## Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 0ET

May 2017



**by Dr Elliott Hicks** figures by Sarah Carter and Ben Holloway

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Harvey Furniss

#### commissioned by Les Short, PNR Developments Ltd

NGR: TM 01165 27002 (centre) Planning ref.: 151985 CAT project ref.: 17/05h ECC code: ECC3998 Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2017.68 OASIS ref.: colchest3-285552



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

tel.: 01206 501785 email: <u>lp@catuk.org</u>

CAT Report 1109 June 2017

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#### 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings. A single post-medieval ditch terminus was uncovered during this evaluation.

#### 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 31st May 2017. The work was commissioned by Les Short of PNR Developments Ltd in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

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* (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 Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway.

The EHER/CHER shows that the development site lies within an area of archaeological interest with potential for encountering occupation remains. A Mesolithic tranchet axe was discovered 160m to the west (EHER 2406/12588, CHER MCC1934). An unlocated fort from the siege of Colchester is probably located to the south west (EHER 46634). A small number of cropmarks (linears and ring-ditches) were recorded 1km to the north west (EHER 2645).

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

Two trial-trenches were excavated within the development site. Three layers were recorded. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.16-0.24m thick, soft, moist dark grey-brown sandy-silt) sealed accumulated subsoil (L2, c 0.21-0.4m thick, soft, moist medium yellow-brown clayey-silt). This layer sealed a natural layer of soft, moist, medium yellow-brown silty-clay (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.42-0.6m below current ground level).

#### Trench 1 (T1): 10m long by 1.4m wide

No significant archaeological remains were uncovered within this trench. It was cut by two modern land drains at its northern end.



Photo 1 T1 trench shot - looking north

#### Trench 2 (T2): 10m long by 1.4m wide

The terminus of a linear feature was located in the eastern half of this trench. It was aligned WSW-ENE, and measured 0.82m across and 0.06m deep.



Photo 2 T2 trench shot - looking east

#### 5 Finds

A small fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material and a small shard of postmedieval tile were recovered from F1 in T2.

#### 7 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological interest, the only archaeological feature uncovered was a single post-medieval ditch terminus.

#### 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Les Short of PNR Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with H Furniss. Figures are by S Carter. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

#### 9 References

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

CAT CBCAA	2014 2016	Health & Safety Policy Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, CO4 0ET by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives
DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )

#### 10 Abbreviations and glossary

	s and grootally
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS,
	http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

#### 11 Contents of archive

Finds: One box

Paper and digital record One A4 document wallet containing: The report (CAT Report 1109) ECC 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

#### 12 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 2017.68

#### © Colchester Archaeological Trust 2017

Distribution list: Les Short PNR Developments Ltd Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services Essex Historic Environment Record



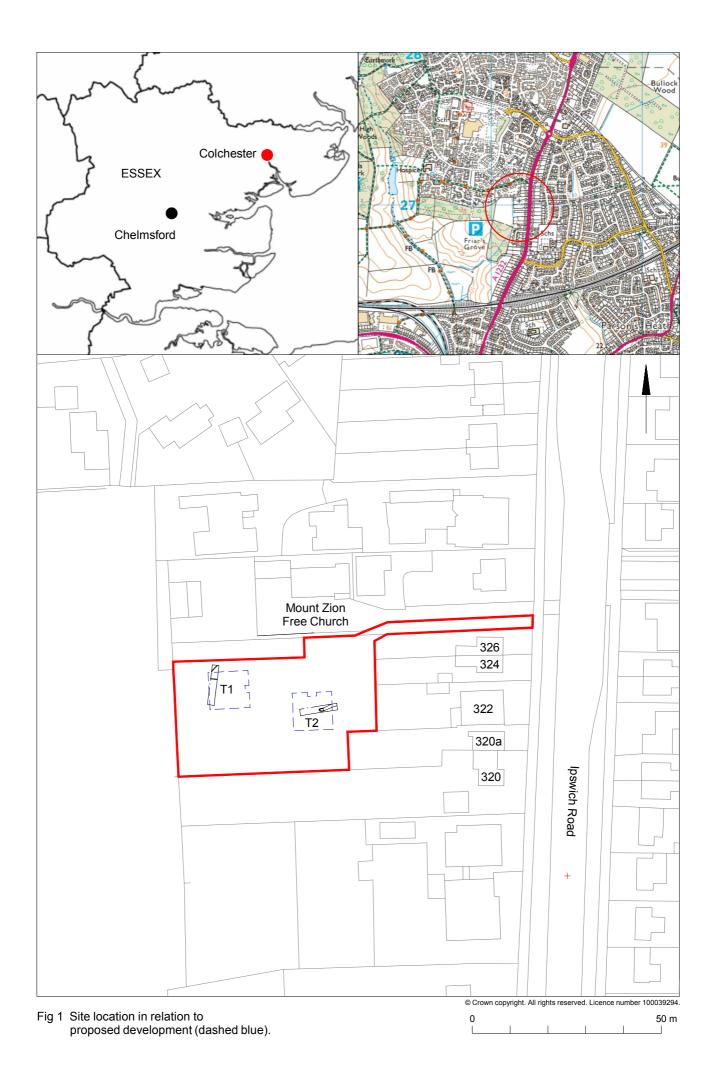
Colchester Archaeological Trust Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

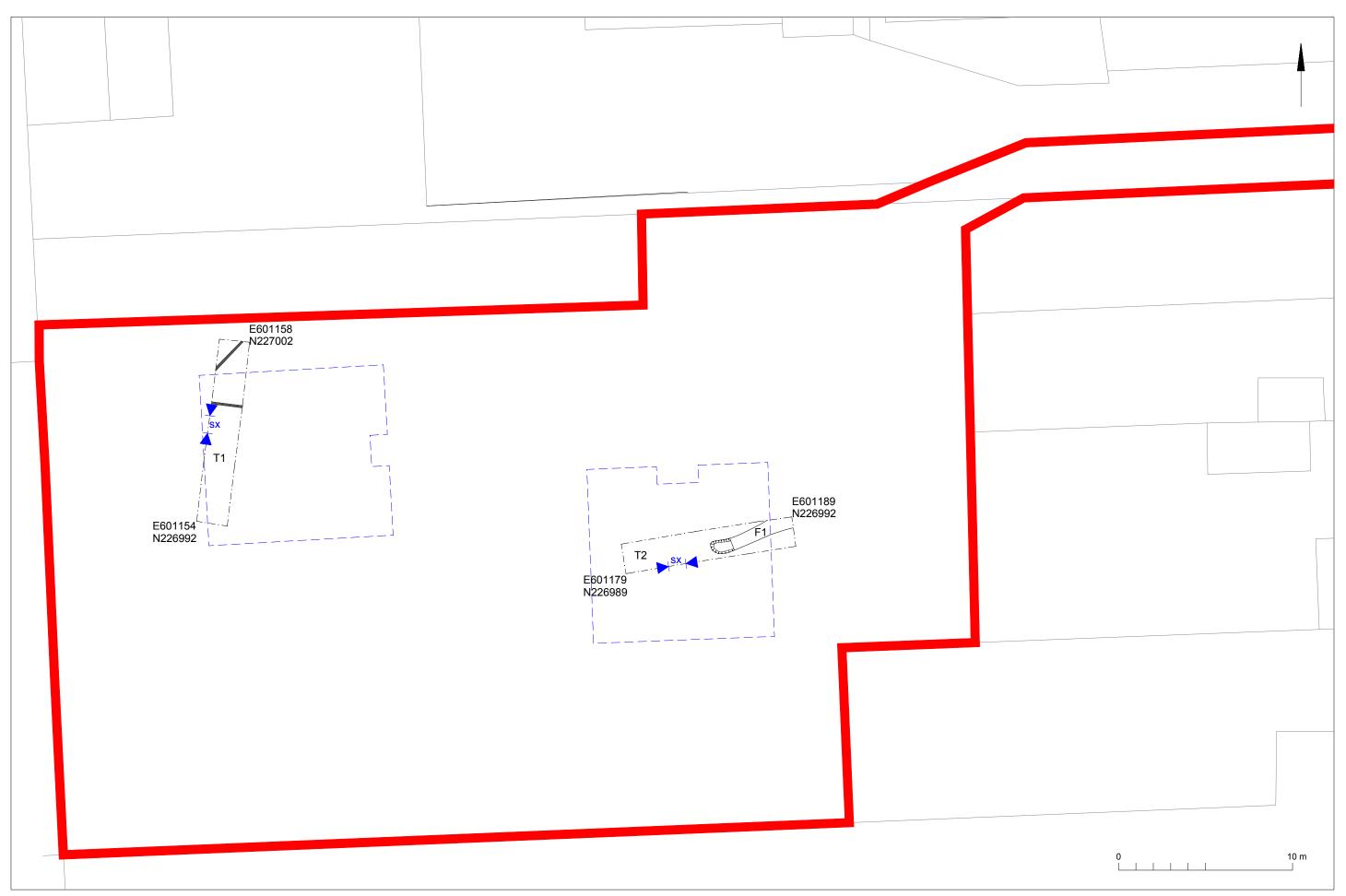
tel.: 01206 501785 email: <u>lp@catuk.org</u>

Checked by: Philip Crummy Date: 07.06.2017

#### Appendix 1 Context list

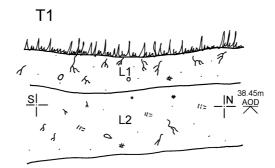
Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F1	1	Linear feature (ditch terminus)	Soft, moist, medium yellow-brown clay	Post-medieval
L1	-	Topsoil	Soft, moist, dark grey-brown sandy-silt with occasional stone inclusions	Undated
L2	-	Subsoil	Soft, moist, medium yellow-brown clayey-silt with occasional peg-tile, charcoal and stone inclusions	Undated
L3	-	Natural geological deposits	Soft, moist, medium yellow-brown silty-clay	Post-glacial





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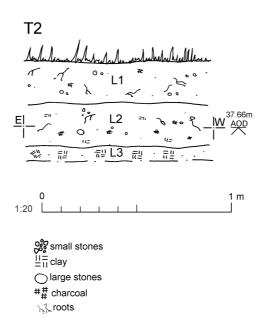


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

#### Summary sheet

## Address: Land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 0ET

Parish:   Colchester   District:   Colchester     NGR:   TM 01165 27002 (centre)   Site code:   CAT project ref.: 17/05h     CHER ref:   ECC3998   OASIS ref: colchest3-285552     Type of work:   Site director/group:     Evaluation   Colchester Archaeological Trust     Date of work:   Size of area investigated:     31 May 2017   0.17 ha     Location of curating museum:   Colchester museum     Colchester museum   Eunding source:     Developer   Developer     roo   Related CHER/SMR number:     no   EHER 2406/12588, 46634, 2645; CHER     Final report: CAT Report 1109   Periods represented: -     Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches)     was carried out at land to the rear of 320a-326 lpswich Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings. A single post-medieval ditch terminus was uncovered during this evaluation.     Previous summaries/reports: None   ECC monitor: Jess Tipper     Keywords: -   Significance: none     Author of summary:   Date of summary:     Dre Elliott Hicks   June 2017		
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Author of summary: Date of summary:	ECC monitor: Jess Tipper	
	Keywords: -	Significance: none
Dr Elliott Hicks   June 2017	-	
	Dr Eiliott Hicks	june 2017

## Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 0ET

NGR: TM 01165 27002 (centre)

Planning reference: 151985

Commissioned by: Les Short, PNR Developments Ltd

Client: PNR Developments Ltd

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc CHER number: tbc CAT project code: 17/05h OASIS project id: colchest3-285552

Site Manager: Chris Lister

**CBC Monitor:** Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 22.5.2017



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel:* 01206 501785 *email:* <u>lp@catuk.org</u>

#### Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2.15km NE of Colchester town centre on land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TM 01165 27002.

#### Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of two new detached dwellings.

#### Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The EHER/CHER shows that the development site is located within an area of archaeological interest with potential for encountering occupation remains. A Mesolithic tranchet axe was discovered 160m to the west (EHER 2406/12588, CHER MCC1934). An unlocated fort from the siege of Colchester is probably located to the SW (EHER 46634). A small number of cropmarks (linears and ring-ditches) were recorded 1km to the NW (EHER 2645).

#### Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2015 (application No.151985) proposing the construction of two new detached dwellings.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

#### **Requirement for work**

The required work is for a trenched archaeological evaluation to be carried out in advance of any groundworks to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically, two trial-trenches will be excavated with each trench positioned within the footprint of one of the new dwellings. The trial-trenches will measured 10m long by 1.8m wide (Fig 1).

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

If unexpected or unusual remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. Further evaluation may be required by the CBCAA, which would be the subject of an additional brief.

#### 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* (ClfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- The Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2016)

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.

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.

#### Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus two archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner

#### **Evaluation methodology**

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, these will be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m sections where this is possible.

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 proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

Samples will be taken based on the strategy requested by CBCAA (see 'Environmental Sampling Policy' below)

#### Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. 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. Any significant features, ie burials, will be planned by hand.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas 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 types (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 / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do all processing with flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

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

#### 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. As the requirement for work is for full excavation any human remains encountered on the site will be subject to the following criteria: 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 Ministry 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: <u>small finds, metalwork, coins</u>, etc: Pip Parmenter / Laura Pooley <u>animal bones</u> (small groups): Pip Parmenter <u>flints</u>: Adam Wightman or to outside specialists: <u>animal bones (large groups) and human remains</u>: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*) <u>environmental processing and reporting</u>: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray <u>conservation</u> of finds: staff at Colchester Museum Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include: <u>Roman brick/tile</u>: Ernest Black <u>Roman glass</u>: Hilary Cool <u>Prehistoric pottery</u>: Paul Sealey <u>Other</u>: Historic England 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:

• The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.

• Location plan of the trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.

• A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)

• 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 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

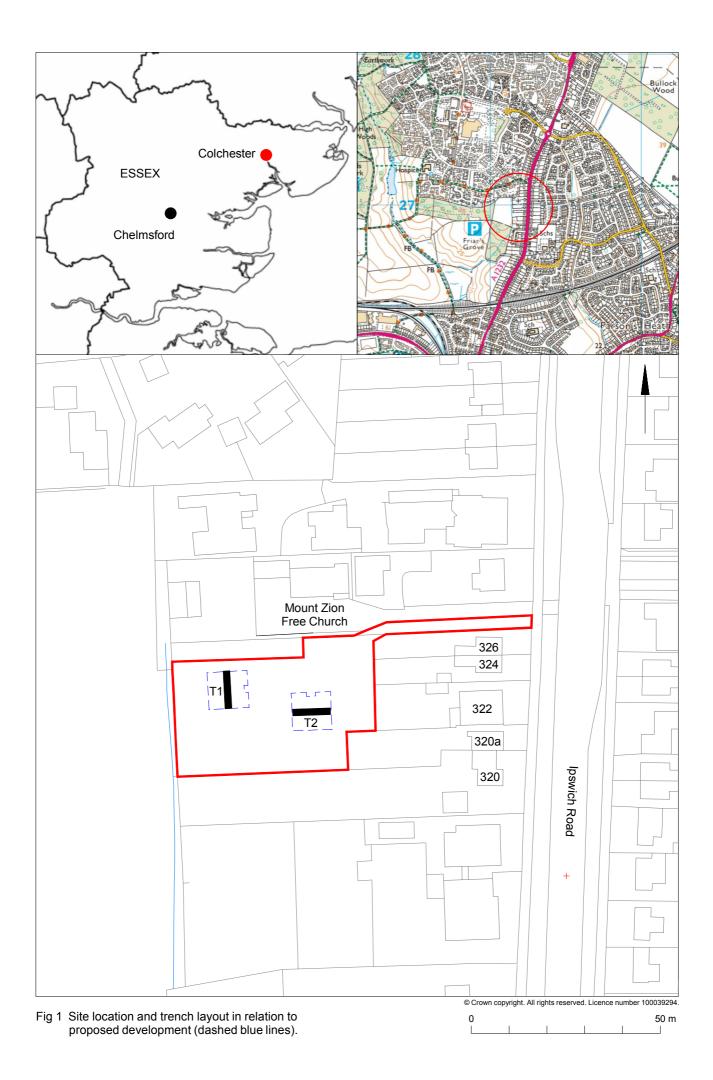
CAT	2014	Health & Safety Policy
CBCAA	2016	Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, CO4 0ET by J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation
ClfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives
ClfA	2014c	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )

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# **OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

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#### **Printable version**

#### OASIS ID: colchest3-285552

#### **Project details**

-	
Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 320a-326 Ispwich Road, Colchester, CO4 0ET
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings. A single post-medieval ditch terminus was uncovered during this evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 31-05-2017 End: 31-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/05h - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	151985 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.68 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3998 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road
Postcode	CO4 0ET
Study area	0.17 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 01165 27002 51.904654035123 0.924658319881 51 54 16 N 000 55 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 37.55m Max: 38.25m

#### **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	Nigel Rayner
Type of	Developer

#### **Project archives**

sponsor/funding body

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.68
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.68
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 0ET
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1109
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at land to the rear of 320a-326 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings. A single post-medieval ditch terminus was uncovered during this evaluation.
Entered by	Laura Pooley (Ip@catuk.org)
Entered on	7 June 2017



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