

Archaeological monitoring and recording: 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0TR

July 2015



by Pip Parmenter and Chris Lister

on behalf of Ms Claire Murphy

CAT project ref.: 15/03m
NGR: TL 9819 2426
Colchester Museum accession code: 2015.87
Planning reference: 150077
UAD ref: ECC2962
OASIS reference: colchest3-223526



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 867
September 2015

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Cover: general site shot

Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Site plan

1 Summary

This site is on the fringes of Colchester's Roman cemetery area. Archaeological monitoring during the removal of old footings and the digging of foundation trenches for a new extension revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds. Modern topsoil directly sealed natural geological deposits.

2 Introduction (Figs 1 - 2)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 27th July 2015. The work was commissioned by Claire Murphy, in advance of the removal of existing foundations and construction of rear extension to the existing dwelling.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services, Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper 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 paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2015), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCAA (CAT 2015)

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council and accessed via the *Heritage Gateway* website.

The UAD shows that the proposed development lies in an area of high archaeological potential, to the south of Roman cemeteries around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road. It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned with this road and may be encountered in the footings for the proposed extension. Finds recovered in the immediate vicinity include Roman coins from the rear gardens of 12 and 22 Audley Road (UAD EVT 924 & 932)

4 Results

The site was continually monitored during the removal of old footings and digging of new footing trenches for a new extension. The site stratification was as follows: a modern topsoil, 300mm thick (L1), sealing a post-glacial silty sand subsoil, c 400mm thick (L2), sealing natural glacial deposits (coarse orange sand and gravel, L3). There were no archaeological features, deposits, or finds.

5 Discussion

Despite being on the fringes of the Roman cemetery area, there were no archaeological features or finds of Roman (or any other date) here.

6 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Claire Murphy for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed and carried out by C Lister. Site plans were prepared by M Baister and H Brooks. The project was monitored for CBC by Jess Tipper.

7 References

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

CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for continuous archaeological recording at 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TR</i>
CBCAA	2015	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, CO3 3TR</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

8 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
ClfA	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'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

9 Contents of archive

Finds: none

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 867)

CBCAA Evaluation Brief

CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record)

Site digital photographic log

Architectural Plans

Attendance register

Original Plans

Risk assessment

10 Archive deposition

The paper and digital 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: 2015.87.

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Claire Murphy
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: *Howard Brooks*
Date: 22/09/2015

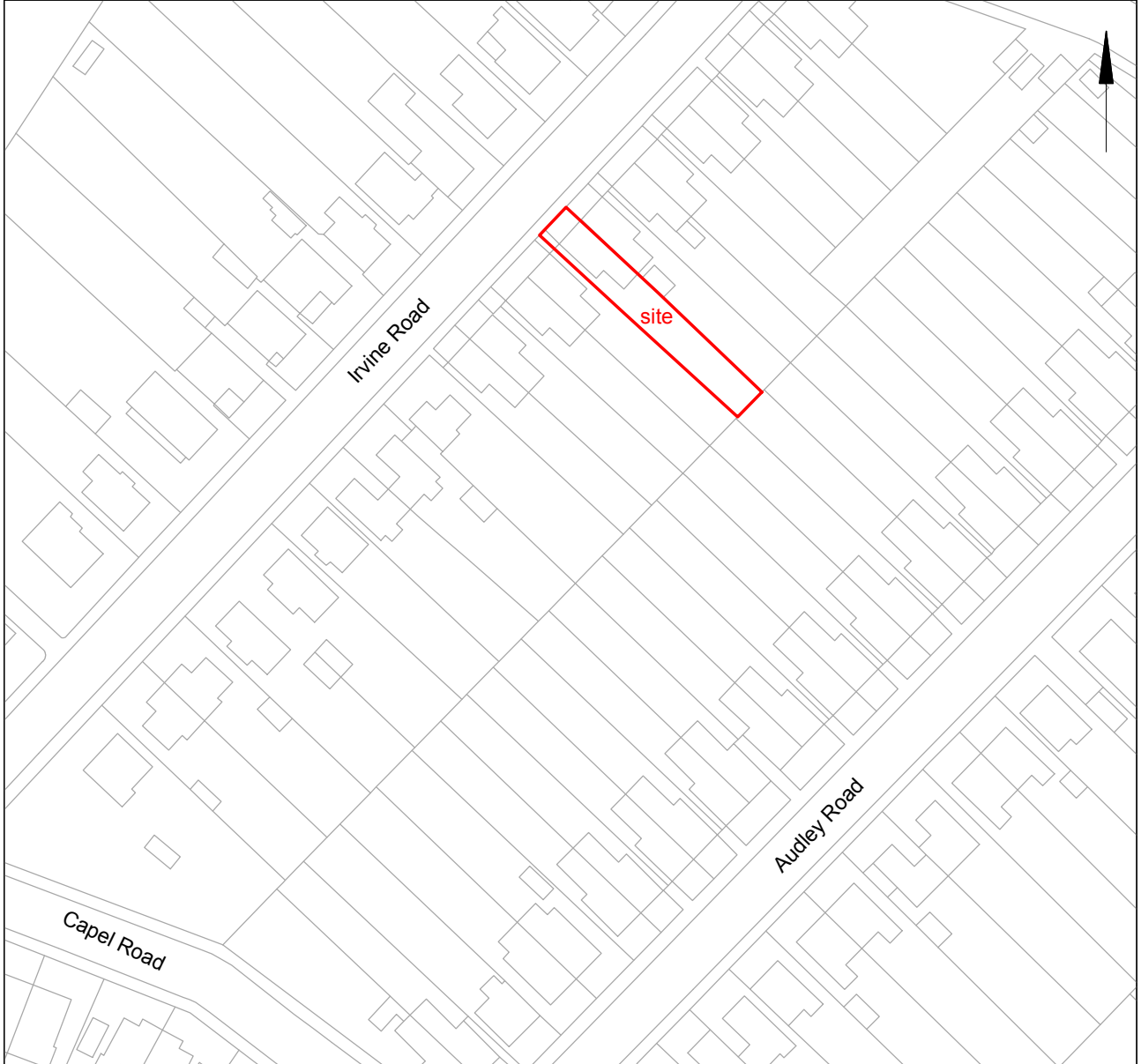
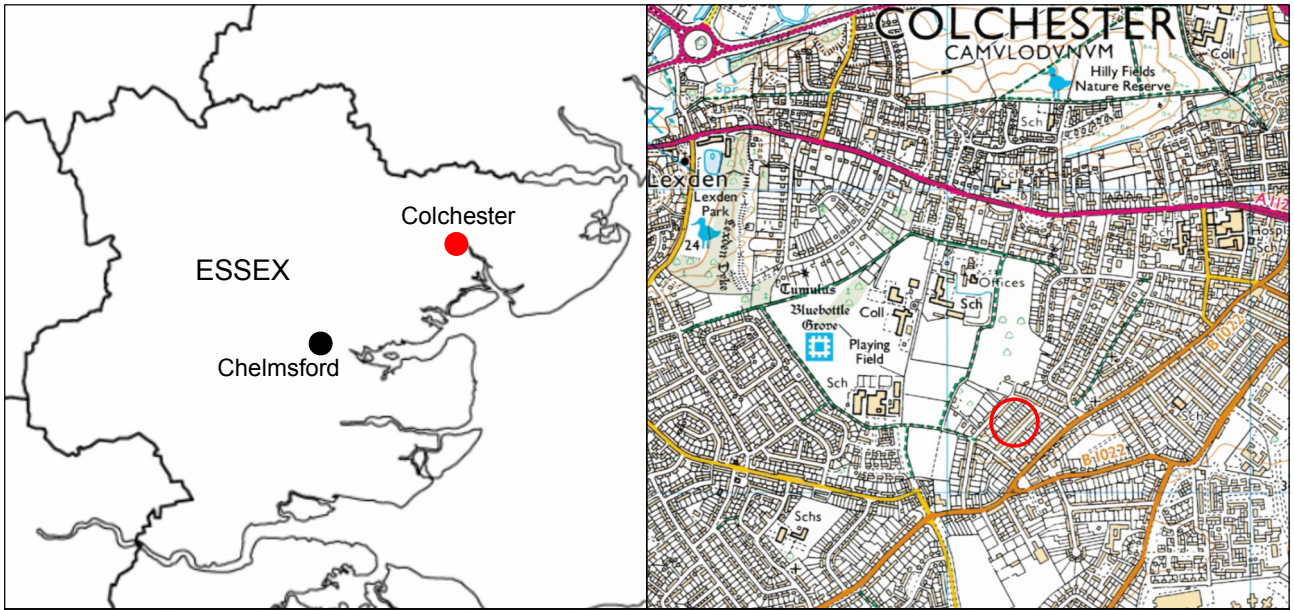


Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Footings trenches

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 20 Irvine Road, Colchester , CO3 0TR	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9819 2426	Site code: CAT project ref.: 15/03b Planning Ref: 150077 UAD ref: ECC2962 OASIS: colchest3-223526
Type of work: Monitor and record	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 27th July 2015	Size of area investigated: C 16m2
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code : 2015.87	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related UAD/SMR number: UAD EVT924 UAD EVT932
Final report: CAT Report 867	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>This site is on the fringes of Colchester's Roman cemetery area. Archaeological monitoring during the removal of old footings and the digging of foundation trenches for a new extension revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds. Modern topsoil directly sealed natural geological deposits.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: Modern	Significance: -
Author of summary: Pip Parmenter	Date of summary: September 2015

Appendix 1

(following pages)

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for continuous archaeological recording
at 20 Irvine Road,
Colchester,
Essex
CO3 3TR

NGR: TL 9819 2426 (centre)

Planning reference: 150077

Client: Claire Murphy

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tba

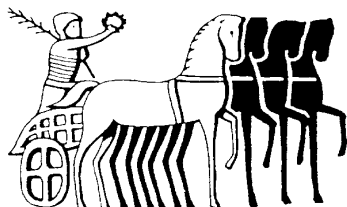
ECC Project code: n/a

CAT Project code: 15/03m

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 10-04-2015



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester,
Essex, C02 7GZ
tel: 07436 273 304
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies 1.2km to the south-west Colchester's historic walled town, on the southern edge of known Roman cemeteries. The site is within a residential area. Site centre is TL 9829 2423 (Fig 1).

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of rear extensions.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council and now accessed via the *Heritage Gateway* website.

The UAD shows that the proposed development lies in an area of known archaeological potential, situated to the south of known Roman cemeteries that cluster around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road. It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned to the orientation of this road and may be encountered in the footings for the proposed extension. Finds recovered in the immediate vicinity include Roman coins, from the rear gardens of 12 and 22 Audley Road (UAD EVT 924 & 932).

Planning Background

A planning application was submitted to Colchester Borough Council for the proposed work (Planning reference 150077). As the site lies within an area highlighted by the UAD as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and states:

"Prior to commencement of development, details of a watching brief to be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist (during construction works) shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall thereafter be carried out in strict accordance with these agreed details. In the event that any significant archaeological features or remains are discovered which are beyond the scope of the watching brief (and require fuller rescue excavation) the construction work shall cease immediately and shall not recommence until a revised programme of archaeological work including a scheme of investigation has been submitted to, and approved in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To enable the inspection and recording of any items of archaeological importance"
This will record and advance understanding of the significance of heritage assets that might be present at this location before they are damaged or destroyed.

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work is for the continuous monitoring of the groundworks (including removal of foundations of the previous building) undertaken by the building contractor. All groundworks will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision by an experienced archaeologist. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, - CBC 2015).

Specific research aims are:

- To preserve by record any archaeological remains that may be destroyed by the development.

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)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a&b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

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 ten days before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Written Scheme of Investigation

Prior to start of work, a Written Scheme of Investigation will be submitted to CBCAA. The WSI will describe in appropriate detail how the *Brief* from CBCAA will be implemented in fieldwork, post-excavation, reporting and publication stages.

The WSI shall be submitted to CBCAA, and fieldwork will not commence prior to approval of WSI from CBCAA.

The WSI will include a location plan of the development site showing area of proposed excavation or trench layout.

OASIS Record

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 CBCAA and EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows – one archaeologist to continually monitor the groundworks.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

Continuous archaeological recording (watching brief) methodology

The groundworks undertaken by the building contractor (including the removal of any foundations from previous buildings) will be continuously monitored and recorded by an experienced archaeologist from CAT.

Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, will be closely monitored during and after excavation by CAT in order to ensure no damage occurs to any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological excavation, recording and sampling (as necessary) of archaeological features or deposits uncovered during excavation and for the recording of soil sections following excavation.

The archaeological investigation will provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development (including services and landscaping).

The method and form of development will be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the CBC brief was based (2015). If unexpected remains are encountered CBC will be informed immediately.

Any variation to the approved WSI will be agreed beforehand with the Archaeological Officer.

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 the site, 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

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 determine the potential of 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), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation (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 (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

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

Human remains

Policy depends on the age of the burial. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed.

If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Allowance will be made in the budget and timetable to allow a human bone specialist to visit site to advise on recording and lifting human remains (inhumations), and for an experienced conservator to visit site and advise on recording and lifting of fragile grave goods.

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.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASiS website.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained. All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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.

End of Fieldwork, and Report

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate report will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by CBCAA.

Final report will normally be submitted to CBCAA as PDF, but printed copy can be provided on request. The report will contain:

- The aims and methodology adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of site and excavated area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench / excavated area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Detailed archaeologists results including list of sites resulting from an EHER/UAD search, and historic maps to show changes and development of site, with 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.
- As Appendices, the OASIS entry and the WSI.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and attached as Appendix to the site report, which will be emailed as PDF 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

Archive Deposition

A site archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards given in CM 2008, ClfA 2014b, and MoRPHE (EH 2006).

The requirements for archive storage shall 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.

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

A Drawing Interchange File (.dxf) will be supplied to for integration in the UAD/HER. AutoCAD files will also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo.

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CBCAA	2015	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, CO3 3TR</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CM	2008a	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008b	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

Adam Wightman



Colchester Archaeological Trust, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester, Essex, C02 2GZ

tel: 07436 273 304: email: aw@catuk.org

Appendix 2

(following pages)

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-223526

Project details

Project name	20 Irvine Road
Short description of the project	Continuous watching brief on an extension to the rear of the house
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2015 End: 27-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	150077 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2015.87 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	- None
Significant Finds	- None
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 20 Irvine Road, Colchester
Postcode	CO3 3TR
Study area	16 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9819 2426 51.881100981096 0.879889538798 51 52 51 N 000 52 47 E Point

Project creators

Name of	Colchester Archaeological Trust
---------	---------------------------------

Organisation
Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project director/manager Chris Lister
Project supervisor Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body Claire Murphy

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by Pip Parmenter (pcrparmenter@gmail.com)
Entered on 15 September 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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