firm dry light/medium brown sandy silt with oyster flecks) with natural sands underneath (L4, from c 1.2m deep, dry medium yellow/orange clayey sand). L2 and L3 may be contemporary.



**Photograph 1:** Excavation of extension footings, looking east.

A soakaway measuring 1.9m<sup>2</sup> was mechanically excavated to c 1.4m. Topsoil (L1, c 0.4m thick) sealed L2 (c 0.6m), which was on top of L3 (at least 0.45m thick). Natural (L4) was not reached in the soakaway.



**Photograph 2:** Excavation of soakaway, looking south-west.

No. 24 Castle Road stands in the north-east corner of the walled town. This particular part of Roman Colchester has seen no modern archaeological explorations because of the presence here of a substantial residential development dating back to the mid 19th century. Many of the Victorian houses here are protected and ground disturbances in the area have been very minimal over the years. However, in the Roman period, the area was probably covered with houses and gridded streets just as elsewhere in the Roman town as witness the discovery in the early 1850s of a plain Roman tessellated pavement in the vicinity of No. 24.

Unfortunately no archaeological material was found during monitoring of excavations on this occasion.

**Recorded by:** Megan Seehra ([ms@catuk.org](mailto:ms@catuk.org))

**Date:** 23/11/2021

**Checked by:** Philip Crummy ([pc@catuk.org](mailto:pc@catuk.org))

**Date:** 25/11/2021

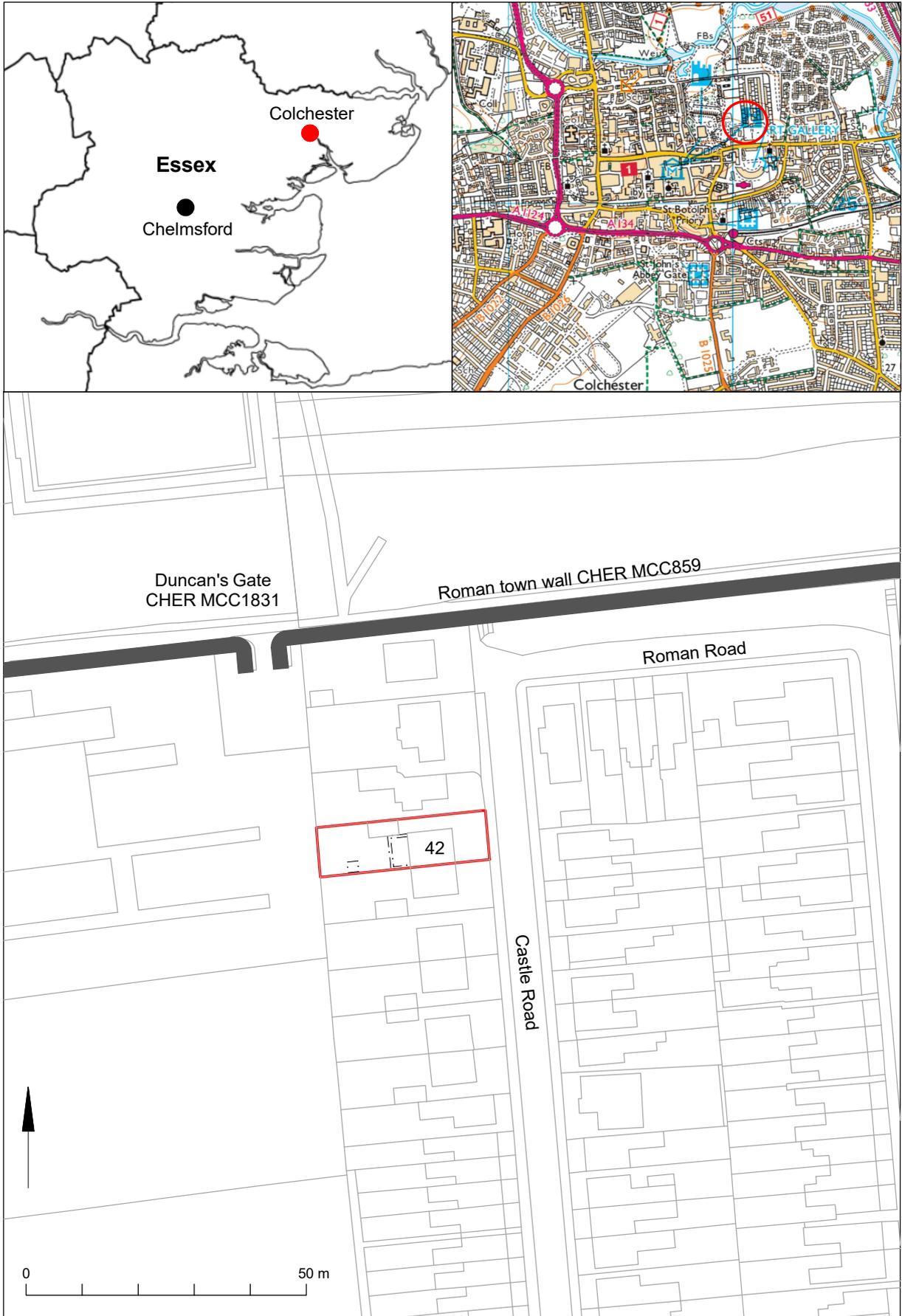


Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Results.

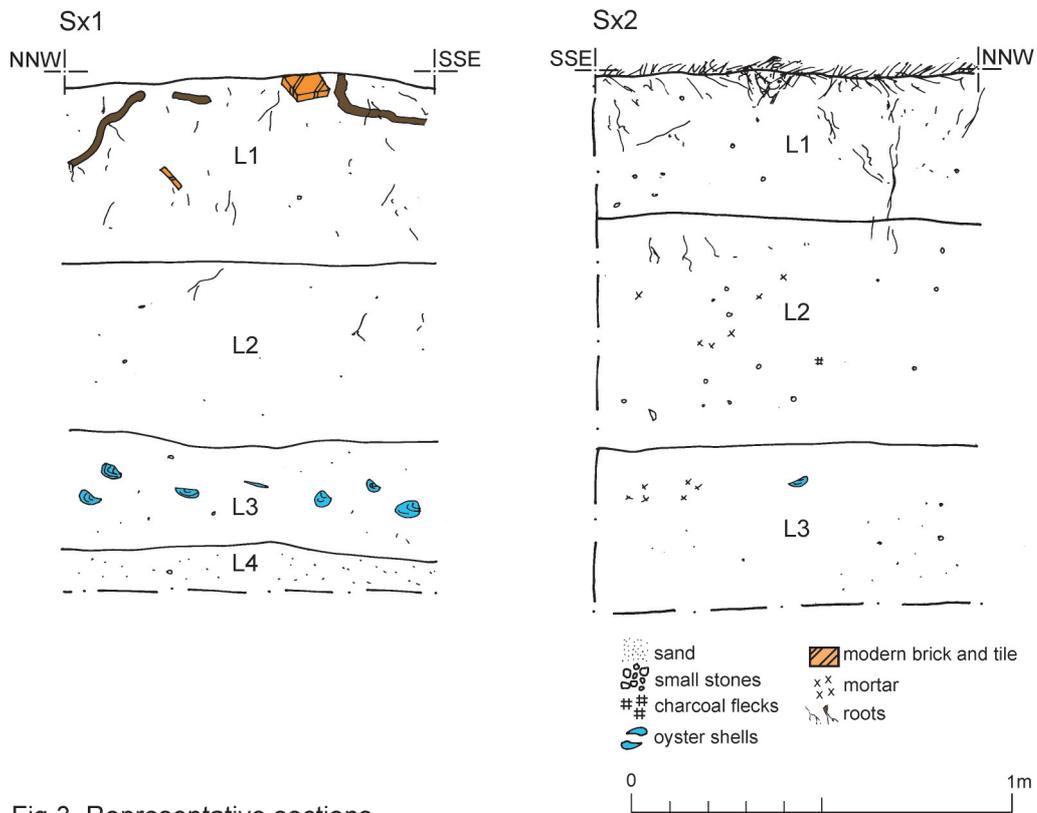


Fig 3 Representative sections.

## Summary for colchest3-426940

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-426940
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at 42 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN
Activity type	WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	2021/07k, ECC4667
Planning Id	202818, 211140
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	19-Oct-2021 - 26-Oct-2021
Location	42 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex NGR : TM 00040 25534 LL : 51.8924470032897, 0.905730604546003 12 Fig : 600040,225534
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	A total of 12m of foundation trenching was mechanically excavated to a depth of 1.3m, was 0.50m wide and a maximum of 1.3m deep. A soakaway measuring 1.9mx1.9m was mechanically excavated to c 1.4m
Project Results	This was not collected in OASIS IV when this record was originally created
Keywords	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection)