



## Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

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<b>CAT Report 1909</b>  <b>Archaeological monitoring at 2 St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TA: February &amp; August 2023</b>	<b>CAT code:</b> 2023/02g
	<b>Planning reference:</b> 211298
	<b>CHER event no.:</b> ECC4816
	<b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-513276
	<b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 97445 25112 (centre)
	<b>Number of site visits:</b> 3
	<b>Dates of visit:</b> 22nd & 23rd February 2023, 21st August 2023
<b>Nature of the work</b> Observation of groundworks for a two-storey rear extension and soakaway.	
<b>Reason for condition</b> A planning application (211298) was submitted to Colchester Borough Council (now Colchester City Council) in April 2021 for a two-storey rear extension. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Colchester Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, a programme of archaeological monitoring was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor. Significantly the development site is located in an area of Late Iron Age and Roman burials, with the Lexden Tumulus (MCC1356) 385m to the south-south-east. The Lexden Dyke (MCC2099) is also only 90m to the west.	
<b>% of total seen</b> 100% of the groundworks.	
<b>Results</b> The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council Place and Client Services. The WSI was written by Emma Holloway of CAT.  Approximately 20m of foundation trenching was machine excavated under archaeological supervision. The trenching ranged between 0.72m to 0.75m wide and was c 0.9m deep. A 2m by 2m soakaway was also excavated to a depth of 1.3m.  Three horizons were observed consistently throughout: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• modern topsoil (L1, soft moist dark grey/brown sandy silt with brick flecks and inclusions of stone 20% c 0.3m to 0.35m thick) overlaid</li><li>• an undulating subsoil (L2, friable moist medium brown sandy silt c 0.05m to 0.18m), seen predominately to the north and west of the site, which sealed</li><li>• soft brown-orange natural sandy gravel (L3, from c 0.5m below current ground level).</li></ul> There were no significant archaeological remains. Probable tree-throw F1 was identified in section on the eastern edge of the foundation trench. A ceramic drainage pipe, lead water pipe and main electricity cable also cut east/west across the site.  Finds recovered from topsoil (L1) are listed below and have been discarded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• three fragments (102g) of modern brick,</li><li>• five sherds (231g) of modern china and flower pots,</li><li>• two fragments (47g) modern glass,</li><li>• two pieces (5g) of modern plastic fittings,</li><li>• one sherd of Roman pottery (30g).</li></ul>	



**Photograph 1** Site shot, looking south-east.



**Photograph 2** The foundation trenches, looking south.



**Photograph 3** The soakaway, looking north-east.

**Prepared by:** Tabitha Lawrence

**Date:** 30/08/2023

**Reviewed by:** Laura Pooley

**Date:** 22/09/2023

**Reviewed and approved by:** Philip Crummy

**Date:** 27/09/2023

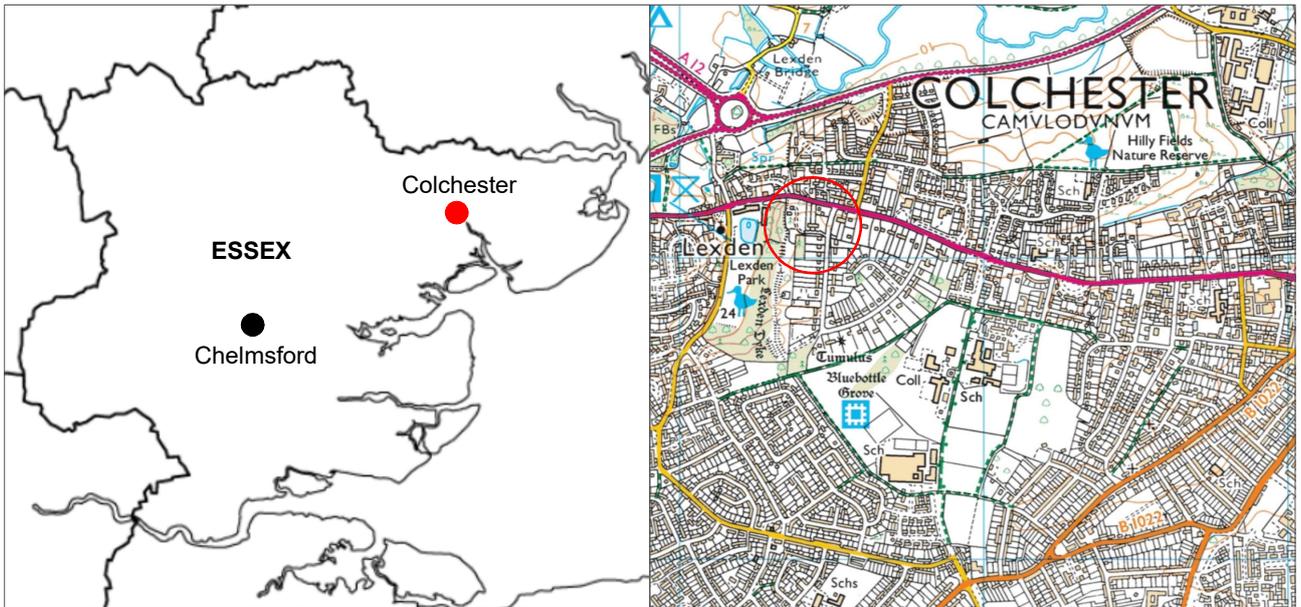


Fig 1 Site location.

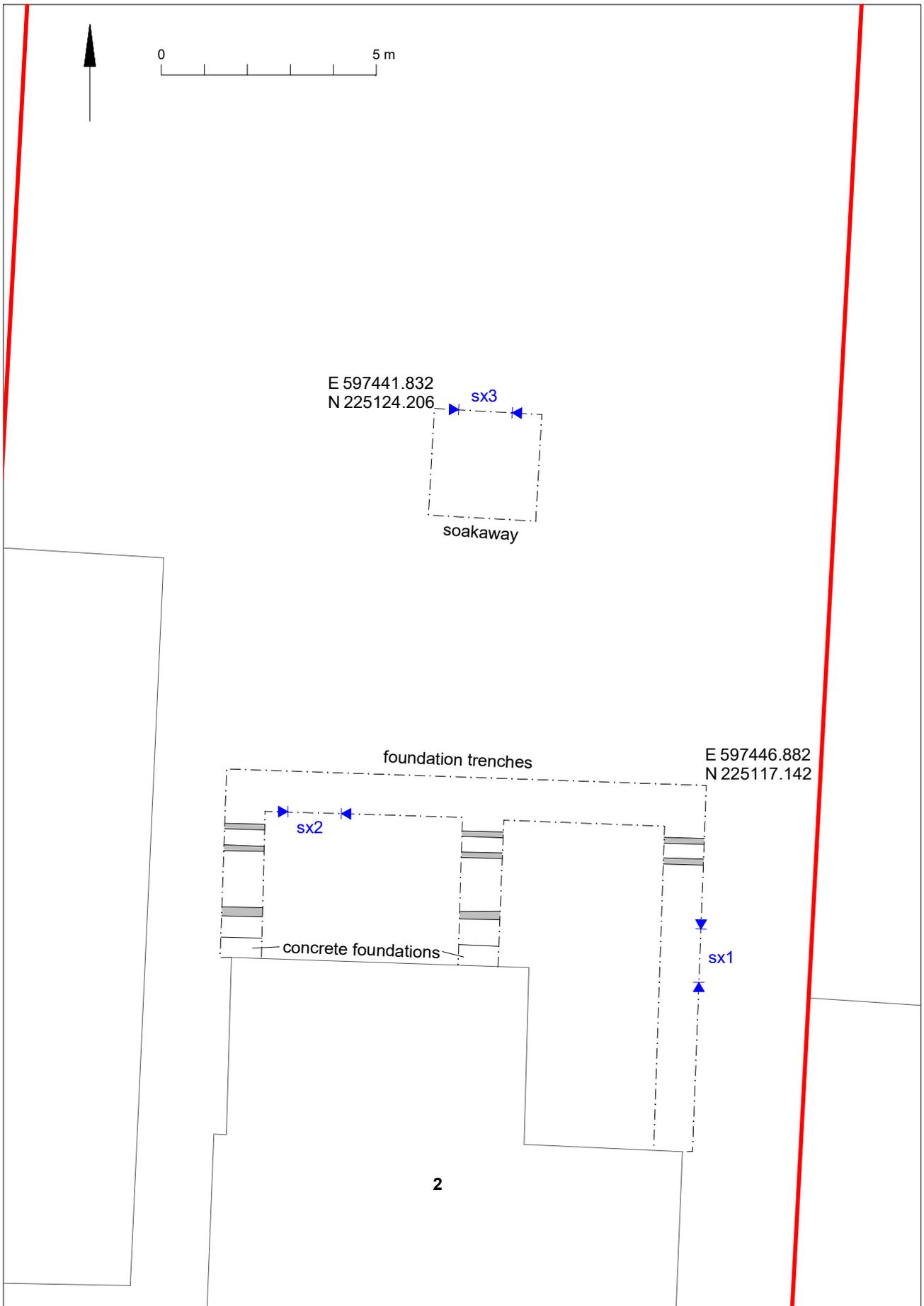


Fig 2 Results.

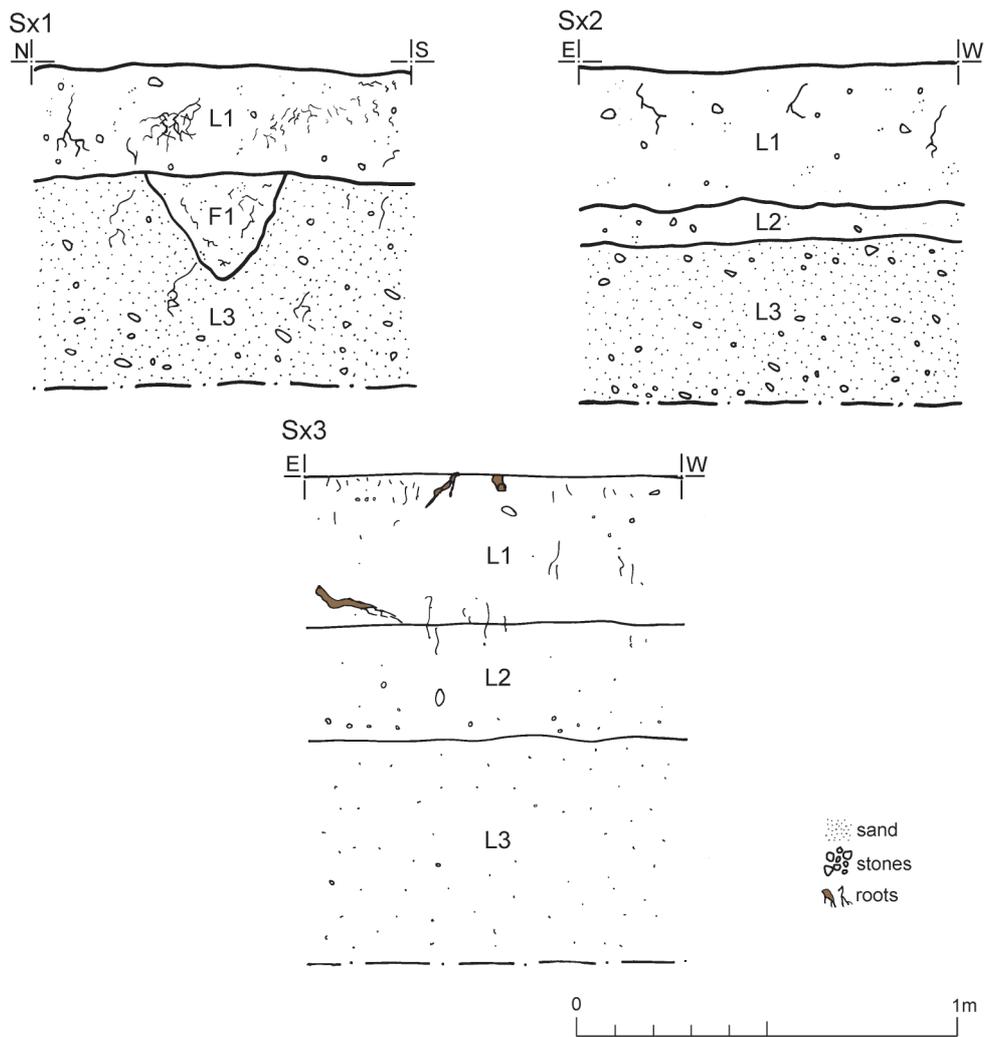


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-513276

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-513276
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at 2 St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TA: February and August 2023
Sitename	2 St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TA
Sitecode	ECC4816
Project Identifier(s)	2023/02g
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	211298
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	22-Feb-2023 - 21-Aug-2023
Location	2 St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TA NGR : TL 97445 25112 LL : 51.8895821405952, 0.867828001933389 12 Fig : 597445,225112
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring took place at 2 St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a rear extension and soakaway. Despite being located close to the Lexden Dyke and in an area of known Late Iron Age and Roman burials, including the Lexden Tumulus, there were no significant archaeological remains.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman, Laura Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4816
Archives	