

# Archaeological monitoring at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UP

July-September 2019



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Emma Holloway  
figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Sarah Carter and Bronagh Quinn

**commissioned by Duncan, Clark & Beckett Ltd  
on behalf of Patrick Boxell**

NGR: TM 0103 7700 (centre)

Planning reference: 190734

CAT project ref.: 19/06a

CHER ref: ECC4350

OASIS reference: colchest3-353955



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**CAT Report 1468**

October 2019

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OASIS Summary

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a single-storey rear extension. A sherd of 2nd- to 3rd-century Roman pottery, and several sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery were recovered from a Roman accumulation layer which is possibly equivalent to a Roman dump layer previously recorded during groundworks at 23 Castle Road, to the rear of the site.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out during 17th July to 3rd September 2019. The work was commissioned by Duncan, Clark & Beckett Ltd on behalf of Patrick Boxell, was undertaken during groundworks for a single-storey rear extension, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area identified by the Colchester Historical Environment Record (CHER) as possessing a high potential for archaeological deposits, following 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2019), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2019).

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 briefs* (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 and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The proposed development site is located within the northeast corner of the Roman town of *Colonia Claudia Victricensis* (CHER MCC9314), close to the Roman town wall (a scheduled monument, NHLE no. 1003772) and Duncan's Gate. Part of the longest surviving stretch of Roman wall is located in this northeast corner, on the eastern side of Roman Road (CHER MCC1831, CAT Report 356).

The Roman wall (CHER MCC859) was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudicca. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and tile. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Some previous work shows that the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground

conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation.

Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Some sections are in relatively good condition, with large areas of intact facing surviving (such as around Balcerne Gate to the west of the town). The section of the wall around Duncan's Gate, however, has lost up to 2.4m in width and nothing of the original exterior face survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced or completely rebuilt in brick and stone.

Duncan's Gate was discovered and excavated by Dr P M Duncan (after whom it is named) in 1853 (CHER MCC7812). It was investigated again in 1927-9 by the Colchester Excavation Committee (CHER ECC3175), overseen by M. R. Hull (Hull 1958, 36-41). A full summary of these investigations can be found in CAT Report 1022 (CHER ECC3808), carried out when a historic building record and test-pit evaluation was completed at the gate in 2016 in advance of conservation work (CHER ECC3808-9).

The Roman town wall has been recorded during archaeological investigations at 27 Roman Road (Hull 1958, 42-3, CHER MCC8401), 4 Roman Road (89/8a, CAT Report 144) and 89 East Hill (89/7a, CAT Report 144). At the rear of 12 Roman Road there was a layer of Roman accumulation that was interpreted as possibly being part of upper rampart behind the wall (CAT Report 997, CHER MCC10050).

The development site is also located nearby to Colchester Castle Park (a Scheduled Ancient Monument, NHLR no. 1002217).

Other archaeological work undertaken by CAT in the vicinity includes a small number of negative watching briefs: 3 Roman Road (CAT Report 648); 5 Roman Road (CHER MCC5399, CAT Report 230); 10 Roman Road (CAT Report 1126); 15 Roman Road (CAT Report 906); 24 Castle Road. (CAT Report 67); and 41a Castle Road (CAT Report 98). However, several of these sites involved work not exceeding the topsoil.

Positive results have been recorded at 24 Castle Road (CAT Report 158, CHER MCC5552), which revealed a fragment of an *opus signinum* Roman floor and a collapsed wall of a Roman building (CHER MCC2817). A watching brief conducted at 44 Castle Road uncovered two undated features (CAT Report 1111). A watching brief at 23 Castle Road revealed a Roman dump layer 0.8m below the modern ground level (CAT Report 1220). The CHER tells us a Roman tessellated pavement was recorded in Castle Road, opposite Radnor Terrace in 1852 (CHER MCC7911). Roman coins, glass vessel and pottery were found in relation to the floor.

#### **4 Aim**

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

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

The following groundworks were carried out at the site under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist:

- a) a small test-pit, 0.45m by 0.45m and 1m deep, dug to expose the foundations of the old extension before it was demolished;
- b) the reduction of an area measuring 9.75m<sup>2</sup> by 0.3m; and
- c) approximately 8m of foundation trenching, 0.6m wide by 1.3-1.4m deep.

The excavations occurred through modern paving slabs and underlying sub-base (L1, c 0.07-0.1m thick), an accumulation layer (L2, c 0.51-0.62m thick, friable/firm, moist medium/dark grey/brown silty-clay with CBM flecks and 7% stones), a further accumulation layer (L3, c 0.2-0.26m thick, friable, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with CBM flecks and 5% stones) and natural (L4, friable, moist medium yellow/orange/brown sandy-clay with 15% stones, encountered at a depth of 0.8-0.99m below current ground level).

No significant archaeological contexts were encountered during the groundworks.



**Photograph 1** Foundation trench, looking east-southeast

## 6 Finds

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

Accumulation layer L3 produced a complete base (106g) from a Colchester red colour-coated beaker broadly dateable from the early/mid 2nd century AD until the middle of the 3rd century (CAR 10, 267) and eight sherds (360g) from a storage vessel in a grog and organic tempered fabric, which is of Late Iron Age or early Roman date.

Context	Fabric Group	Qt.	Weight/g	Comments	Date
L3 (1)	CZ	1	106	Complete base	Roman, early/mid 2nd to mid 3rd century AD
L3 (2)	GTW	8	360	Grog, voids (organic temper)	Late Iron Age to Early Roman

Table 1 Pottery catalogue

## 7 Conclusion

Groundworks at 50 Roman Road did not reveal any significant archaeological contexts. A sherd of 2nd- to 3rd-century Roman pottery and other sherds broadly dated to the Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery were recovered from accumulation L3, however. It is possible that this layer is equivalent to a 2nd- or 3rd-century Roman dump layer recorded during groundworks carried out at 23 Castle Road, to the rear of the present site, in 2018 (CAT Report 1220).

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Duncan, Clark & Beckett Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by S Carter and B Quinn. Figures were prepared by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

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

- |                 |      |  |
|-----------------|------|--|
| Brown, D        | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>   |
| CAR 10          | 1999 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds and S Wade  |
| CAT             | 2018 | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT Report 67   | 2000 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 41 Castle Road, Colchester: March 2000</i>  |
| CAT Report 98   | 2000 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 41a Castle Road, Colchester: September 2000</i>   |
| CAT Report 144  | 2001 | <i>Colchester town wall – miscellaneous sites from 1987 to 2000: July 2000</i>   |
| CAT Report 158  | 2000 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 24 Castle Road, Colchester: September-October 2000</i>  |
| CAT Report 230  | 2003 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 5 Roman Road, Colchester: March 2003</i>  |
| CAT Report 347  | 2009 | <i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006</i> |
| CAT Report 356  | 2006 | <i>An archaeological investigation of the Roman town wall at Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2004 and February 2006</i>   |
| CAT Report 648  | 2012 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 3 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: May 2012</i>   |
| CAT Report 906  | 2015 | <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 15 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UR: September 2015</i>  |
| CAT Report 997  | 2016 | <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 12 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN: August 2016</i>   |
| CAT Report 1022 | 2016 | <i>Historic building recording and test-pit evaluation at Duncan's Gate, Colchester, CO1 1UN: July 2016</i>  |

CAT Report 1111	2017	<i>Archaeological recording at 44 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN: May 2017</i>
CAT Report 1126	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 10 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2017</i>
CAT Report 1220	2018	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 23 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UW: January 2018</i>
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, CO1 1UP, by J Tipper</i>
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>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England	2015b	<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>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CifA	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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** Part of one box

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1468)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (layer sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1468)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos and log

Survey data

## 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 the reference number ECC4350.

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### Distribution list

Duncan, Clark & Beckett

Patrick Boxell

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



### Colchester Archaeological Trust

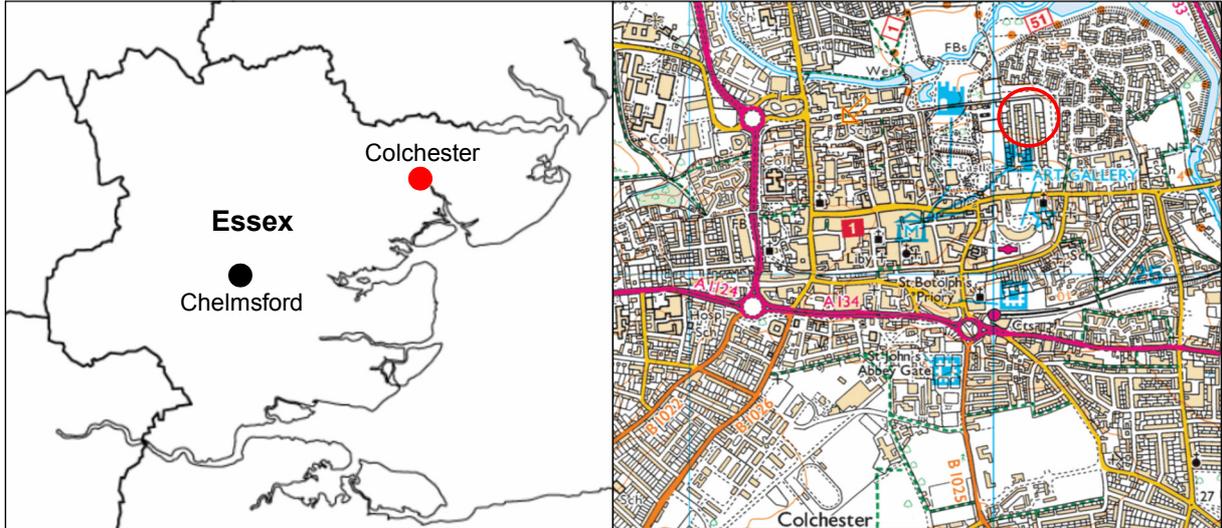
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 10.10.2019



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Fig 1 Site location.



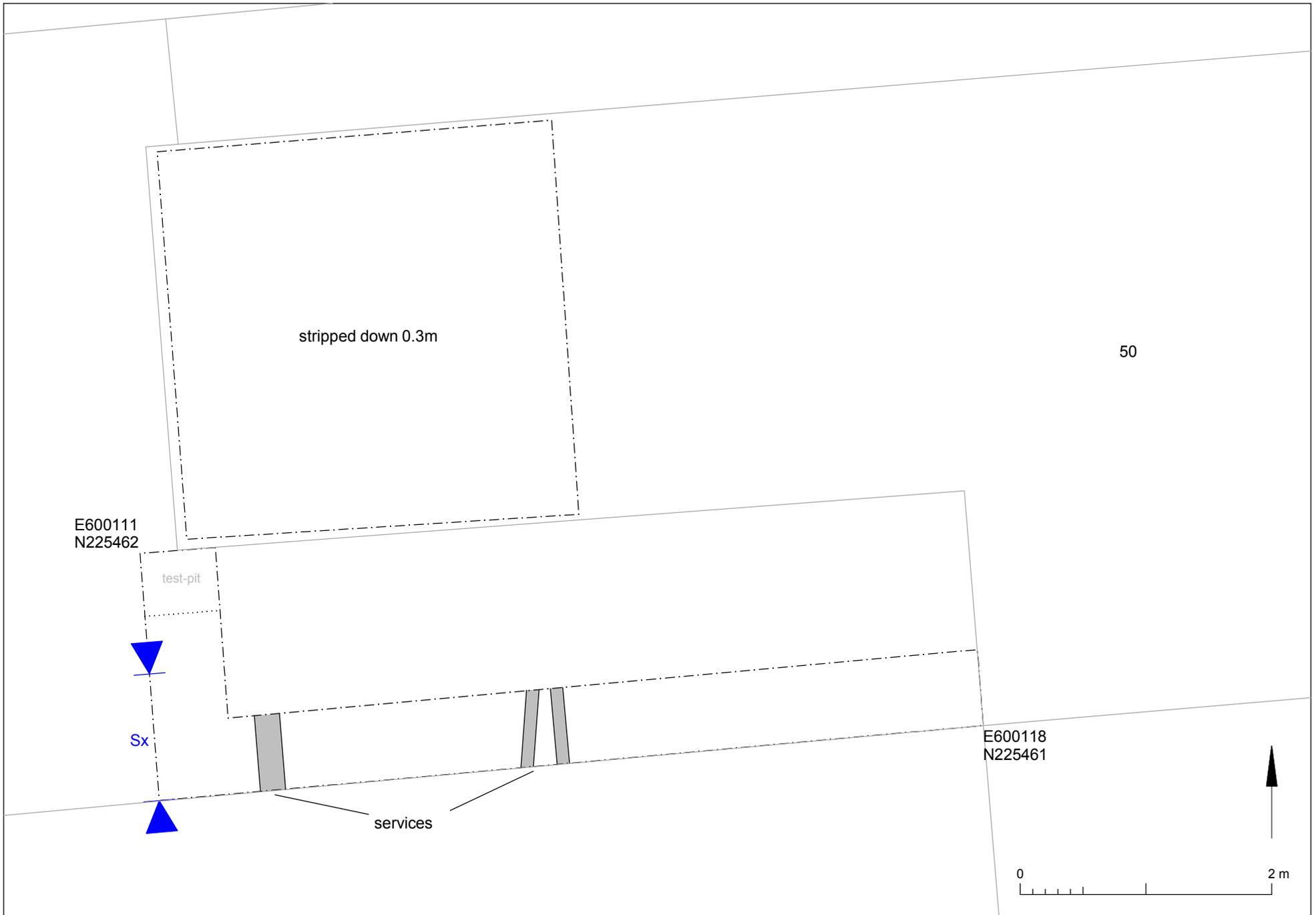


Fig 2 Results.

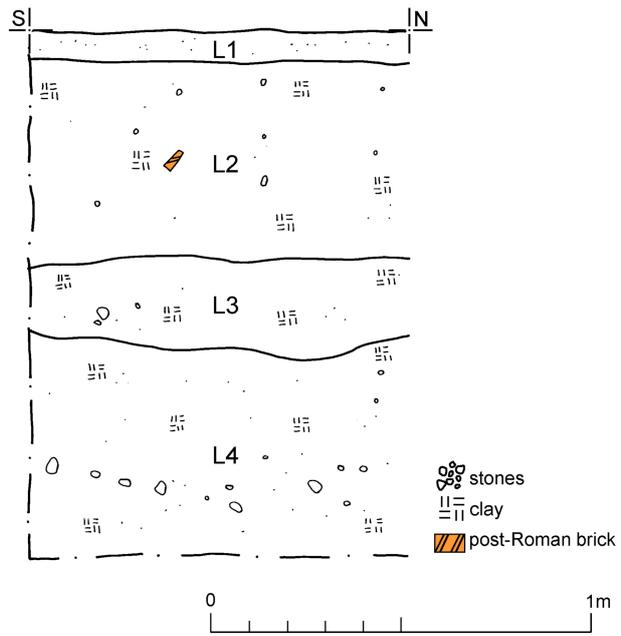


Fig 3 Representative section.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UP	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 0103 7700 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 19/06a CHER ref: ECC4350 OASIS ref: colchest3-353955
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 17th July to 3rd September 2019	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.01ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC859, MCC1831, MCC2817, MCC5399, MCC5552, MCC7812, MCC7911, MCC8401, MCC9314, MCC10050; ECC3175, ECC3808, ECC3809
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1468	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a single-storey rear extension. A sherd of 2nd- to 3rd-century Roman pottery, and several sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery were recovered from a Roman accumulation layer which is possibly equivalent to a Roman dump layer previously recorded during groundworks at 23 Castle Road, to the rear of the site.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2019

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for an archaeological investigation at  
50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex,  
CO1 1UP.**

**NGR:** TM 0103 7700 (centre)

**Parish:** Colchester

**Planning references:** 190734

**Commissioned by:** Duncan, Clark & Beckett Ltd

**On behalf of:** Patrick Boxell

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** ECC4350

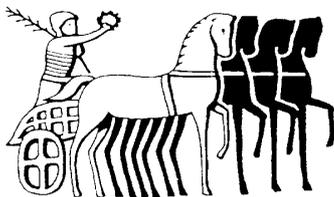
**CAT project code:** 2019/06a

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-353955

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 04/06/2019



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located within Colchester historic settlement core at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). It is also situated in the northeast corner of the Roman walled town, c 142m southeast of the Roman town wall and Duncan's Gate. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 0103 7700.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a single storey rear extension, internal alterations and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The proposed development site is located within the northeast corner of the Roman town of *Colonia Claudia Victricensis* (CHER MCC9314), close to the Roman town wall (a scheduled monument, NHLE no. 1003772) and Duncan's Gate. Part of the longest surviving stretch of Roman wall is located in this northeast corner, on the eastern side of Roman Road (CHER MCC1831, CAT Report 356).

The Roman wall (CHER MCC859) was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and tile. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Some previous work shows that the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation.

Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Some sections are in relatively good condition, with large areas of intact facing surviving (such as around Balkerne Gate to the west of the town). The section of the wall around Duncan's Gate however, has lost up to 2.4m in width and nothing of the original exterior face survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced or completely rebuilt in brick and stone.

Duncan's gate was first discovered and excavated by Dr P M Duncan (after whom it is named) in 1853 (CHER MCC7812) and again in 1927-9 by the Colchester Excavation Committee (CHER ECC3175), overseen by M. R. Hull (Hull 1958, 36-41). A full summary of these investigations can be found in CAT Report 1022 (CHER ECC3808), carried out when a historic building record and test-pit evaluation was completed at the gate in 2016 in advance of conservation work (CHER ECC3808-9).

Fragments of the Roman town wall have been recorded at 27 Roman Road where a section was cut through the town wall in 1925 (Hull 1958, 42-3, CHER MCC8401); during observation of a small hole at the rear of 4 Roman Road (89/8a, CAT Report 144); at the rear of 89 East Hill (89/7a, CAT Report 144); at the rear of 12 Roman Road there a layer of Roman accumulation was interpreted as possibly being part of upper part of the rampart behind the wall (CAT Report 997, CHER MCC10050).

The development site is also located nearby to Colchester Castle Park (a Scheduled Ancient Monument, NHLR no. 1002217).

Other archaeological work undertaken by CAT in the vicinity includes a small number of negative watching briefs including 3 Roman Road (CAT Report 648); 5 Roman Road (CHER MCC5399, CAT Report 230); 10 Roman Road (CAT Report 1126); 15 Roman Road (CAT Report 906); 24 Castle Road. (CAT Report 67) and 41a Castle Road (CAT Report 98). However, several of these sites involved work not exceeding the topsoil.

Positive results have been recorded at 24 Castle Road (CAT Report 158, CHER MCC5552), which revealed a fragment of an *opus signinum* Roman floor and a collapsed wall of a Roman building (CHER MCC2817). A watching brief conducted at 44 Castle Road uncovered two undated features (CAT Report 1111). A watching brief at 23 Castle Road revealed a Roman dump layer 0.8m below the modern ground level (CAT Report 1220). The CHER tells us a Roman tessellated pavement was recorded in Castle Road, opposite Radnor Terrace in 1852 (CHER MCC7911). Roman coins, glass vessel and pottery were found in relation to the floor.

## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2019 (application No. 190734) proposing a *single storey rear extension and internal alterations*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER 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* (MHCLG 2019).

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological investigation of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Specifically:

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

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and/or exceptional burnt remains related to the Boudiccan destruction of AD 60/61, and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

## **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, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

## **Investigation 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. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

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), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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.

## **Site surveying**

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

## **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the 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 any processing and the 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 or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the investigation.

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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the 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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a)

## **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

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

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups)

project osteologist (human remains): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis. This can include soil micromorphological assessment, absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice on this.

## 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* (HE 2015b).

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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

### **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**

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

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2 <sup>nd</sup> ed	
CAT	2018	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 67	2000	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 41 Castle Road, Colchester: March 2000.</i>
CAT Report 98	2000	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 41a Castle Road, Colchester: September 2000.</i>
CAT Report 144	2001	<i>Colchester town wall – miscellaneous sites from 1987 to 2000: July 2000</i>
CAT Report 158	2000	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 24 Castle Road, Colchester:</i>

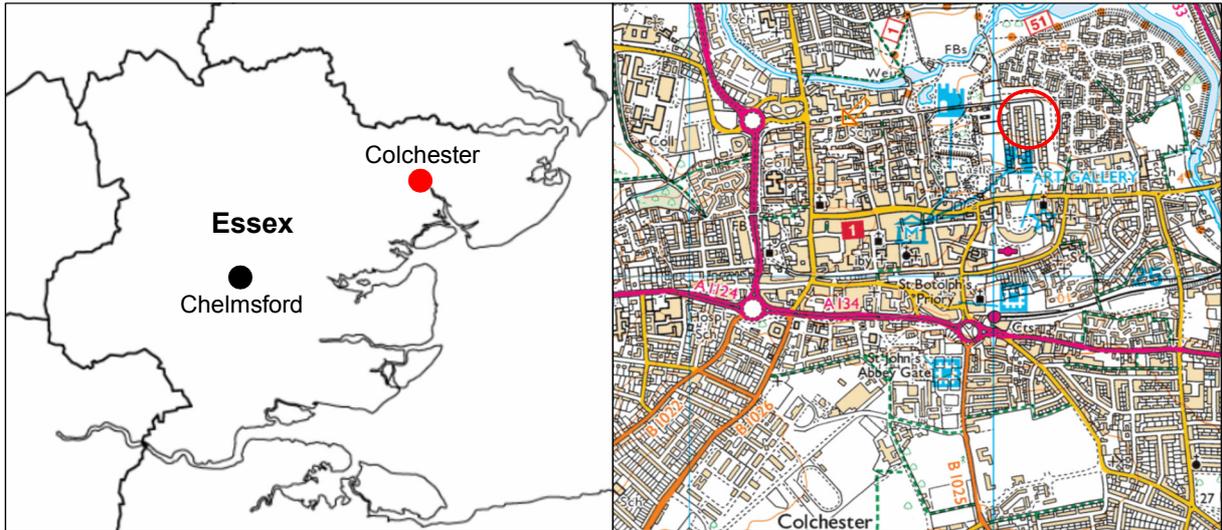
		<i>September-October 2000.</i>
CAT Report 230	2003	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 5 Roman Road, Colchester: March 2003.</i>
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006.</i>
CAT Report 356	2006	<i>An archaeological investigation of the Roman town wall at Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2004 and February 2006.</i>
CAT Report 648	2012	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 3 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: May 2012.</i>
CAT Report 906	2015	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 15 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UR: September 2015</i>
CAT Report 997	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 12 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN: August 2016</i>
CAT Report 1022	2016	<i>Historic building recording and test-pit evaluation at Duncan's Gate, Colchester, CO1 1UN: July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1111	2017	<i>Archaeological recording at 44 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN: May 2017</i>
CAT Report 1126	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 10 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2017</i>
CAT Report 1220	2018	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 23 Castle Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UW – January 2018</i>
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, CO1 1UP. By J Tipper</i>
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>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole &amp; P Backhouse</i>
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</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>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

E Holloway



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Fig 1 Site location.



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-353955**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UP.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a single-storey rear extension. A sherd of 2nd- to 3rd-century Roman pottery, and several sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery were recovered from a Roman accumulation layer which is possibly equivalent to a Roman dump layer previously recorded during groundworks at 23 Castle Road, to the rear of the site.
Project dates	Start: 17-07-2019 End: 03-09-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/06a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	190734 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4350 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 50 Roman Road
Postcode	CO1 1UP
Study area	0.01 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 0103 7700 52.353666564443 0.952248842455 52 21 13 N 000 57 08 E Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Sarah Carter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Patrick Boxell

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4350
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4350  
Paper Contents "other"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological monitoring at 50 Roman Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UP: July-September 2019  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.  
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1468  
Date 2019  
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
Place of issue or publication Colchester  
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf  
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>  
  
Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)  
Entered on 10 October 2019

**OASIS:**

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