

Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ
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CAT Report 1522 Archaeological monitoring at The Gatehouse, Osborne Manor, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3FJ: February 2020	Parish: Colchester
	Planning reference: 181762
	CHER Event no.: ECC4348
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-353469
	Grid Reference: TL 98159 24724 (centre)
	Number of site visits: 1
	Dates of visits: 7th February 2020
Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for a new conservatory to the rear of the property.	
Reason for condition: The site lies within an area of known Roman cemeteries and other archaeological remains associated with Roman settlement (CHER ECC1928).	
% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.	
Results: All groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.	
<p>An area of 14.4m² was stripped by 0.8m. Foundation trenching 8.4m long, 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep was then excavated along the northern inner boundary of the stripped area.</p> <p>Four layers were recorded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) modern topsoil: soft moist grey/brown silty loam with 2% stones, 0.16-0.18m thick; b) modern grey sub-base, 0.05-0.07m thick; c) modern hoggin: medium orange/brown sand, 0.49-0.52m thick; d) subsoil: soft moist medium brown sandy-silt. 	
	
Photograph Finished strip	
No archaeological features or material was uncovered as the groundworks did not penetrate the subsoil.	
Recorded by: Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)	Date: 11.02.2020
Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)	Date: 18.02.2020

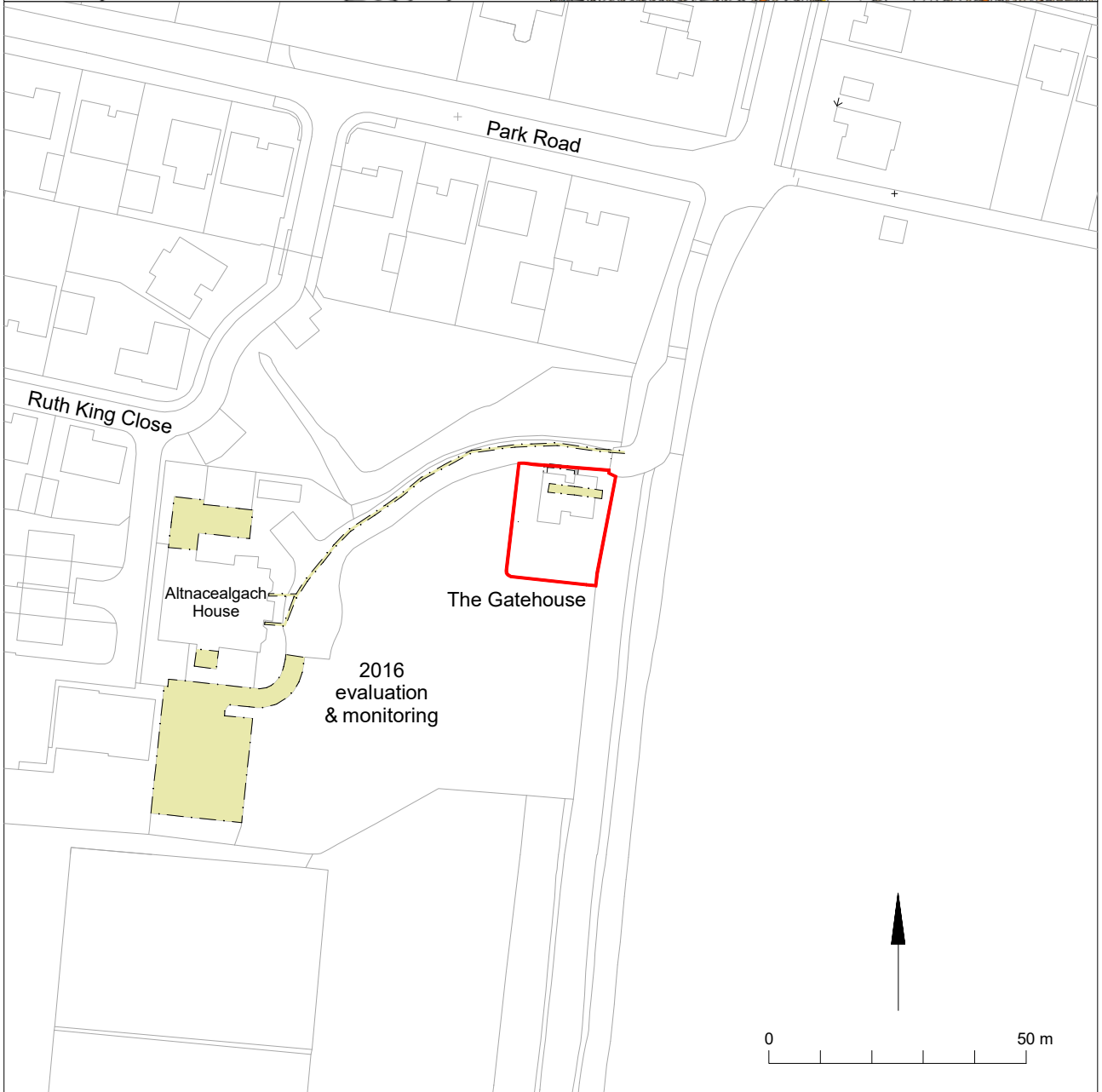
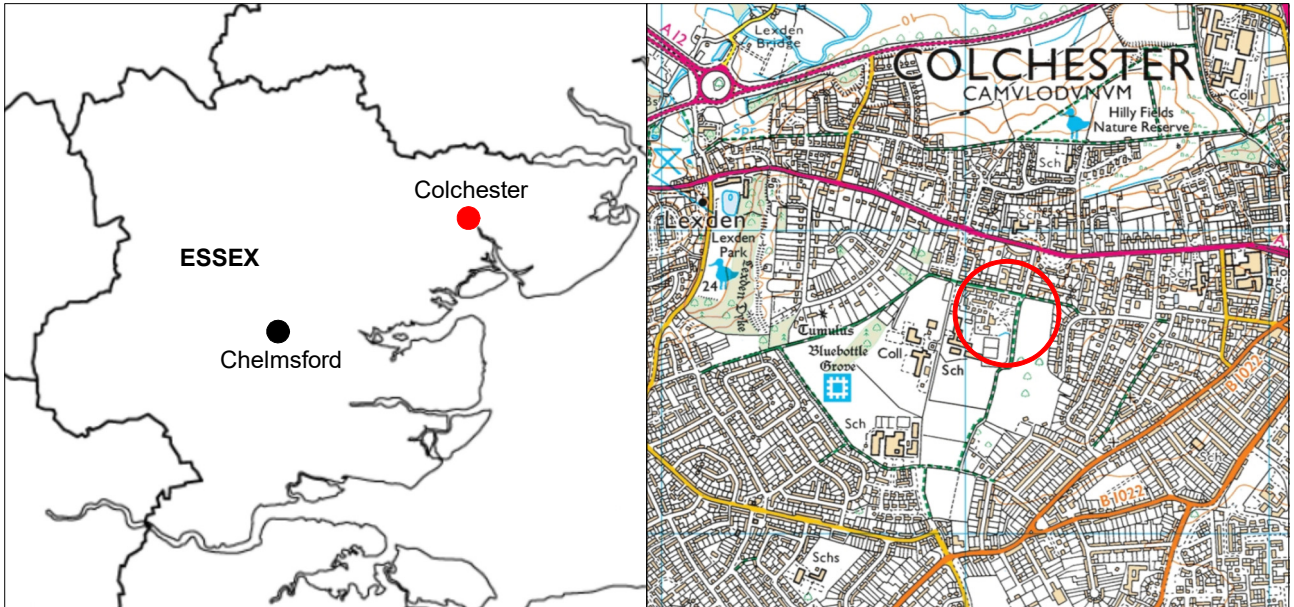
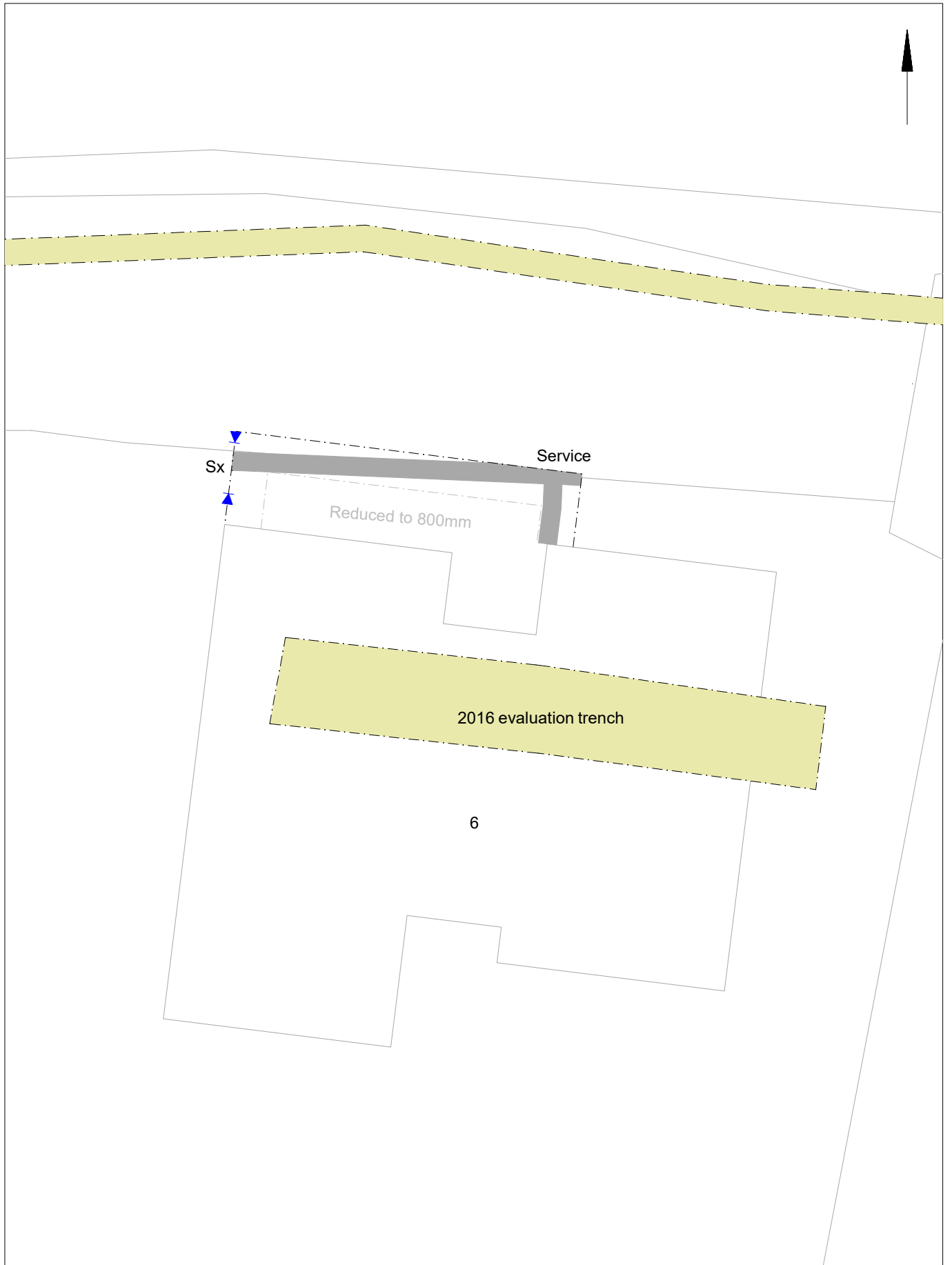


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Results.



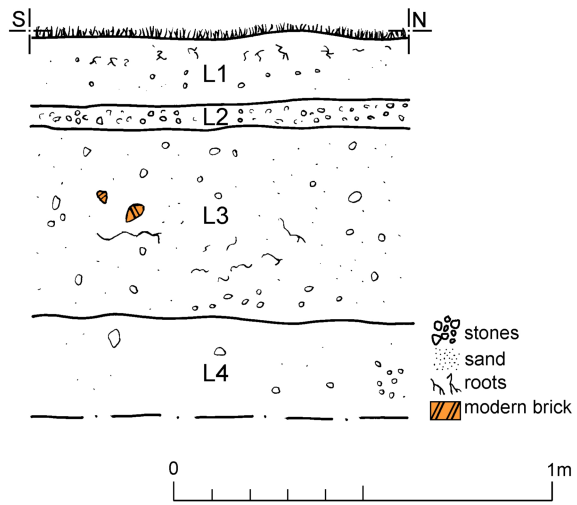


Fig 3 Representative section.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for Continuous archaeological monitoring and
recording at The Gatehouse, Osborne Manor,
Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3FJ.**

NGR: TL 98159 24724 (centre)

Parish: Colchester

Planning references: 181762

Commissioned by: Mark Harding

On behalf of: Harding Homes

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: ECC4348

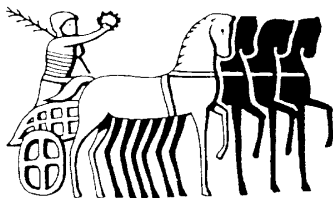
CAT project code: 2019/05t

OASIS project number: colchest3-353469

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 31/05/2019



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.57km west-southwest of the centre of the historic core in Colchester Town Centre at The Gatehouse, Osborne Manor, Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3FJ (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98159 24724.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a new conservatory to the rear of the dwelling 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 site is located immediately to the east of land formerly part of Altnacealgach House (locally listed), a Victorian mansion designed by acclaimed local architect Horace Darken, built in 1888 to be the home of Arthur Thomas Osborne, heir to a successful brewing business. The Altnacealgach estate was located within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), more generally considered the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds to either side of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town to London). Many Roman burials and cremations have been found and reported on in this area (see Hull and CAR 11). In particular a Roman amphora burial was found to the west of Altnacealgach House (CHER MCC7676) and a trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road in 2006 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (CHER MCC3091, ECC FAU Report 1711). More recent work adjacent to the current site includes the excavation of two areas to the south of Park Road in advance of the construction of 31 houses. The work completed by Pre-Construct Archaeology included two cremation burials and a probable medieval pit (PCA Report R11750).

Excavations in 1939 revealed an early Roman curving ditch, possibly the corner of a fort, to the northwest of the site (MCC2173). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull, 273). It was later shown that these form a continuation of Heath Farm Dyke North (CAR 11, 32). CAT monitored an area on the corner of Norman Way and Park Road for a car park in February 1996 (96/2b, CAT Report 1000). A ditch was recorded running east-west parallel to the footpath but was thought to be medieval or later and not associated to Hull's ditch.

In 1955, prior to the construction Colchester County High School for Girls, a 'triple-ditched dyke' was excavated by R.J. Martin beneath what was to become the main school building. The ditches were 4m wide, although their depths are unknown (CHER MCC2177, CAR 11, 127). In addition to this, on the south edge of the school, post holes and a ditch indicated the possible presence of a building with wooden posts surrounded by a diagonal ditch dated to the 2nd century and a large 4.3m deep pit, also dated to the 2nd century. In 1956 excavations undertaken by John Wachter to the east of the High School for Girls revealed palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (CHER MCC8175, CAR 11, 124-126).

CAT have carried out a number of watching briefs and evaluations in this area (6/8b, CAT Report 1000, CAT Report 155, CAT Report 348, CAT Report 762, CAT Report 975 and CAT Report 1211). Although ditches have been recorded, they have not been in alignment with those seen in 1955 and it was concluded that the 'triple-ditched dyke' either turns a corner or in fact does not actually exist.

A bronze statuette of Jupiter was found to the immediate east of the site in 1844 (MCC1348/MCC7749).

CAT carried out an archaeological evaluation, monitoring and recording at the former Essex County Council Offices (Altnacealgach House), in advance of and during the conversion and extension of the existing house into residential apartments, the construction of a gatehouse dwelling and associated access and car parking (CAT Report 1056). No archaeological remains were present. T1 located within The Gatehouse, natural sand was reached c 0.7m below modern ground level.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in July 2018 (application No. 181762) for a *proposed conservatory to the rear of the Gatehouse with new french doors added to link to conservatory*.

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.

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.

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. 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 micromorphological 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>
	2 nd ed	
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2 by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 155	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: September 2001</i>
CAT Report 348	2005	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: May-November 2005</i>
CAT Report 762	2014	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: March 2014</i>
CAT Report 975	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US: June 2016</i>
CAT Report 1211	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex – January 2018</i>
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997). By H Brooks</i>
CAT Report 1056		<i>Archaeological evaluation, monitoring and recording at the former ECC Offices, Park Road, Colchester, Essex – May-December 201. By L Pooley</i>
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at The gatehouse, Osborne Manor, Park Road, Colchester, CO3 3FJ. 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,</i>

ECC FAU report 1711	2007	<i>conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Archaeological trial trenching at Essex County Council Offices, Park Road, Colchester, Essex.</i> By T Ennis
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
PCA Report R11750	2014	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
		Land next to Park Road, Lexden, Colchester: Archaeological excavation and monitoring. By S Hogan and K Hanson

E Holloway



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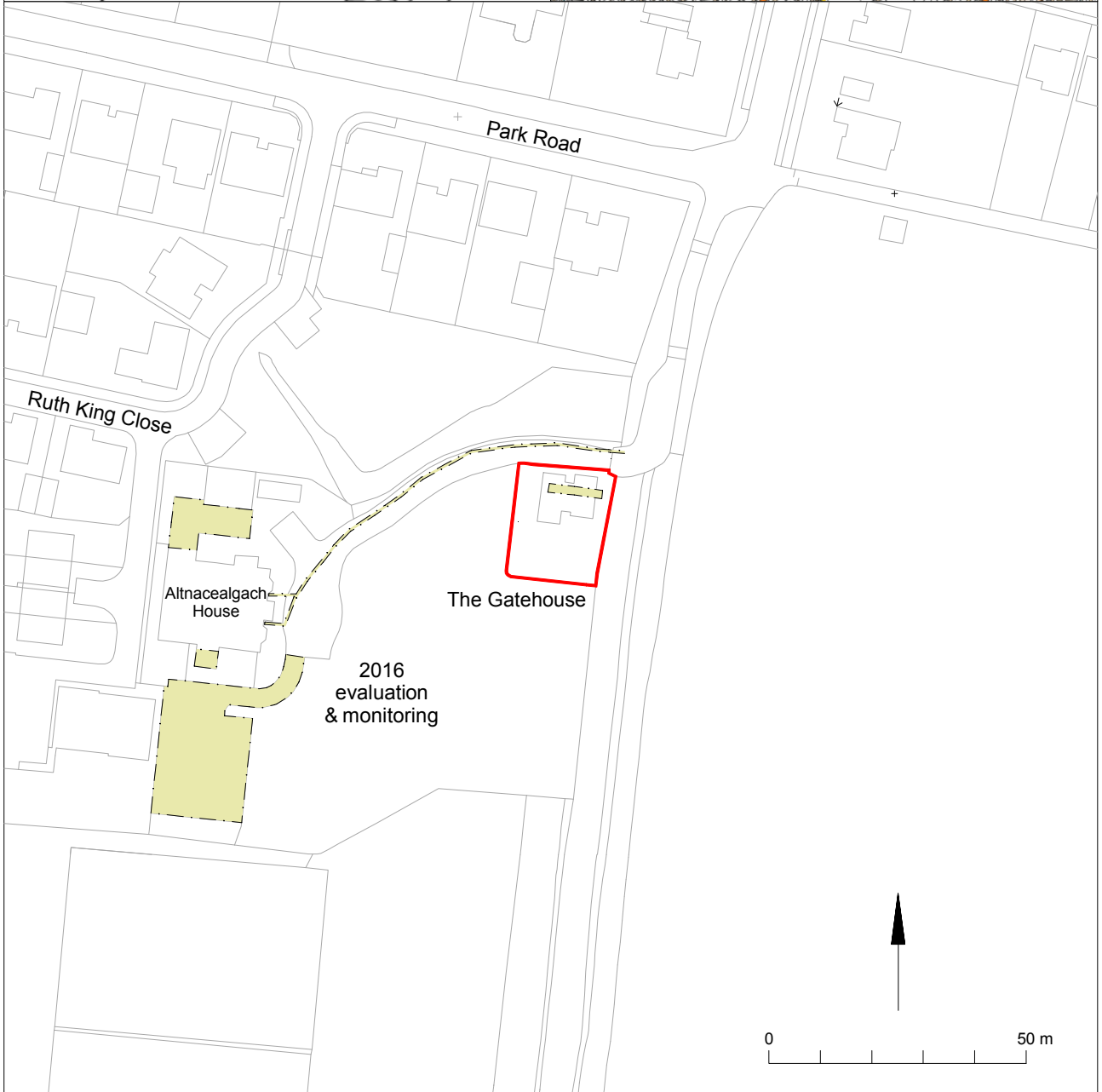
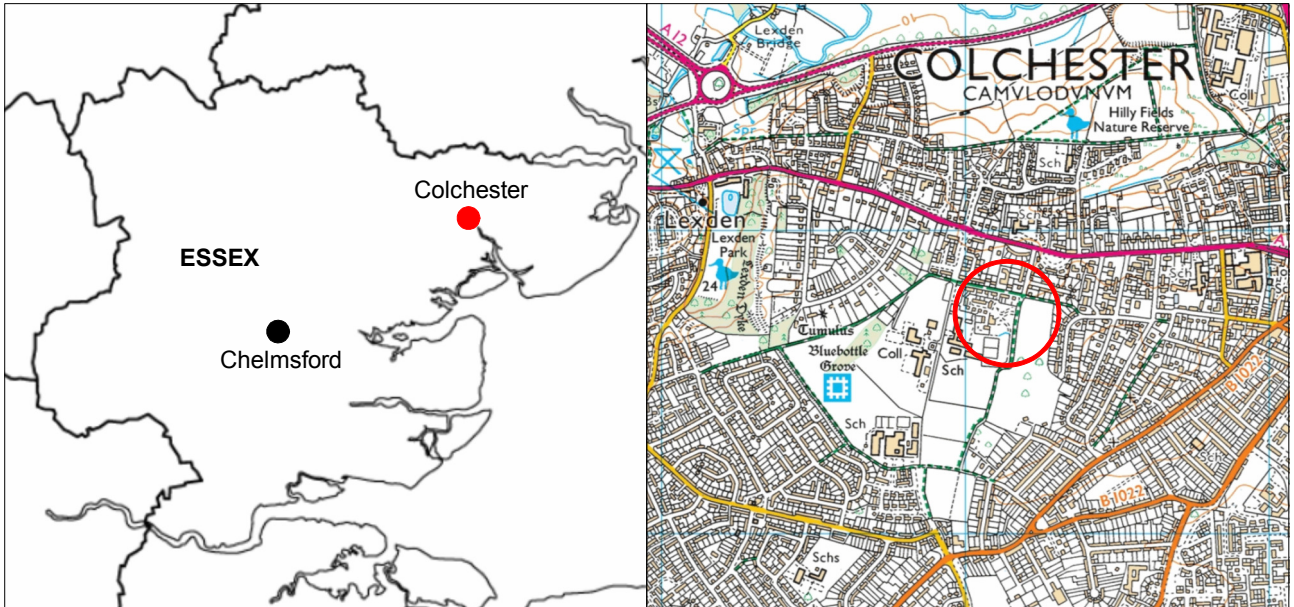


Fig 1 Site location.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: colchest3-353469

Project details

Project name	Continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at The Gatehouse, Osborne Manor, Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3F
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Gatehouse, Osborne Manor, Colchester, during groundworks for a new conservatory to the rear of the property. The site lies near to an area of Roman cemeteries and other archaeological remains associated with Roman settlement. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no significant remains were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 07-02-2020 End: 07-02-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	181762 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/05t - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4348 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER The Gatehouse, Osborne Manor, Park Road, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO3 3FJ
Study area	0.04 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98159 24724 51.885278990328 0.879706164899 51 53 07 N 000 52 46 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	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Harding Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4348
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4348
Paper Media available	"Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at The Gatehouse, Osborne Manor, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3FJ: February 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
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OASIS:

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