Archaeological monitoring and recording at 266 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BE

May 2016



by Laura Pooley

figures by Robin Mathieson and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner

commissioned by Chris Morris Design Ltd on behalf of Mr & Mrs Gibson

NGR: TL 9834 2412 (centre) Planning reference: 160674 CAT project ref.: 16/05f

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.49

UAD ref: ECC3759

OASIS reference: colchest3-251511



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CAT Report 961 May 2016

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EHER Summary

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension at 266 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex. Despite being located in an area of known Roman cemeteries no significant archaeological horizons were identified.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) at 264 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 26th May 2016. The work was commissioned by Chris Morris Design Ltd, on behalf of Mr & Mrs Gibson, in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the 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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 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, 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). Eighteen Roman inhumation burials were excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (*CAR* **9**, 261). 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 north-east/east, cemetery sites are known from excavations at Abbey Field (EHER 12384) and on the Garrison Alienated Land (Areas J1, C2, H; CAT Reports 412 and forthcoming). A cremation burial was found 350m NE on the corner of Maldon and Constantine Roads (EHER 13179) with graves also being found 150m away at the south end of Constantine Walk (EHER 11860).

To the east of the 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)

Two sides of the new rear extension are being built on the foundations of a conservatory that was demolished prior to groundworks. Only the NE foundation trench was excavated.

The NE foundation trench was dug by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. It measured 4.2m long, 0.5m wide and 1m deep (covering an area $2.1m^2$). Three layers were identified underneath modern paving slabs. A modern topsoil (L1, c 270mm thick) sealed a silty-sandy subsoil (L2, c 580mm thick) which sealed natural sands and gravels (L3, identified at a depth of c 900mm below current ground level). No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 1 Foundation trench, looking NW



Photograph 2 Foundation trench, looking NE

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were identified.

6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological importance no significant archaeological horizons were identified.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Chris Morris Design Ltd and Mr & Mrs Gibson for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by N Rayner. Site plans were prepared by R Mathieson. The project was monitored for 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

CAR 8	1995	Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85 by J Price
CAR 9	1993	Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85 by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan
CAT	2015	Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) at 266 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BE
CBCPS	2015	Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 266 Maldon Road, Colchester, CO3 3BE
ClfA	2014a	Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework. Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14. Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT Colchester Archaeological Trust

CBCPS Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

CBM brick/tile (ceramic building material)
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

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 961)

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 2016.49

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Distribution list

Chris Morris Design Ltd Mr & Mrs Gibson Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services Essex Historic Environment Record



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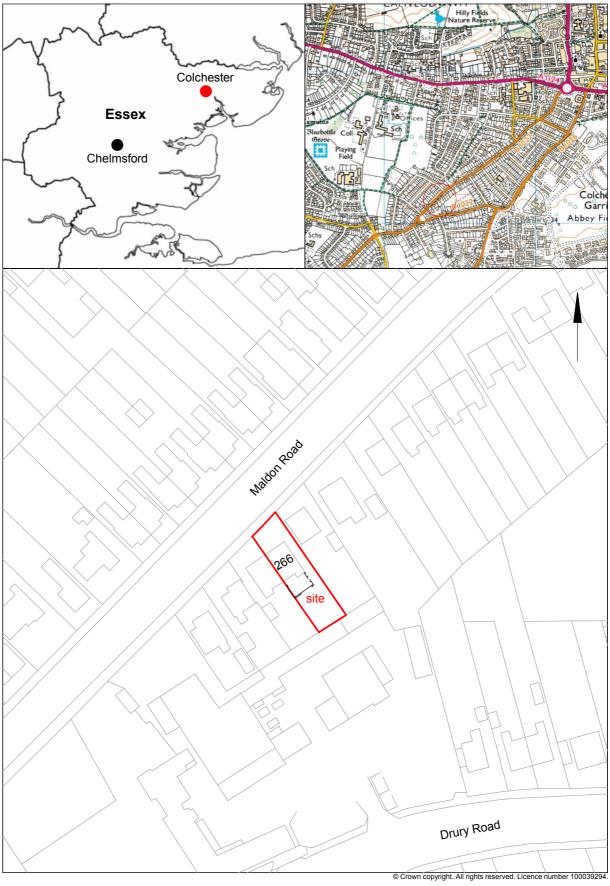


Fig 1 Site location.





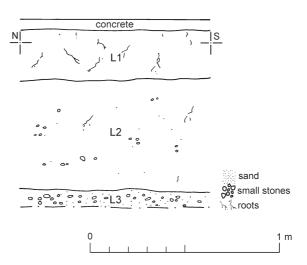


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 266 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BE				
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester			
NGR: TL 9834 2412 (centre)	Site code:			
	CAT project ref.: 16/05f			
	UAD ref: ECC3759			
	OASIS ref: colchest3-251511			
Type of work:	Site director/group:			
Watching brief	Colchester Archaeological Trust			
Date of work:	Size of area investigated:			
24th May 2016	4.2m x 0.5m (2.1m²)			
•	, ,			
Location of curating museum:	Funding source:			
Colchester museum	Owner			
accession code COLEM: 2016.49				
Further seasons anticipated?	Related UAD/SMR number:			
no	EHER 11860, 12384, 13179, 46187			
Final vananti CAT Danart 061				
Final report: CAT Report 961				
Periods represented: -				
Summary of fieldwork results:				
Archaeological monitoring and record	ling was undertaken in advance of the			
construction of a single-storey rea	ar extension at 266 Maldon Road,			
	located in an area of known Roman			
	cemeteries no significant archaeological horizons were identified.			
demotioned no digninicant archaeological nonzona were lacitanea.				
Previous summaries/reports: None				
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper				
Keywords: -	Significance: -			
-				
Author of summary:	Date of summary:			
Laura Pooley	May 2016			

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) at 266 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BE

NGR: TL 9834 2412 (centre)

Planning references: 160674

Client: Mr & Mrs Gibson

Agent: Chris Morris Design Ltd

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc UAD Event number: ECC3759 CAT Project code: 16/05f

OASIS project number: colchest3-251511

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 13.05.2016



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1 mile to the southeast of Colchester's walled town centre, between the junctions of Capel Road and Athelstan Road (Fig 1). Site centre is TL 9834 2412.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a single storey rear extension.

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, 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). Eighteen Roman inhumation burials were excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (*CAR* **9**, 261). 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 northeast/east cemetery sites are known from excavations at Abbey Field (EHER 12384) and on the Garrison Alienated Land (Areas J1, C2, H; CAT Reports 412 and forthcoming). A cremation burial was found 350m NE on the corner of Maldon and Constantine Roads (EHER 13179) with graves also being found 150m away at the south end of Constantine Walk (EHER 11860).

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

Planning background

A planning application (application no. 160674) was made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2016 proposing the erection of a single storey rear extension.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / UAD as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, archaeological conditions were recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) for both applications. The recommended archaeological conditions are 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.

Watching brief 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 proforma 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 CBCAO 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 site 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	Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation
CAR 9	1993	Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85 by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan
CAT	2014	Health & Safety Policy
CAT Report 412	2011	Archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.
CAT	forthcoming	Archaeological excavations on Area H of the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.
CBC	2015	Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 266 Maldon Road, Colchester, CO3 3BE,by Jess Tipper
ClfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
David Gurnev	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
Hull, M R	1958	Roman Colchester, Report 20 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

L Pooley



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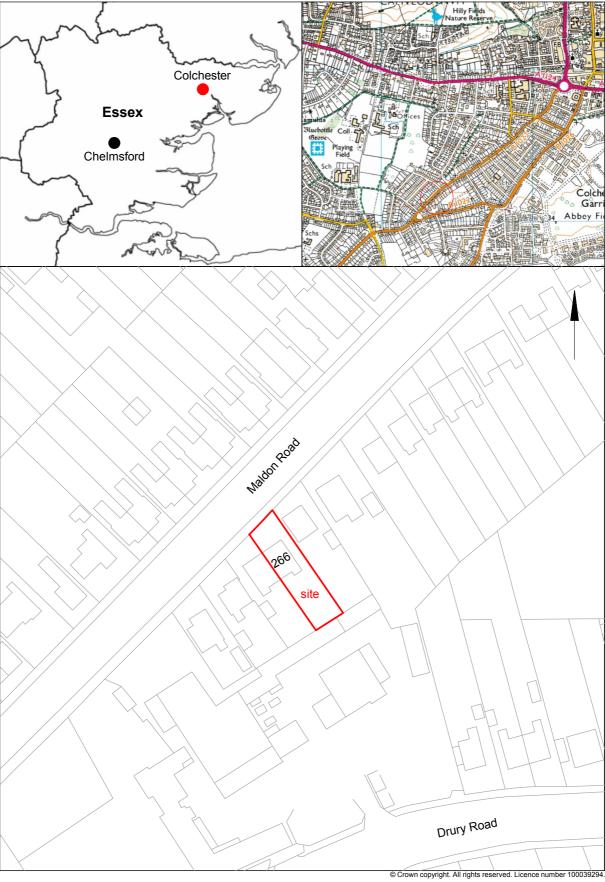


Fig 1 Site location.

50 m

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: colchest3-251511

Project details

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 266 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, Project name

CO3 3BE

Short description

of the project

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension at 266 Maldon Road, Colchester,

Essex. Despite being located in an area of known Roman cemeteries no

archaeological significant archaeological horizons were identified.

Project dates Start: 24-05-2016 End: 24-05-2016

Previous/future work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

Any associated

codes

16/05f - Contracting Unit No.

160674 - Planning Application No. project reference

Any associated project reference

COLEM: 2016.49 - Museum accession ID

codes

Any associated project reference

codes

ECC3759 - HER event no.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

N/A None Monument type Significant Finds N/A None

Investigation type "Watching Brief" Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 266 Maldon Road 25/05/2016

CO3 3BE Postcode

Study area 2.1 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 9834 2412 51.879790131837 0.881985746826 51 52 47 N 000 52 55 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator

CBC Archaeological Officer

Project design originator

Laura Pooley

Project

Chris Lister

director/manager

Project supervisor Nigel Rayner

Type of

Owner

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive

No

Exists?

Digital Archive

Colchester Museum

recipient

COLEM: 2016.49 Digital Archive ID

Digital Media

available

"Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive

recipient

Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID

COLEM: 2015.49

Paper Media available

"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at 266 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex,

CO3 3BE: May 2016

Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.

Other

CAT Report 961

bibliographic details

2016 Date

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 (Ip@catuk.org)

Entered on 25 May 2016

OASIS:

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