

Archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HD

July – October 2016



by **Laura Pooley and Chris Lister**

fieldwork by Howard Brooks and Sarah Carter

**commissioned by Andy Cameron (Wright, Ruffle, Cameron)
on behalf of J Cook and Sons**

NGR: TL 9955 2537 (centre)

Planning reference: 160104

CAT project ref.: 16/051

Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2016.51

CHER ref: ECC3765

OASIS reference: colchest3-252078



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CAT Report 989

October 2016

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Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Results

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was required to be carried out on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a single dwelling. Despite being located within the Roman town and close to a number of known Roman buildings, no significant archaeological horizons were exposed during monitoring visits.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, Essex which was carried out 26th July-17th October 2016. The work was commissioned by Andy Cameron (Wright, Ruffle, Cameron), on behalf of J Cook & Sons, in advance of the construction of a single dwelling, 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* (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 Colchester HER and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site lies within the north edge of the Roman legionary fortress and on the eastern edge of *insula* 11 in the later Roman town. A Roman tessellated pavement (Hull 1958, plate XLI, find no 23) and wall foundation (*CAR* 6, fig 2.9, p15) have been recorded close to the site.

A watching brief at 7 Walters Yard in 1980 (CAT ref.: 8/80a) revealed a Roman mortar floor, and pit and foundation of uncertain date (EHER 13306). Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard in 2009 (CAT Report 512) revealed Roman horizons at a depth of 1-1.4m below current ground level, overlaid by a considerable depth of post-medieval and modern strata. A robber trench marked the position of a Roman building (robbed out in the medieval period) which stood in the north-eastern quarter of the insula, and an adjacent fragment of compacted clay represented the floor of a Roman building probably pre-dating the robbed wall.

Historic maps indicate that this was an area of gardens in the post-medieval period, particularly associated with nos. 56-58 West Stockwell Street (16th-18th century

buildings). Ancillary structures and pits associated with these buildings may also survive of the development site.

4 Results (Fig 2)

In a change to the initial design outlined in the WSI (piles and ground beams), the new dwelling was built on a piled floating raft. As such the development site was initially cleared of scrub through approximately 100mm of modern topsoil (see Photograph 1). This was monitored by a CAT archaeologist.

The level of the site was then built-up and the piles installed through a piling mat of imported brick rubble. Unfortunately, due to a communication error between CAT and the contractors the piles were not monitored by a CAT archaeologist. After the installation of the piles the piling mat was removed and the floating raft constructed above reduced ground level (see Photograph 2). Sixteen piles were used on the site, each measured 220mm in diameter and were approximately 8m deep.



Photograph 1 The site after ground clearance



Photograph 2 Construction of the floating raft

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were identified.

6 Discussion

No significant archaeological horizons were exposed during the initial site clearance as groundworks did not penetrate below topsoil. As no monitoring visits were made during piling, it is not known if any significant archaeological horizons were disturbed/exposed. Whilst it is unfortunate that this monitoring was not carried out, evidence derived from the up-cast of piles is generally difficult to accurately interpret or place into an appropriate context, and would probably have only confirmed the findings of the trial-trench evaluation carried out on the site in 2009 (CAT Report 512).

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andy Cameron (Wright, Ruffle, Cameron) and J Cook & Sons for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by H Brooks and S Carter. Figures were prepared by LP. 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>

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy
CBCPS	2016	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, CO1 1HD</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, 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> , RRCSAL, 20
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)

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
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
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 989)

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 2016.51

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Distribution list

Andy Cameron (Wright, Ruffle, Cameron)

J Cook & Sons

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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Date: 19/10/2016

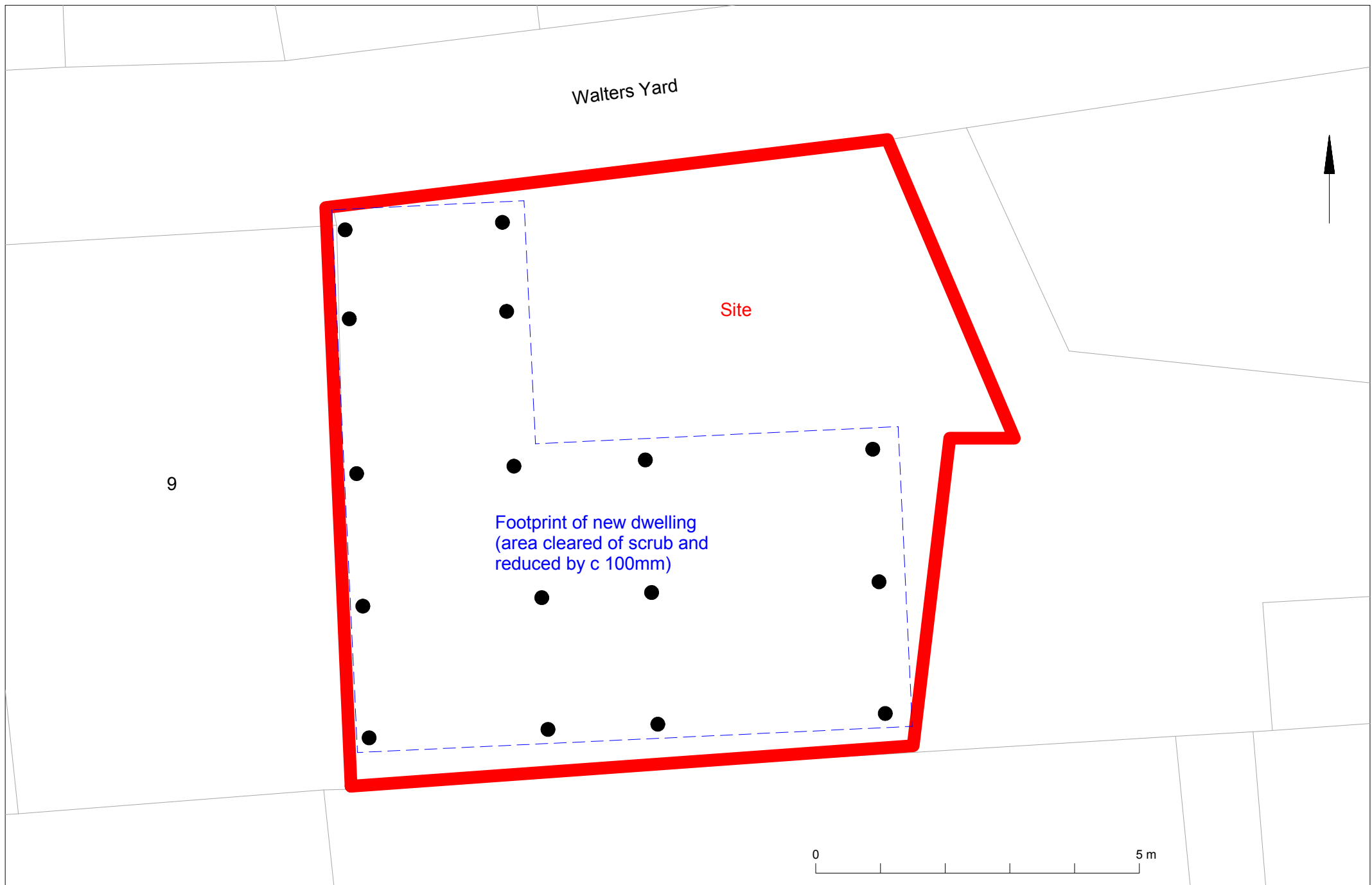


Fig 2 Results showing pile locations.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HD	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9955 2537 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/05l UAD ref: ECC3765 OASIS ref: colchest3-252078
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 26th July – 17th October 2016	Size of area investigated: development site measured 81m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.51	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related CHER/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 989	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was required to be carried out on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a single dwelling. Despite being located within the Roman town and close to a number of known Roman buildings, no significant archaeological horizons were exposed during monitoring visits.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: –	Significance: –
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: October 2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HD

NGR: TL 9955 2537 (centre)

Planning reference: 160104

Commissioned by: Andy Cameron (Wright, Ruffle, Cameron)

Client: J Cook & Sons

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

ECC Project code: ECC3765

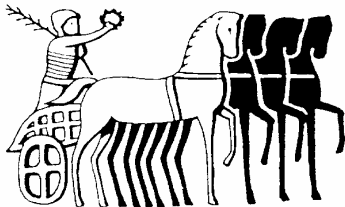
CAT Project code: 16/05I

OASIS ref.: colchest3-252078

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 19.05.2016



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Site location and description

The development site lies within the historic 'Dutch Quarter' in Colchester town centre and is accessed from an alleyway (ie Walters Yard) which leads off West Stockwell Street (Fig 1). Site centre is TL 9955 2537 (centre).

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a single dwelling.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background derives from the CBCAA brief with data from the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD):

The development site lies within the north edge of the Roman legionary fortress and on the eastern edge of *insula* 11 in the later Roman town. A Roman tessellated pavement (Hull 1958, plate XLI, find no 23) and wall foundation (*CAR 6*, fig 2.9, p15) have been recorded close to the site.

A watching brief at 7 Walters Yard in 1980 (CAT ref.: 8/80a) revealed a Roman mortar floor, and pit and foundation of uncertain date (EHER 13306). Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard in 2009 (CAT Report 512) revealed Roman horizons at a depth of 1-1.4m below current ground level, overlaid by a considerable depth of post-medieval and modern strata. A robber trench marked the position of a Roman building (robbed out in the medieval period) which stood in the north-eastern quarter of the insula, and an adjacent fragment of compacted clay represented the floor of a Roman building probably pre-dating the robbed wall.

Historic maps indicate that this was an area of gardens in the post-medieval period, particularly associated with nos. 56-58 West Stockwell Street (16th-18th century buildings). Ancillary structures and pits associated with these buildings may also survive of the development site.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2016 (application No.160104) proposing the erection of a new dwelling.

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).

Groundworks include 16 piles each 150mm in diameter supporting ground beams 600mm wide by 600mm deep.

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 groundworks. At least two corners of which 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 6 | 1992 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy |

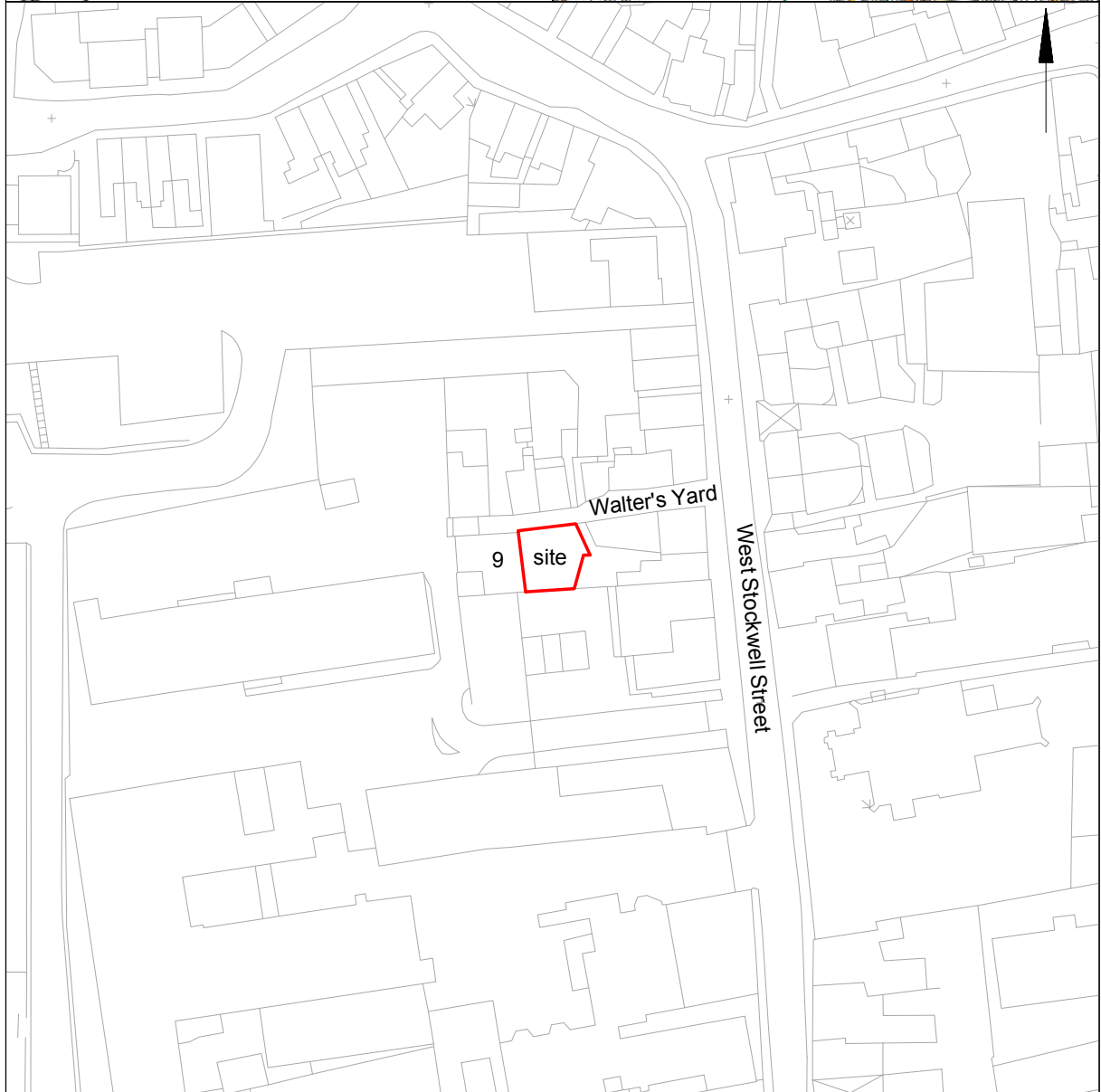
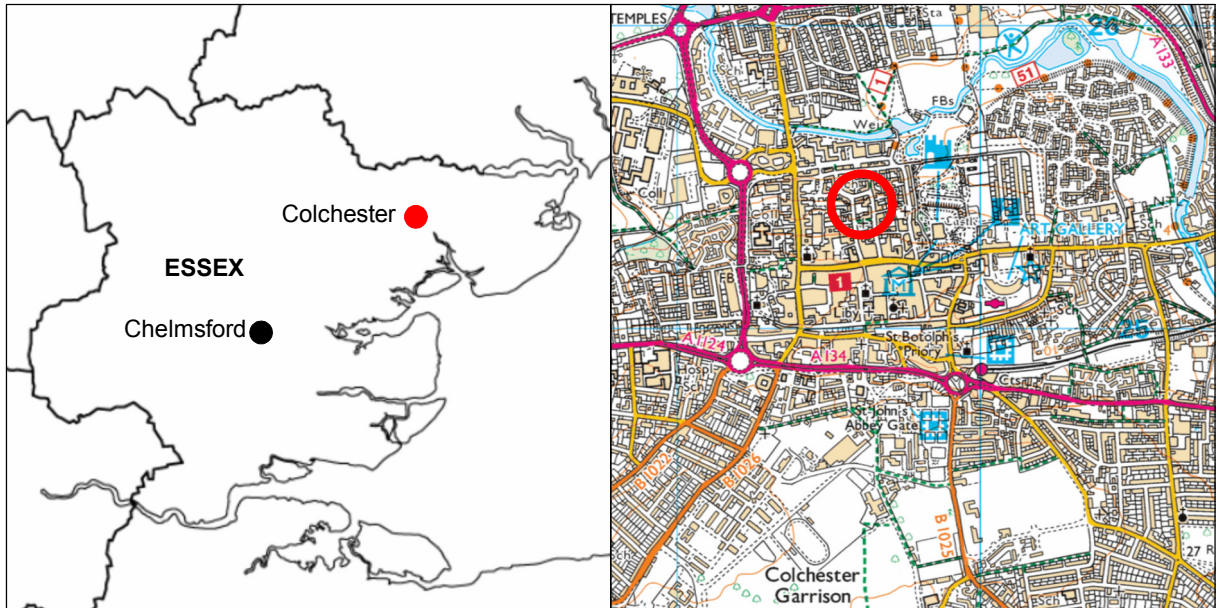
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CBC	2016	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, CO1 1HD, by Jess Tipper</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
David Gurney	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. 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>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</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>

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Fig 1 Site location.



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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-252078

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HD
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was required to be carried out on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a single dwelling. Despite being located within the Roman town and close to a number of known Roman buildings, no significant archaeological horizons were exposed during monitoring visits.
Project dates	Start: 26-07-2016 End: 17-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/05I - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	160104 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.51 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3765 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
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 land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard
Postcode	CO1 1HD
Study area	81 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9955 2537 51.890581792645 0.900266455317 51 53 26 N 000 54 00 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	Howard Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2016.51
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2016.51
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HD: July-October 2016
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 989
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
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Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	20 October 2016

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