

# Archaeological monitoring and recording at 29 Drury Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UX

May 2016



by **Laura Pooley**

figures by Chris Lister and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Alec Wade

on behalf of **Robin Godden**

NGR: TL 9861 2411 (centre)

Planning reference: 160580

CAT project ref.: 16/04I

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.43

UAD ref: ECC3748

OASIS reference: colchest3-249718



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**CAT Report 960**

May 2016

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 29 Drury Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of a two-storey and single-storey side extension. Despite being located close to a number of Roman cemeteries, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at 29 Drury Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 19th-23rd May 2016. The work was commissioned by Robin Godden in advance of the construction of a two-storey and single-storey side extension, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), 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 (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016)

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 watching brief* (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 major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically near to an area of Roman cemeteries. To the north-east, several Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (CAR 9, 258) along with the famous 'Colchester Sphinx', and many others have been found since. A number of burials have also been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5; CAR 8, 43-9), with eighteen Roman inhumation burials excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (CAR 9, 261). Also to the north-east over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Police station on Butt Road (CAR 9, 4-202). To the east cemetery sites are known from excavations at Abbey Field (EHER 12384) and on the Garrison Alienated Land (Areas J1, C2, H and others; CAT Reports 412 and forthcoming). A cremation burial was found on the corner of Maldon and Constantine Roads (EHER 13179) with graves also being found at the south end of Constantine Walk (EHER 11860).

To the east of the development site some Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age settlement evidence and sparse Neolithic finds were also uncovered during the Colchester Garrison Project (EHER 46187).

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

Groundworks for the new side extension covered an area of approximately 84m<sup>2</sup>. Three lengths of foundation trench and a soakaway were dug by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. The trenches totalled 25.5m in length and were 0.3m wide by 1m deep. The soakaway measured 2m long, 1.4m wide and 1.4m deep.

**Foundation trenches:** Four layers were identified. Modern turf and topsoil (L1, c 50-90mm thick) sealed a modern sandy-silty subsoil (L2, c 630-700mm thick, containing post-medieval/modern building material (not retained)). Beneath L2 was a layer of silty-sand, possibly disturbed natural (L4, c 120-200mm thick), which sealed natural sands and gravels (L5, encountered at a depth of c 900mm below current ground level). At least seven modern services were identified along with areas of modern disturbance from grubbed out bushes and a demolished shed. No significant archaeological horizons were identified.

**Soakaway:** Four layers were identified. Modern turf and topsoil (L1, c 150-200mm thick) sealed a modern sandy-silty subsoil (L2, c 450mm thick, containing post-medieval/modern building material (not retained)). Beneath L2 was a layer of silty-sand (L3, c 180-370mm thick) that was probably disturbed natural from a large tree-throw. This sealed natural sands and gravels (L5, encountered at a depth of c 750-1000mm below current ground level). No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



**Photograph 1** Foundation trench, looking S



**Photograph 2** Soakaway, looking E

## 5 Finds

No archaeological finds were identified.

## 6 Discussion

Despite being located close to several Roman cemetery areas, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Robin Godden for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by A Wade. Site plans were prepared by C Lister. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

## 8 References

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

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording (a watching brief) at 29 Drury Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UX</i>
CAT Report 412	2011	<i>Archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.</i>
CAT Report ???	forthcoming	<i>Archaeological excavations on Area H of the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.</i>
CBC	2015	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 29 Drury Road, Colchester, CO2 7UX</i> , by Jess Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,</i>

David Gurney	2003	<i>conservation and research of archaeological materials 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>

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CM	Colchester Museum
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
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 960)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

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

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

## 11 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: COLEM 2016.43.

**Distribution list**

Robin Godden  
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

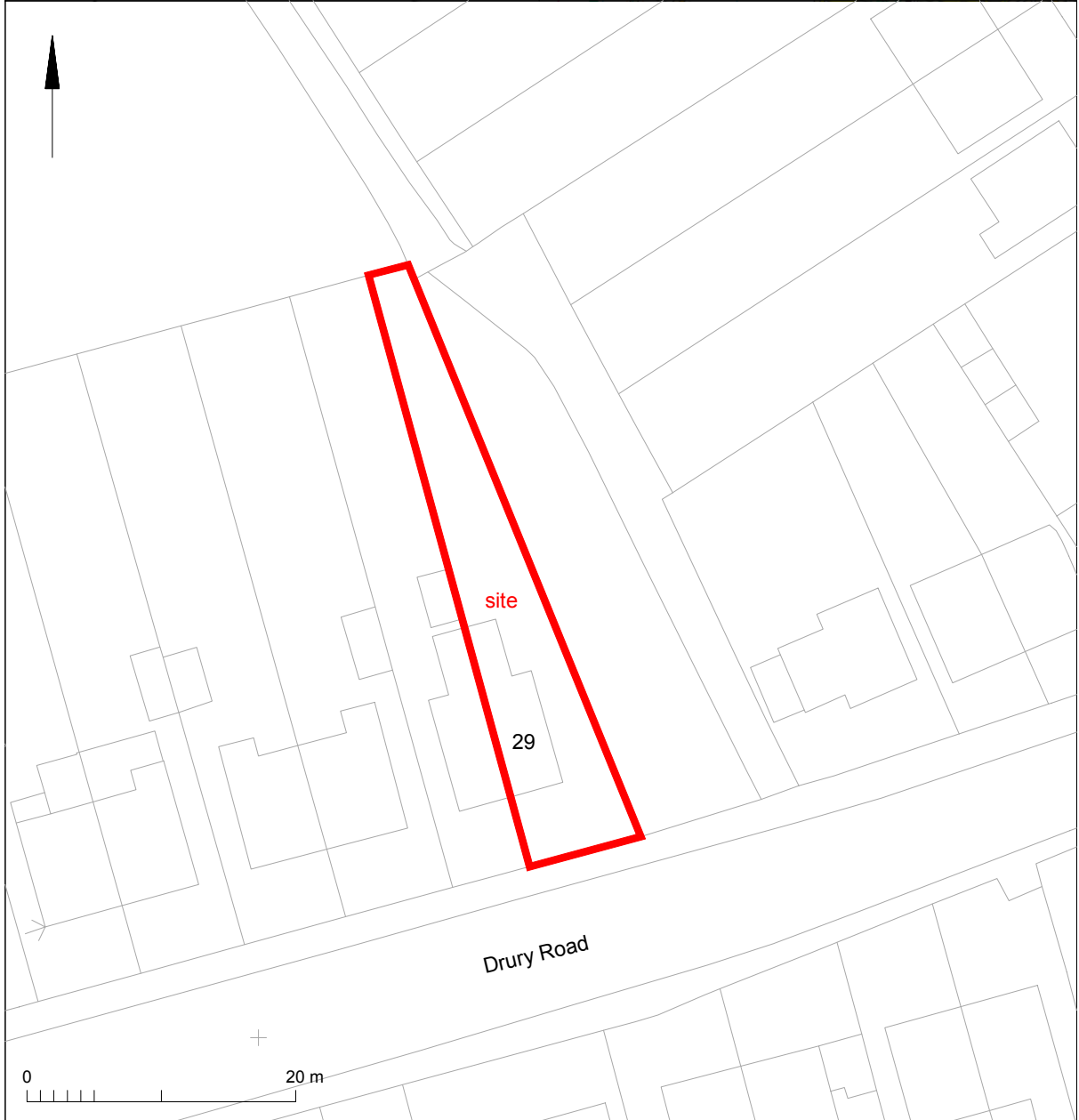
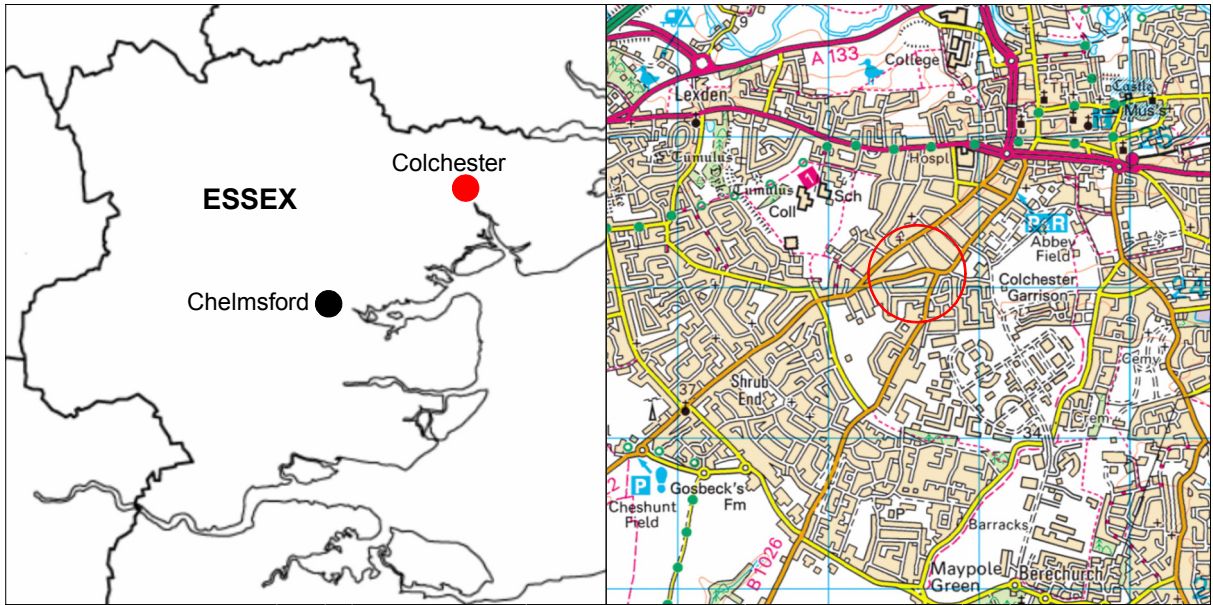
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*Checked by:* Howard Brooks

*Date:* 24.05.2016





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Fig 1 Site location.





Fig 2 Results.

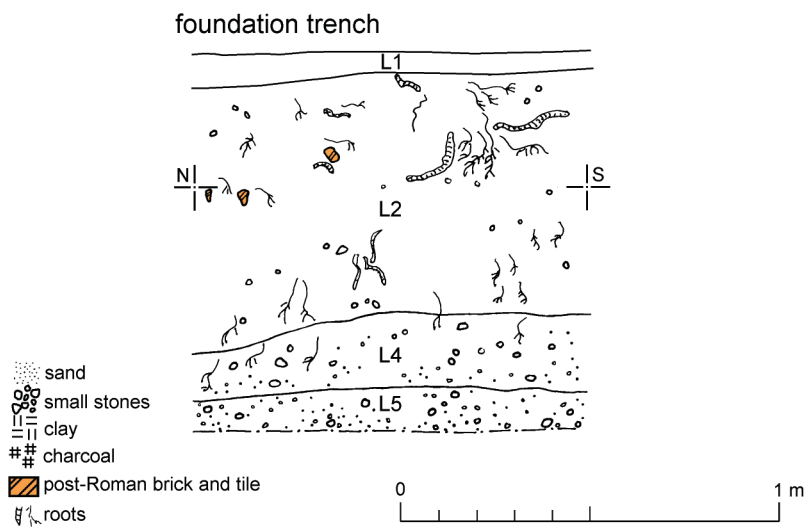
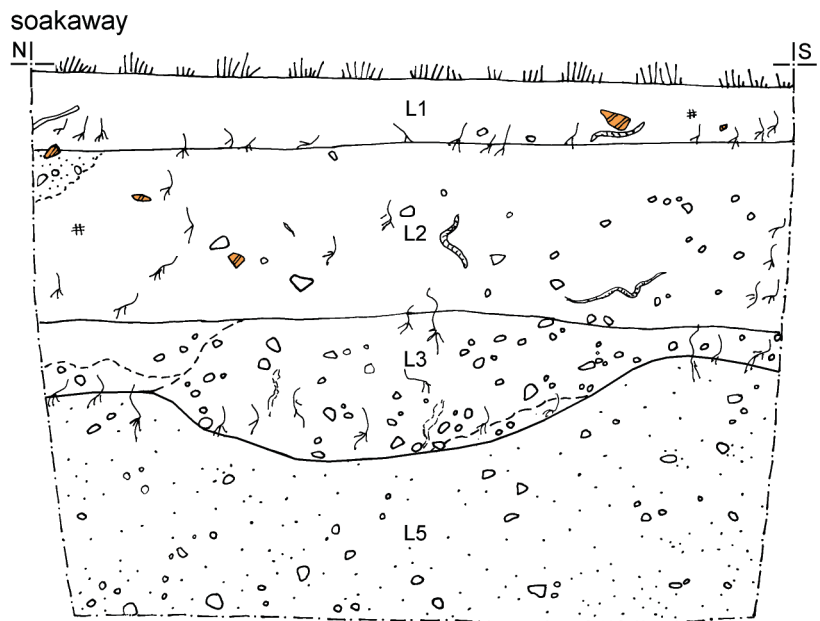


Fig 3 Representative sections.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/  
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 29 Drury Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EU	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9861 2411 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 16/04l UAD ref: ECC3748 OASIS ref: colchest3-249718
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 19th-23rd May 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 84m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.43	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related UAD/SMR number:</b> EHER 11860, 12384, 13179
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 960	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological a watching brief was carried out at 29 Drury Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of a two-storey and single-storey side extension. Despite being located close to a number of Roman cemeteries, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> May 2016

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording (a watching brief) at 29 Drury Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UX

**NGR:** TL 9861 2411 (centre)

**Planning references:** 160580

**Client:** Robin Godden

**Curating Museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** [tbc](#)

**UAD Event number:** ECC3748

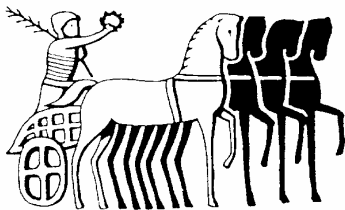
**CAT Project code:** 16/04I

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-249718

**Site Manager:** Ben Holloway

**CBC Monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 26.04.2016



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## **Site location and description**

The proposed development site lies approximately 1 mile southwest of Colchester Town Centre at 29 Drury Road (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 9861 2411.

## **Proposed work**

The development comprises the erection of two storey and single storey side extensions and alterations.

## **Archaeological background**

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The EHER shows that the development site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically near to an area of Roman cemeteries. To the north/north-east, several Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 along with the famous 'Colchester Sphinx' when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (*CAR 9*, 258), and many others have been found since. A number of burials have also been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5; *CAR 8*, 43-9), with eighteen Roman inhumation burials excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (*CAR 9*, 261). Also to the north-east over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Police station on Butt Road (*CAR 9*, 4-202). To the east, cemetery sites are known from excavations at Abbey Field (EHER 12384) and on the Garrison Alienated Land (Areas J1, C2, H and others; CAT Reports 412 and forthcoming). A cremation burial was found on the corner of Maldon and Constantine Roads (EHER 13179) with graves also being found at the south end of Constantine Walk (EHER 11860).

To the east of the development site some Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age settlement evidence and sparse Neolithic finds were also uncovered during the Colchester Garrison Project (EHER 46187).

## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2016 (application No.160580) proposing the erection of two storey and single storey side extensions and alterations.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / UAD 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* (DCLG 2012).

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically:

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

## **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, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Briefs issued by the 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 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 EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **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.

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) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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.

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

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

## 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. 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. 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.

## 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.

## 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): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

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.

## 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* (English Heritage 2006).

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

## 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. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that 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).

**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.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

## 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

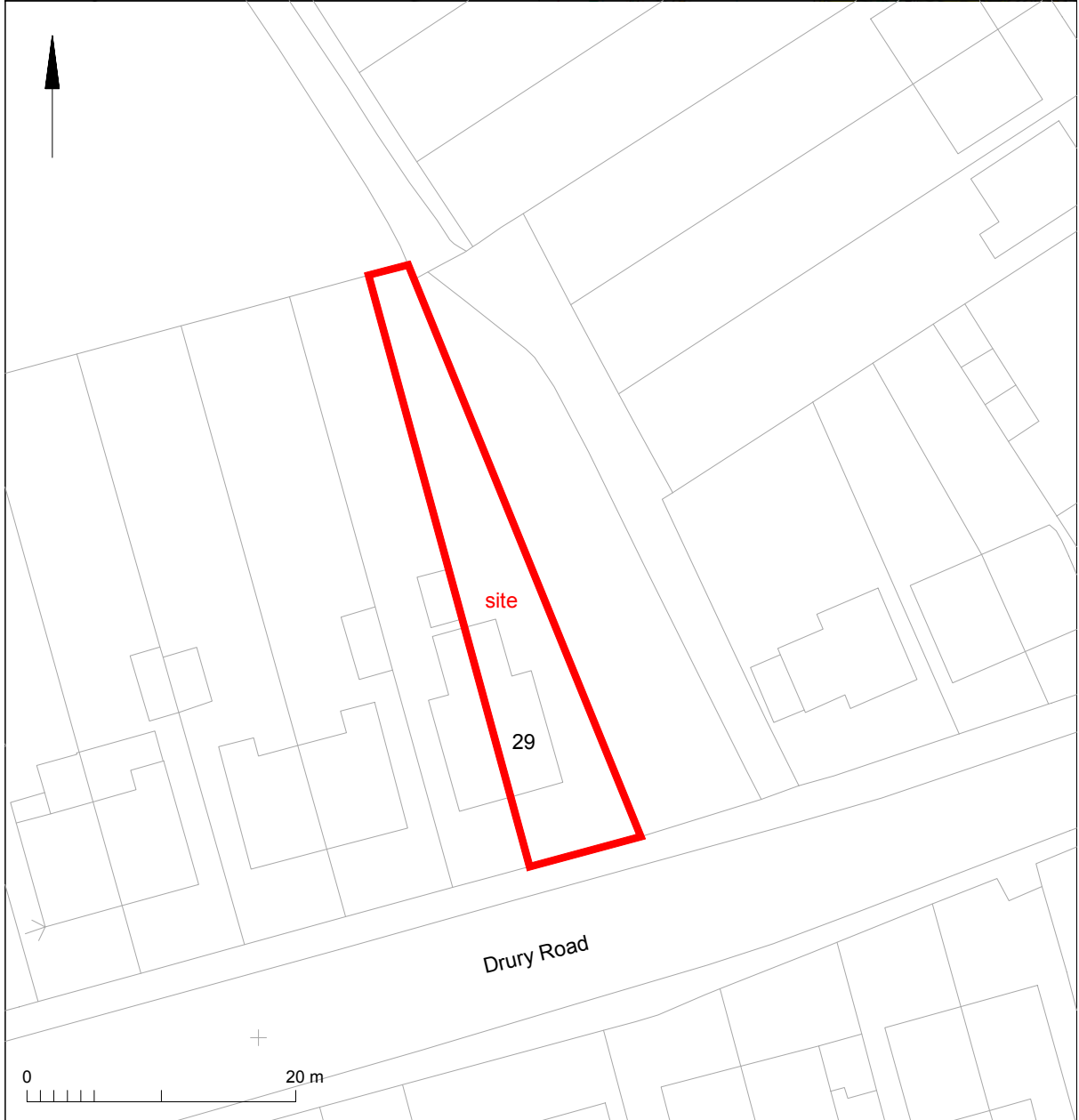
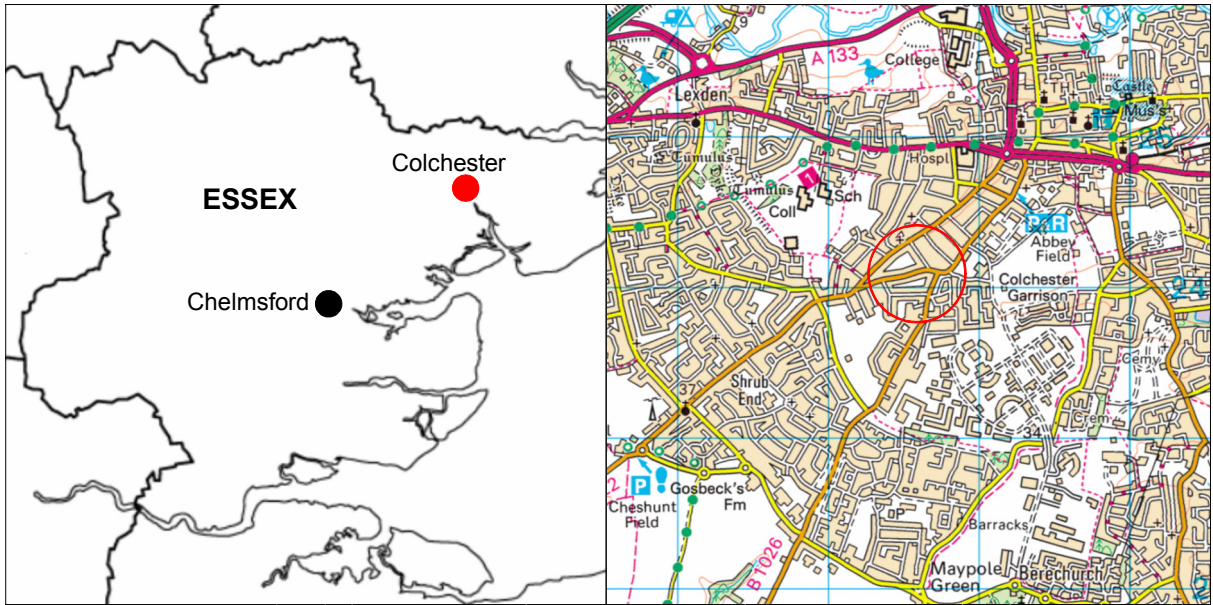
- |                  |             |  |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Brown, D         | 2007        | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>   |
| CAR 8            | 1995        | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by J Price   |
| CAR 9            | 1993        | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan |
| CAT              | 2014        | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT Report 412   | 2011        | <i>Archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.</i>  |
| CAT              | forthcoming | <i>Archaeological excavations on Area H of the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.</i>   |
| CBC              | 2015        | <i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 29 Drury Road, Colchester, CO2 7UX</i> , by Jess Tipper  |
| CifA             | 2014a       | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>  |
| CifA             | 2014b       | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>  |
| David Gurney     | 2003        | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).  |
| DCLG             | 2012        | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>  |
| English Heritage | 2006        | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>  |
| Hull, M R        | 1958        | <i>Roman Colchester</i> , Report 20 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London  |
| 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)                            |

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Fig 1 Site location.

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-249718**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 29 Drury Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UX
Short description of the project	An archaeological a watching brief was carried out at 29 Drury Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of a two storey and single storey side extension. Despite being located close to a number of Roman cemeteries, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.
Project dates	Start: 19-05-2016 End: 23-05-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/04I - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	160580 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.43 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3748 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 29 Drury Road

Postcode CO2 7UX  
 Study area 84 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TL 9861 2411 51.879603776107 0.885897871071 51 52 46 N 000 53 09 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer  
 Project design originator Laura Pooley  
 Project director/manager Chris Lister  
 Project supervisor Alec Wade  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Owner

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.43  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"  
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.43  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at 29 Drury Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UX: May 2016  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.  
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 960  
 Date 2016  
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Place of issue or publication Colchester  
 Description A4 ringbound loose leaf  
 URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>



Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)

Entered on 24 May 2016

## OASIS:

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