

**Report on a
negative watching brief at
1 St Clare Road,
Colchester, Essex
January 2008**

**report prepared by
Howard Brooks**

**commissioned on behalf of
Mr & Mrs Gale
by ADP Ltd**

CAT project code: 08/1e
Colchester and Ipswich Museums accession code: 2008.5
NGR: TL 9740 2515 (c)



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CAT Report 455
January 2008

Report on a negative watching brief

Summary

St Clare Road cuts through a burial site (the 'Lexden cemetery') of the Iron Age and Roman periods. During a watching brief on trenches associated with the construction of a small extension on the north-east corner of the existing house, no burials or other archaeological features were identified. There were no loose finds.

Introduction

This is the report on a negative archaeological watching brief on the construction of a 2.5m x 4.5m extension on the north-east corner of the existing house at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex. The work was commissioned by Mr Brian Morgan of ADP Ltd, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Gale, who sponsored the work in compliance with a planning requirement. The Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) project code is 08/1e and the NGR is TL9740 2515 (centre).

Archaeological background

The site is in an area rich in archaeological remains, being situated towards the northern edge of the 'Lexden cemetery'. This cemetery was in use from the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD. The core of the cemetery, with at least 27 cremation burials, lies approximately 300m south of the current site. Outliers of the cemetery are found elsewhere on St Clare Road, the nearest to the present site being the Roman burial found in 1922 at number 18 (*CAR 11*, 164-9). Approximately 400m to the south lies the Lexden Tumulus, a burial mound containing a rich Late Iron Age cremation burial (Foster 1986). The site lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, one of the defensive earthworks of which is the Lexden Dyke (120m west of Clare Road (*CAR 11*, 29-33). A previous excavation on this site in 2003 did not reveal any burials or other archaeological deposits or finds (CAT Report 225).

Method and aim

All work was carried out in accordance with a methodology agreed with Colchester Borough Council (Mr Martin Winter). A sketch location plan and a section of the side of the open trench are in the site archive.

The aim was to record the nature, date, function and importance of any exposed archaeological remains, specifically, Iron Age and Roman burials.

Brief report

The open trenches for the extension were inspected by a CAT archaeologist on 16th January 2008. The following layers were recorded: L1, modern topsoil, with a modern drain run encased in concrete seen at its base; L2, dark yellow brown sandy loam, a subsoil; L3, natural ground – orange brown sand with abundant stones. No archaeological features or finds were observed.

References

- | | | |
|----------------|------|---|
| <i>CAR 11</i> | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes & P Crummy |
| CAT Report 225 | | An archaeological excavation at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, March 2003, unpublished CAT archive report, by Maureen McDonald, 2003 |
| Foster, J | 1986 | 'The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex', <i>BAR</i> , British Series, 156 |

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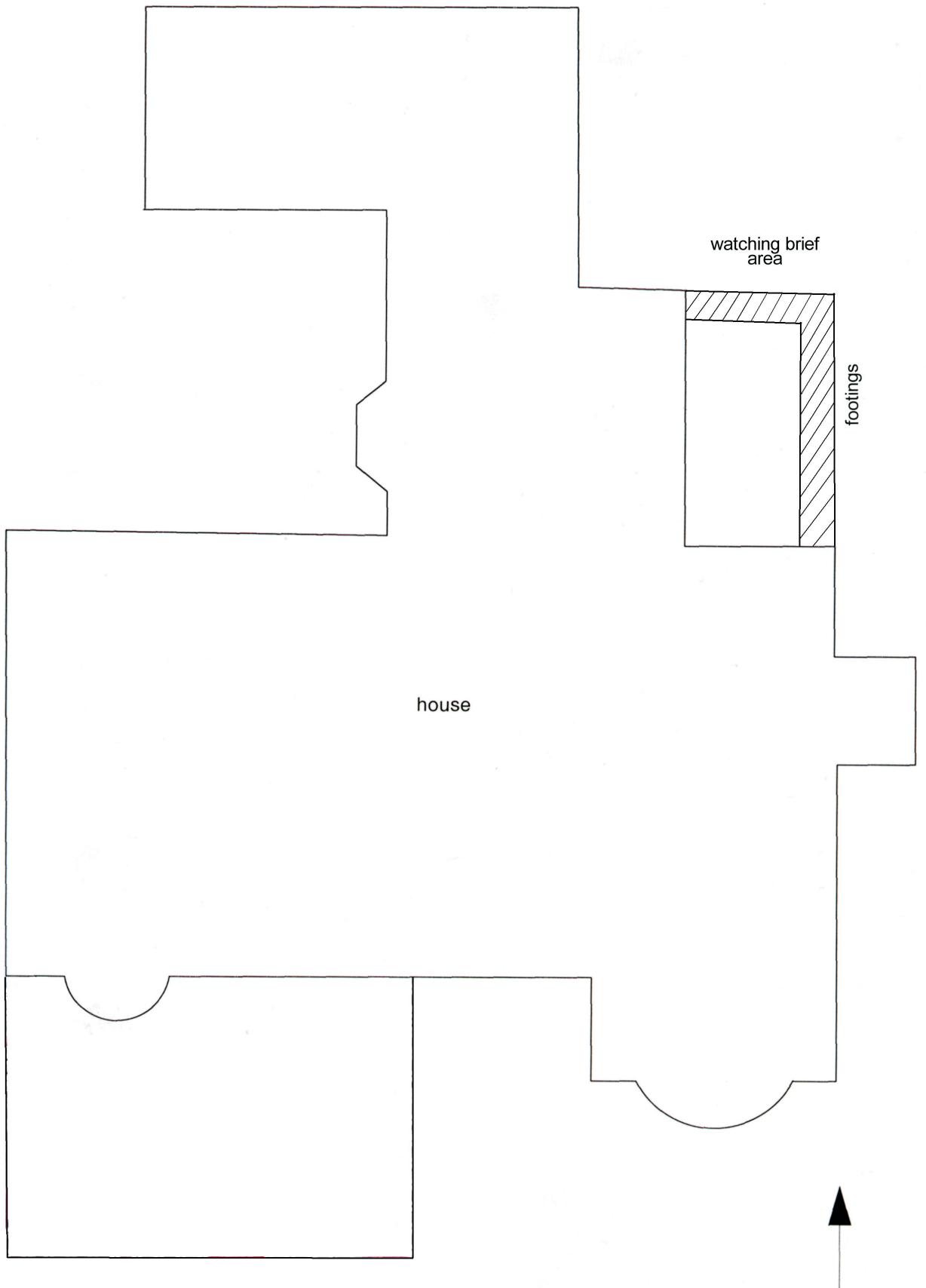


Fig 1 Trench plan.

