

# Archaeological monitoring at 15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL

February 2022



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

With contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley  
figures by Chris Lister, Sarah Carter and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Alec Wade

**commissioned by Chris Marshall of Duncan Clark & Beckett Ltd  
on behalf of the homeowner**

NGR: TL 98078 24843 (centre)

Planning reference: 212682

CAT project ref.: 2021/12f

CHER ref: ECC4693

OASIS reference: colchest3-503533



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**CAT Report 1781**  
April 2022

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for extensions at the front and rear of the property. The site lies within a known area of Late Iron Age and Roman burials with at least one Roman road to the north. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only features impacted by the groundworks were a modern pit or depression, and an undated gully/pit and ditch.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex from the 7th to 25th February 2022. The work was commissioned by Chris Marshall of Duncan Clark & Beckett Ltd on behalf of the homeowner and took place during groundworks for extensions to the front and rear of the property.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Simon Wood 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Simon Wood (CBCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER MCC numbers are accessible for viewing via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

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. Approximately 310m north-north-east is the southern end of the Sheepen Dyke (MCC498), with the northern end of Heath Farm Dyke c 265m southwest (MCC2101).

The development site is located to the west of the Roman walled town in an area of dense Late Iron Age and Roman burials (MCC7647, MCC7525). Roman burials close to the development site have previously been found along Park Road (MCC2511, MCC3089, MCC3091) and at Vint Crescent (MCC2308-2317).

A Roman Road aligned east/west and heading from Colchester towards Stanway, Coggeshall and eventually London is located on the route of the modern day Lexden Road, c 140m north of the development site (MCC7518). A second possible Roman road, also aligned east/west, is also located c 40m north of the development site (MCC1928). The presence of this second road is inferred from two patches of gravel identified during excavations at the Colchester Royal Grammar School and an entrance through Lexden Dyke (between Lexden Dyke Middle and Lexden Dyke North) (for projected route see Fig 1). However, there is little evidence to confirm whether the road exists or the route it might have taken, and there was no trace of the road during recent archaeological monitoring at 4 Park Road (CAT Report 1199; ECC4091).

Archaeological excavations carried out in 2014 on land next to Park Road, opposite to the current site, identified two possible early Roman burials, a pit of probable medieval date and a modern ditch (PCA Report R11750; ECC2908). However, monitoring at the Cheviot Residential Care Home, 11 Park Road, in 2002 exposed between 0.85m and 1.6m of modern made-up ground, probably the product of works to increase the ground level of the garden in the recent past (CAT Report 237; ECC2614).

Archaeological investigations in and around Colchester County High School for Girls to the southwest have revealed parts of Heath Farm Dyke North (MCC2101; CAR 11, 32), a possible 'triple-ditched dyke' (MCC2177; CAR 11, 127) and the remains of a possible unfinished fort (MCC2173), along with a building with wooden posts, palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (CAR 11, 124-6).

#### 4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist:

- a) foundation trenching to the rear of the property, 26.9m long, 0.6m wide and 0.72-1.02m deep;
- b) foundation trenching to the front of the property, 13.15m long, 0.6m wide and 1.11-1.18m deep;
- c) drainage runs, 0.45m wide and 0.3-0.5m deep;
- d) a soakaway measuring 3.6m by 2.6m and 1.7m deep.



**Photograph 1** Foundation trenches to the rear of the property, looking south



**Photograph 2** Foundation trenching to the rear/side of the property, looking north

To the rear of the property, the western section of foundation trenching was excavated through modern layers of mixed topsoil and demolition debris (L2, c 0.16-0.19m thick) and buried topsoil (L3, c 0.45-0.47m thick) into subsoil (L4). The northern section of trenching was cut through modern topsoil (L5, c 0.20-0.27m thick) and L3 (0.32-0.38m thick) into L4. Its eastern portion was dug through modern layers of crush (L1, c 0.06-0.12m thick), levelling (L7, c 0.3-0.4m thick) and L3 (0.29-0.41m thick) into natural (L6, encountered at a depth of 0.78-0.8m below current ground level [bcgl]).

The foundation trenching to the front of the property was cut through modern block paving (L8, 0.21-0.29m thick) and two layers of modern levelling/make-up (L10, c 0.24-0.29m thick and L9, c 0.26-0.48m thick) into L6 (encountered at a depth of 0.86-1.08m bcgl). Within the eastern part of this trenching, an interface layer overlay L6 (L11, c 0.12-0.23m thick).

The soakaway was excavated through modern topsoil (L12, c 0.21-0.26m thick), buried topsoil (L13, c 0.57-0.6m thick), a layer of subsoil (L14, c 0.2-0.23m thick) and a crust on the surface of the natural (L15, c 0.08-0.12m thick) into L6 (encountered at a depth of 1.15-1.19m bcgl).

The drainage runs were excavated through modern stratigraphy (L2 and L3), and so were not closely monitored.



**Photograph 3** Foundation trenching to the front of the property, looking east



**Photograph 4** Soakaway, looking south

Pit or depression F1 was observed in the western part of the foundation trenching to the rear of the property. It was 1.46m wide and 0.2m deep. The feature was cut into L3 and so was modern in date, and may have been part of a tree-throw.



**Photograph 5** F1, looking west



**Photograph 6** F2, looking south

Undated features F2 (a gully terminal/elongated pit) and F3 (ditch) were located to the front of the property. Both were cut into natural and sealed by modern make-up/levelling layer L9. Gully/pit F2 was 0.62m wide and 0.33m deep, and ditch F3 was aligned north/south and 1.01m wide by 0.42m deep.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Ceramic finds

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The watching brief uncovered eight sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 165g and EVE of 0.09 (Table 1). This material was recovered from three layers (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	4	86	22	0.09
CBM	4	79	20	-
<b>All</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0.09</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
L3	Buried topsoil	4	98	25
L9	Levelling/make-up	1	5	5
L13	Buried topsoil	3	62	21
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>21</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features and contexts

Roman pottery was limited to a Baetican Dressel 20 olive oil amphora sherd (27g) which came from buried topsoil L13. Modern (19th-20th century) pottery included a sherd of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) with a willow-pattern transfer print (EVE: 0.04) from levelling/make-up layer L9, a sherd (51g) of Modern English stoneware (fabric F45M) and a sherd (3g/EVE: 0.05) of Yellow ware (fabric F48E) from buried topsoil L3. CBM consisted of two sherds (35g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile from L13, and fragments of brick/tile (44g) from L3.

Table 3 summarizes the dating evidence for the layers which contained dateable pottery and CBM. Layers L3 and L9 date to the 19th-20th century while L13 dates to the medieval/post-medieval period.

Context	Description	Roman pottery	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Date approx.
L3	Buried topsoil	-	F45M, F48E	BR, T	20th century
L9	Levelling/make-up	-	F48D	-	19th-20th century
L13	Buried topsoil	BAET (DR20)	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval

**Table 3** Approximate dates for the layers

### 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

*by Laura Pooley*

A fragment of modern glass (2.9g), clay tobacco pipe stem (2.1g) and animal bone from a medium-sized mammal (25.9g) came from L3 (finds no.1).

## 7 Conclusion

Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area the only features uncovered during monitoring works were a modern pit/depression and an undated gully/pit and ditch. Therefore groundworks at the site did not impacted on any significant archaeological remains.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Chris Marshall of Duncan Clark and Beckett Ltd and the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, and was carried out by A Wade. Figures were prepared by C Lister, S Carter and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Simon Wood.

## 9 References

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

CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 237	2003	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Cheviot residential care home, 11 Park Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2002</i> , by K Orr
CAT Report 1199	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 4 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL: November 2017</i> , by L Pooley
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 15 Park Road, Colchester</i> , by S Wood
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Revised June 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2019
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i>
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)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
PCA Report R11750	2014	<i>Land next to Park Road, Lexden, Colchester: Archaeological excavation and monitoring</i> , by S Hogan & K Hanson

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
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
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
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, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>

post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

**Digital record:**

The report (CAT Report 1781)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Scans of all original site notes, sections and plans

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The 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 the Archaeological Data Service

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### Distribution list

Chris Marshall, Duncan Clark and Beckett Ltd

The homeowner

Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



### Colchester Archaeological Trust

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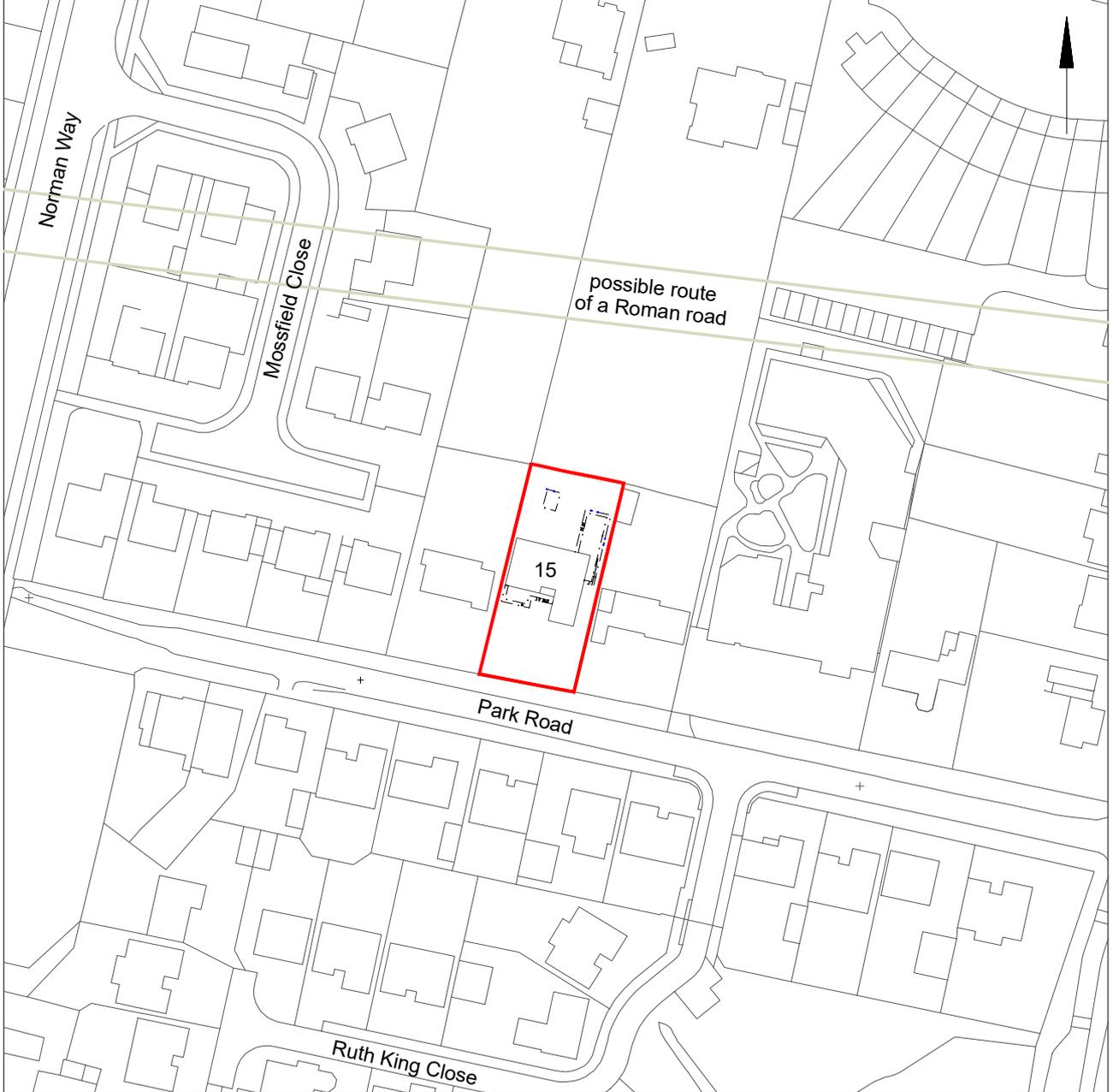
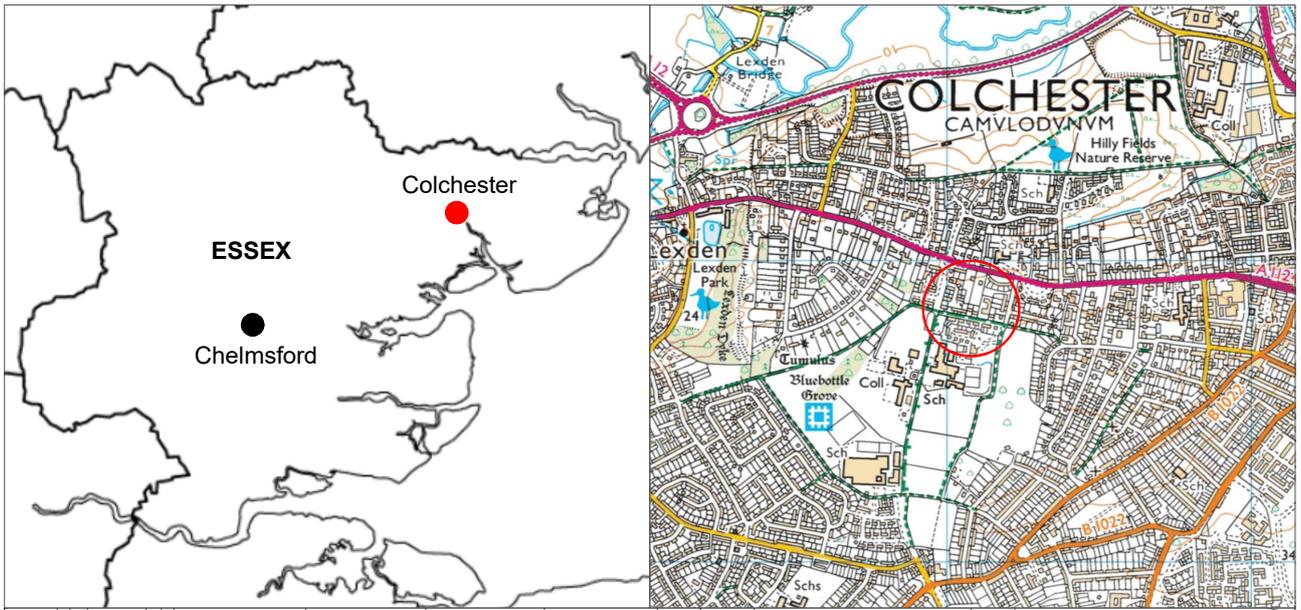
email: [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 05/04/2022

**Appendix 1 Context list**

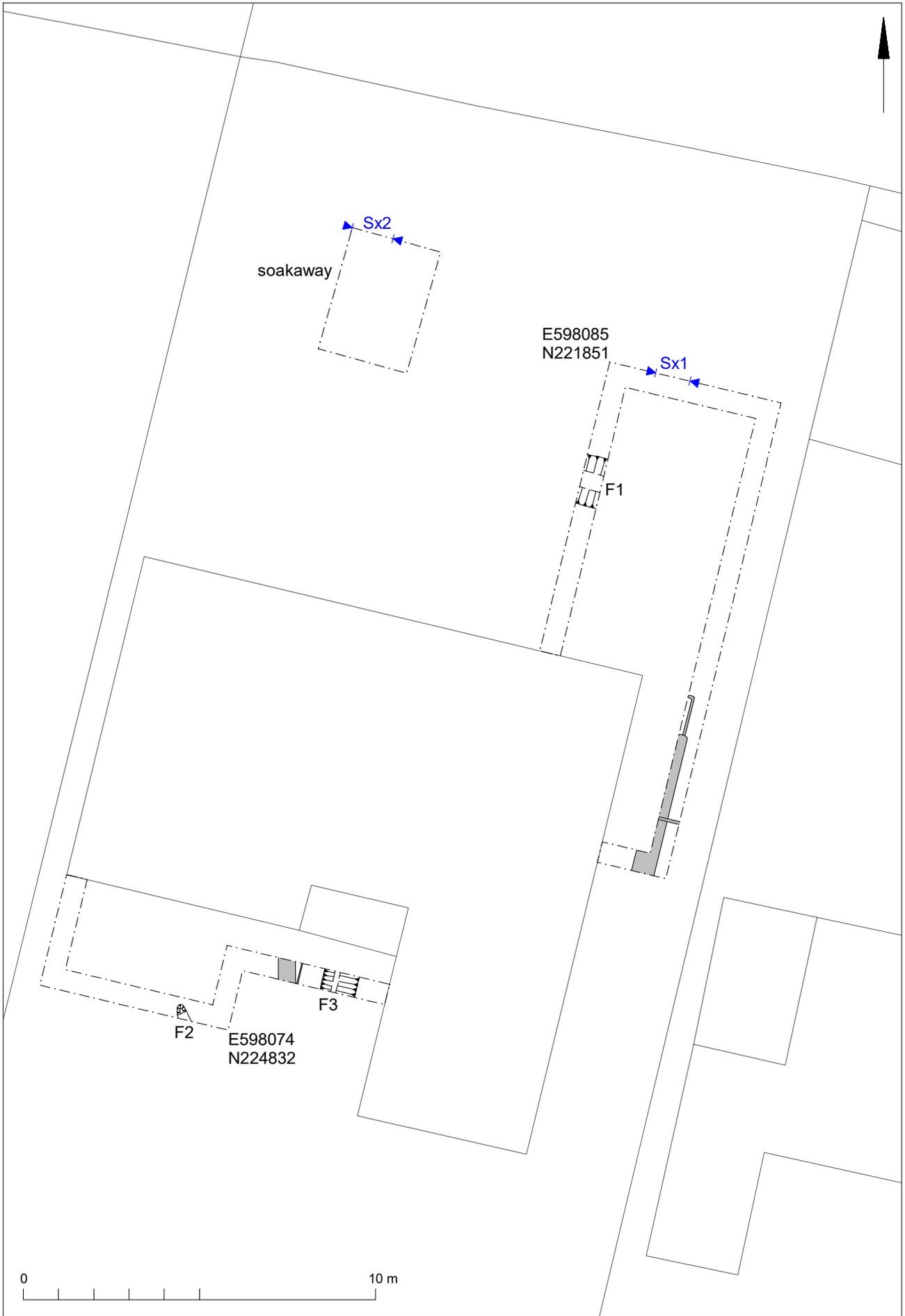
Context	Finds no.	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	-	Crush	Medium grey sand with frequent concrete and occasional CBM fragments	Modern
L2	-	Topsoil/ demolition debris	Dark brown/grey sandy-silty-clay with frequent/occasional stones and occasional CBM, mortar and concrete fragments	Modern
L3	1	Buried topsoil	Medium/dark brown/grey sandy-clayey-silt with occasional stones and charcoal flecks	Modern
L4	-	Subsoil	Medium/dark brown/grey sandy-clayey-silt with occasional/frequent stones	Undated
L5	-	Topsoil	Very dark brown/grey sandy-silty-clay with occasional stones	Modern
L6	-	Natural	Brown/orange sandy-silt with occasional/frequent stones	Post-glacial
L7	-	Levelling layer	Medium/dark grey sandy-silty-clay with frequent CBM and concrete fragments, frequent mortar flacks and occasional stones	Modern
L8	-	Car park surface	Concrete blocks with yellow sand base	Modern
L9	2	Levelling/ make-up	Very dark brown/grey sandy-silty-clay with occasional stones and rare CBM fragments and charcoal flecks	Modern
L10	-	Levelling/ make-up	Dark brown/grey sandy-silty-clay with bands of brown/orange silty-clay and brown/orange sand with occasional stones and rare CBM and glazed pipe fragments	Modern
L11	-	Interface with natural	Medium/dark brown/grey sandy-silt with frequent stones	Undated
L12	-	Topsoil	Dark brown/grey silty-clay with occasional stones and rare CBM flecks	Modern
L13	3	Buried topsoil	Dark brown/grey sandy-silty-clay with occasional stones and rare CBM and charcoal flecks	Probably modern
L14	-	Subsoil	Medium brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional stones	Undated
L15	-	Crust on surface of natural	Hard brown/orange stones, iron pan, manganese and pea grit	Post-glacial
F1	-	Pit/depression	<b>Fill A:</b> Black coal fragments, grit and gravel; <b>Fill B:</b> dark brown/orange sand with occasional stones	Modern
F2	-	Gully/pit	Medium grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stones and rare charcoal flecks	Undated
F3	-	Ditch	Dark grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stones	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location.





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Fig 2 Results. Modern services in grey.

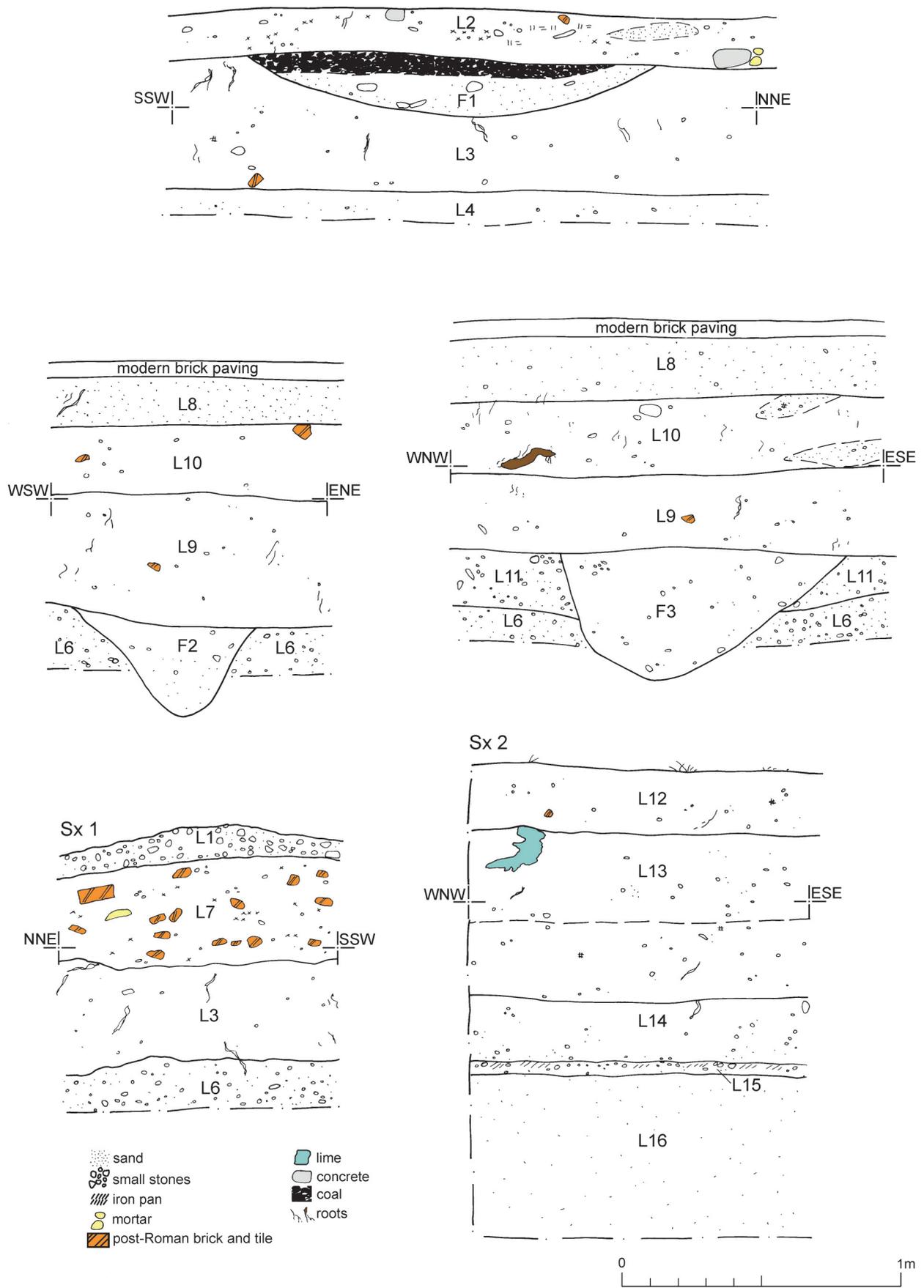


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 98078 24843 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2021/12f CHER ref: ECC4693 OASIS ref: colchest3-503533
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 7th-25th February 2022	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.07ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC498, MCC2101, MCC2308, MCC2309, MCC2310, MCC2311, MCC2312, MCC2313, MCC2314, MCC2315, MCC2316, MCC2317, MCC2511, MCC3089, MCC3091, MCC7518, MCC7525, MCC7647
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1781	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for extensions at the front and rear of the property. The site lies within a known area of Late Iron Age and Roman burials with at least one Roman road to the north. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only features impacted by the groundworks were a modern pit or depression, and an undated gully/pit and ditch.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Simon Wood	
<b>Keywords:</b> –	<b>Significance:</b> –
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> March 2022

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL

**NGR:** TL 98078 24843 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** Colchester

**Planning reference:** 212682

**Commissioned by:** Chris Marshall (Duncan Clark & Beckett Ltd)

**On behalf of:** Homeowner

**Curating museum:** Colchester/ADS Archaeology

**CHER number:** tbc

**CAT project code:** 2021/12f

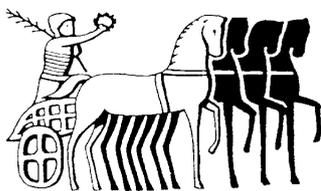
**OASIS project number:** colchest3-503533

**Contracts manager:** Chris Lister

**Fieldwork manager:** Adam Wightman

**CBC monitor:** Dr Simon Wood

**This WSI written:** 22/12/2021



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 1.5m east-southeast from the main historic core of Colchester at 15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98078 24843.

## Proposed work

The development comprises of the construction of a new single storey extension to the front and western side of the dwelling in order to reconfigure the layout of the entrance, games room and dining area. A single storey extension on the eastern edge and rear of the building is for a new home gym.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

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. Approximately 310m north-north-east is the southern end of the Sheepen Dyke (MCC498), with the northern end of Heath Farm Dyke c 265m southwest (MCC2101).

The development site is located to the west of the Roman walled town in an area of dense Late Iron Age and Roman burials (MCC7647, MCC7525). Roman burials close to the development site have previously been found along Park Road (MCC2511, MCC3089, MCC3091) and at Vint Crescent (MCC2308-2317).

A Roman Road aligned east/west and heading from Colchester towards Stanway, Coggeshall and eventually London is located on the route of the modern day Lexden Road, c 140m north of the development site (MCC7518). A second possible Roman road, also aligned east/west, is also located c 40m north of the development site (MCC1928). The presence of this second road is inferred from two patches of gravel identified during excavations at the Colchester Royal Grammar School and an entrance through Lexden Dyke (between Lexden Dyke Middle and Lexden Dyke North) (for projected route see Fig 1). However, there is little evidence to confirm whether the road exists or the route it might have taken, and there was no trace of the road during recent archaeological monitoring at 4 Park Road (CAT Report 1199; ECC4091).

Archaeological excavations carried out in 2014 on land next to Park Road, opposite to the current site, identified two possible early Roman burials, a pit of probable medieval date and a modern ditch (PCA Report R11750; ECC2908). However, monitoring at the Cheviot Residential Care Home, 11 Park Road, in 2002 exposed between 0.85m and 1.6m of modern made-up ground, probably the product of works to increase the ground level of the garden in the recent past (CAT Report 237; ECC2614).

Archaeological investigations in and around Colchester County High School for Girls to the southwest have revealed parts of Heath Farm Dyke North (MCC2101; *CAR 11*, 32), a possible 'triple-ditched dyke' (MCC2177; *CAR 11*, 127) and the remains of a possible unfinished fort (MCC2173), along with a building with wooden posts, palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (*CAR 11*, 124-6).

## Planning background

A planning application (212682) was made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2021 proposing a *single storey front extension, single storey side & rear extension and first floor extension*. Revision following refusal ref. 211909.

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). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

### **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological investigation of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021).

Specifically:

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

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

### **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-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event

code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## **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. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

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 pro-forma 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 and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

## **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to investigate the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

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. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and

reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

## 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 or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the monitoring.

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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following Historic England guidance (2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the 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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (2015a).

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth  
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow  
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,  
Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell  
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey  
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil  
Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)  
Roman glass: Hilary Cool  
small finds: Nina Crummy  
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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## 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* (Historic England 2015b).

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 the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site 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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

## 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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

**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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

## 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

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

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	2nd ed 1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2021	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 237	2003	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Cheviot residential care home, 11 Park Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2002</i> , by K Orr
CAT Report 1199	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 4 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL: November 2017</i>
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 15 Park Road, Colchester</i> . By S Wood
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> .

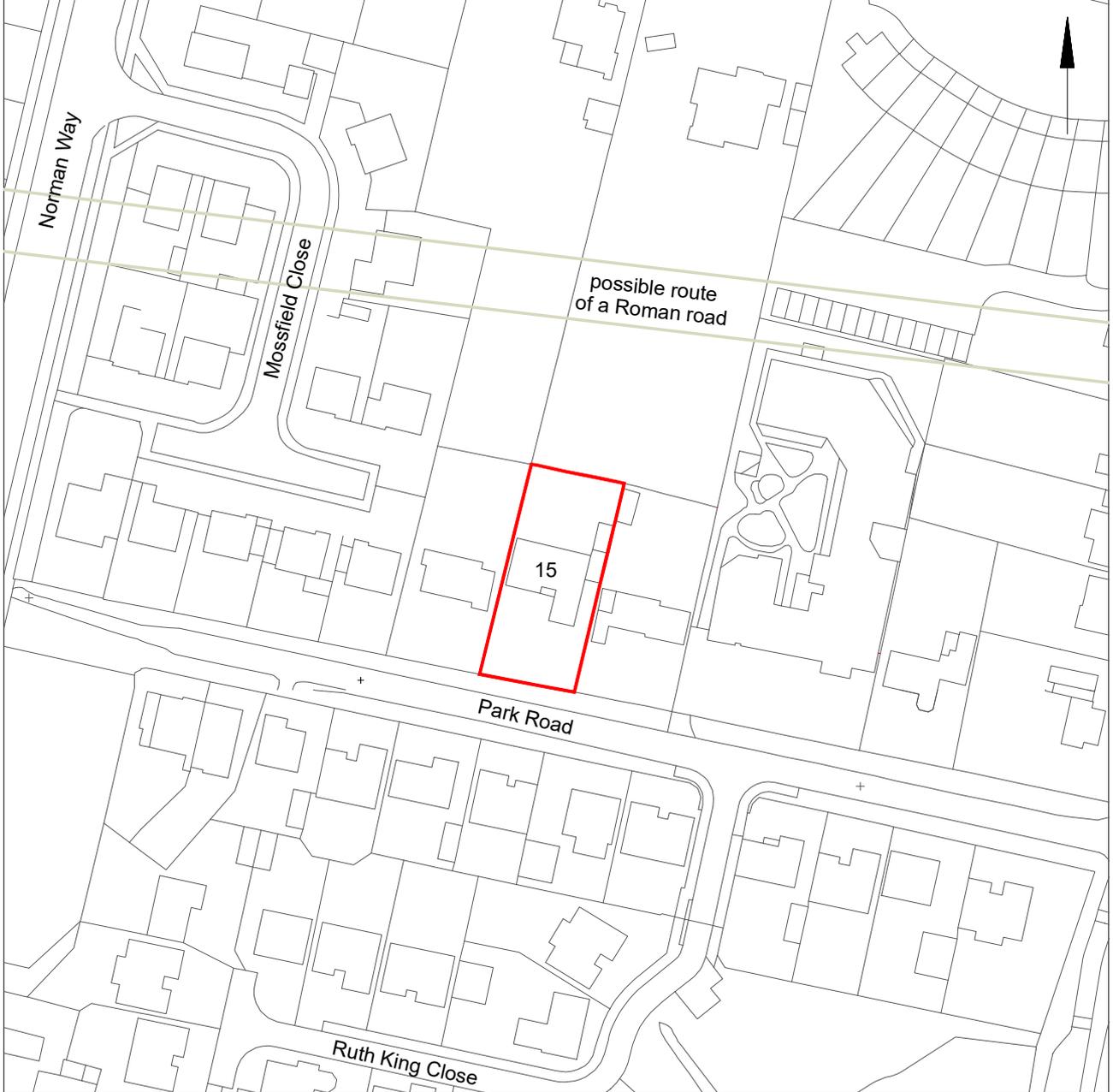
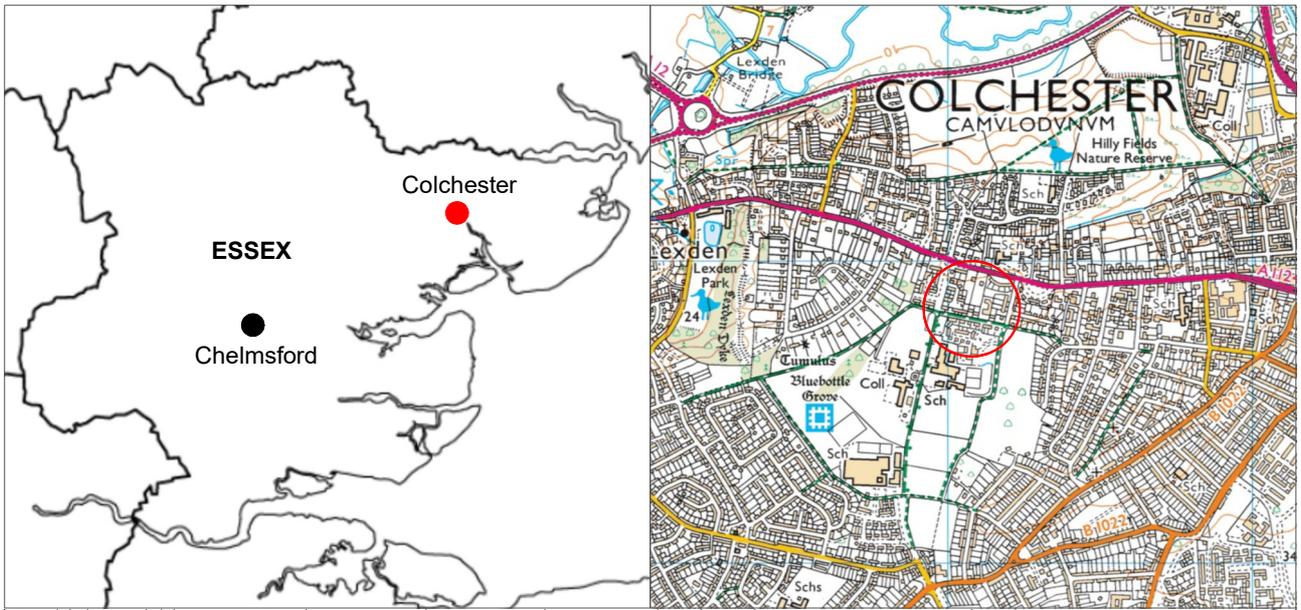
		Revised June 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised Oct 2019
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i>
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)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
PCA Report R11750	2014	<i>Land next to Park Road, Lexden, Colchester: Archaeological excavation and monitoring,</i> by S Hogan and K Hanson

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Fig 1 Site location.



## Summary for colchest3-503533

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-503533
Project Name	Watching brief at 15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL
Sitename	
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2021/12f
Planning Id	212682
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	07-Feb-2022 - 25-Feb-2022
Location	15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL NGR : TL 98078 24843 LL : 51.8869422694236, 0.876859805142849 12 Fig : 598078,224843
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological watching brief to excavate and record any archaeological deposits exposed by the groundworks.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 15 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for extensions at the front and rear of the property. The site lies within a known area of Late Iron Age and Roman burials with at least one Roman road to the north. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only features impacted by the groundworks were a modern pit or depression, and an undated gully/pit and ditch.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	E, Hicks
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive