

An archaeological watching brief at 32 Thompson Avenue, Colchester, Essex

February 2015



report prepared by
Chris Lister

on behalf of Mr and Mrs Dubber

CAT project ref.: 15/01a
Colchester & Ipswich Museums accession code: COLEM 2015.12
NGR: TL 596912 224731



Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House,
off Circular Road North,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436273304
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 812
February 2015

Summary

The Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief during the construction of an extension to the side and rear of 32 Thompson Avenue, Colchester, Essex.

No archaeological features were recorded during the scope of the watching brief.

Introduction

This is the archive report on the archaeological watching brief carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Dubber at 32 Thompson Avenue, Colchester, Essex (NGR TL 596912 224731) (Fig 1). The site is located to the west of the historic walled town, to the south of the Roman road to London, within a residential area.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single-storey extension to the rear and side of the existing property (application No.146211). The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks.

Thompson Avenue is situated in an area of Colchester considered to have high archaeological potential, namely the western cemetery of the Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum (EHER 11714). The site is approximately 160m south-west of 'The Mount' (EHER 11707) an Iron Age mound thought to be the burial place of a Belgic chieftain, as the tumulus nearby (Lexden Tumulus, EHER 11711) proved to be. These tumuli suggest that that this area is one of the main burial sites for pre-Roman Colchester. Additional archaeological sites in the vicinity include the find spot of a Bronze Age bucket urn found in Shakespeare Road (EHER 11611) 200m to the west and an undated rectangular enclosure (EHER 11917 known from crop marks but subsequently built over by the estate) 150m to the north-east.

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a), *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008b), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2008b). The guidance contained in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006) and in the documents *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24) was also followed.

Results

The archaeological monitoring took place on the morning of 9th February 2015 and consisted of one site visit. The excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 500mm wide toothless bucket.

A modern topsoil (L1) overlay a medium brown loam (L2) which, in turn, overlay the natural sand and gravel (L3) (Fig 2). L1 contained modern slate and brick fragments (not retained). No finds or inclusions were observed in L2. In the west side of the foundation trenches natural sand and gravel (L3) was found to be approximately 100mm below ground level falling to 600mm below ground level at the eastern end of the foundation trench. This appears to have been the result of terracing when the estate was built in the early 1960s and suggests significant disturbance to any archaeological remains in the surrounding area.

No archaeological remains were recorded during the watching brief.



Plate 1 Representative section of L1-3, view north

References

Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

CAT	2008	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
CIfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CIMS	2008a	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CIMS	2008b	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums</i>
EAA3	1997	<i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 3 , ed by J Glazebrook
EAA 8	2000	<i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 8 , ed by N Brown & J Glazebrook
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the Eastern Counties. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 24 , ed by M Medlycott
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> (English Heritage)

Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mr and Mrs Dubber for commissioning and funding the project. The site work was undertaken by Chris Lister. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Howard Brooks (CBCAO).

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Distribution list:

Mr and Mrs Dubber

Howard Brooks, Archaeological Officer for Colchester Borough Council
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 07436273304

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

checked by: PC
date: 13/02/2015

Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

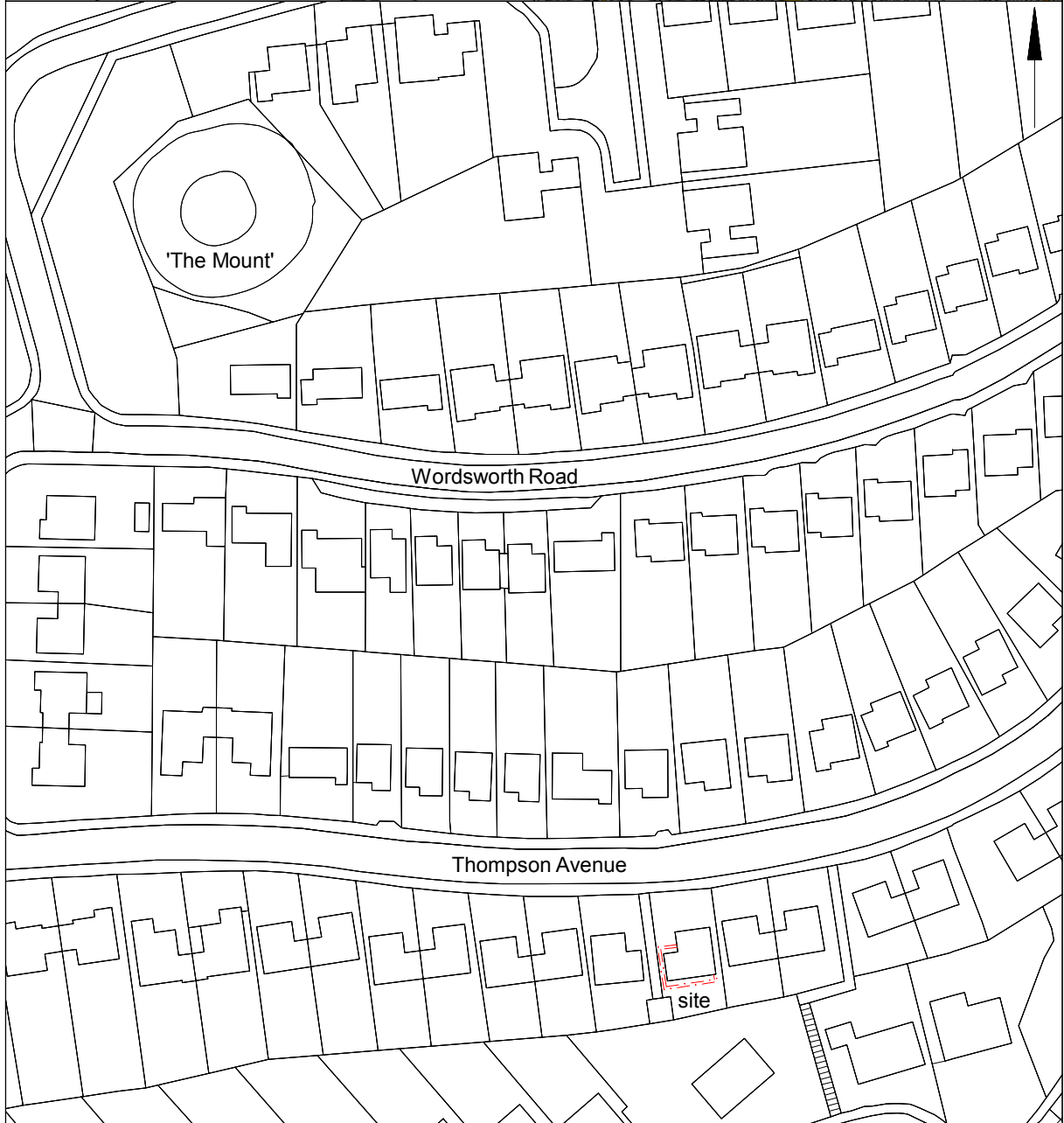
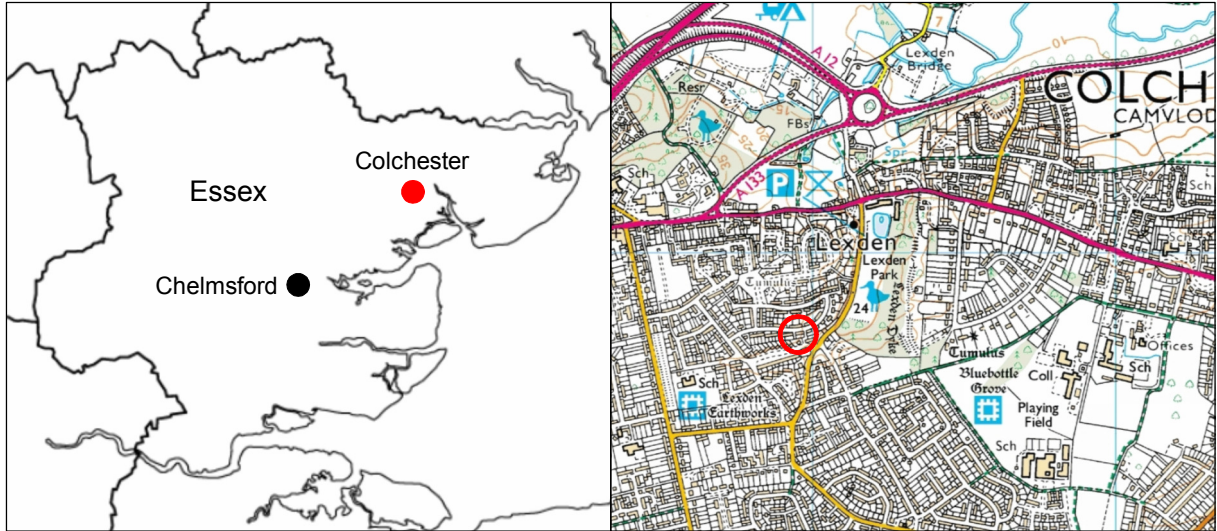
- 1.1 Risk assessment
- 1.2 Copy of the brief issued by CBC
- 1.3 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.4 1 x A4 site plan

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Attendance register
- 2.2 Site digital photographic record
- 2.3 Context sheets (L1-3)
- 2.4 Site photographic record on CD

3 Research archive

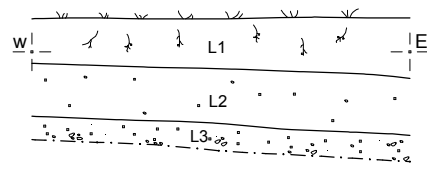
- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report



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Fig 1 Site location.





- stone
- ∴ sand
- √ roots

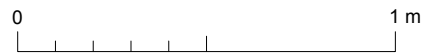


Fig 2 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: 32 Thompson Avenue, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Lexden	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 596912 224731	Site codes: CAT Project – 15/01a Museum accession - COLEM 2015.12
Type of work: Archaeological watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 9th February 2015	Size of area investigated: 11 sq m
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related UAD/ EHER nos: HER 11714, 11707, 11711
Final report: CAT Report 812	
Periods represented: n/a	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief during the construction of an extension to the side and rear of 32 Thompson Avenue, Colchester, Essex.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features were recorded during the scope of the watching brief.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Chris Lister	Date of summary: February 2015