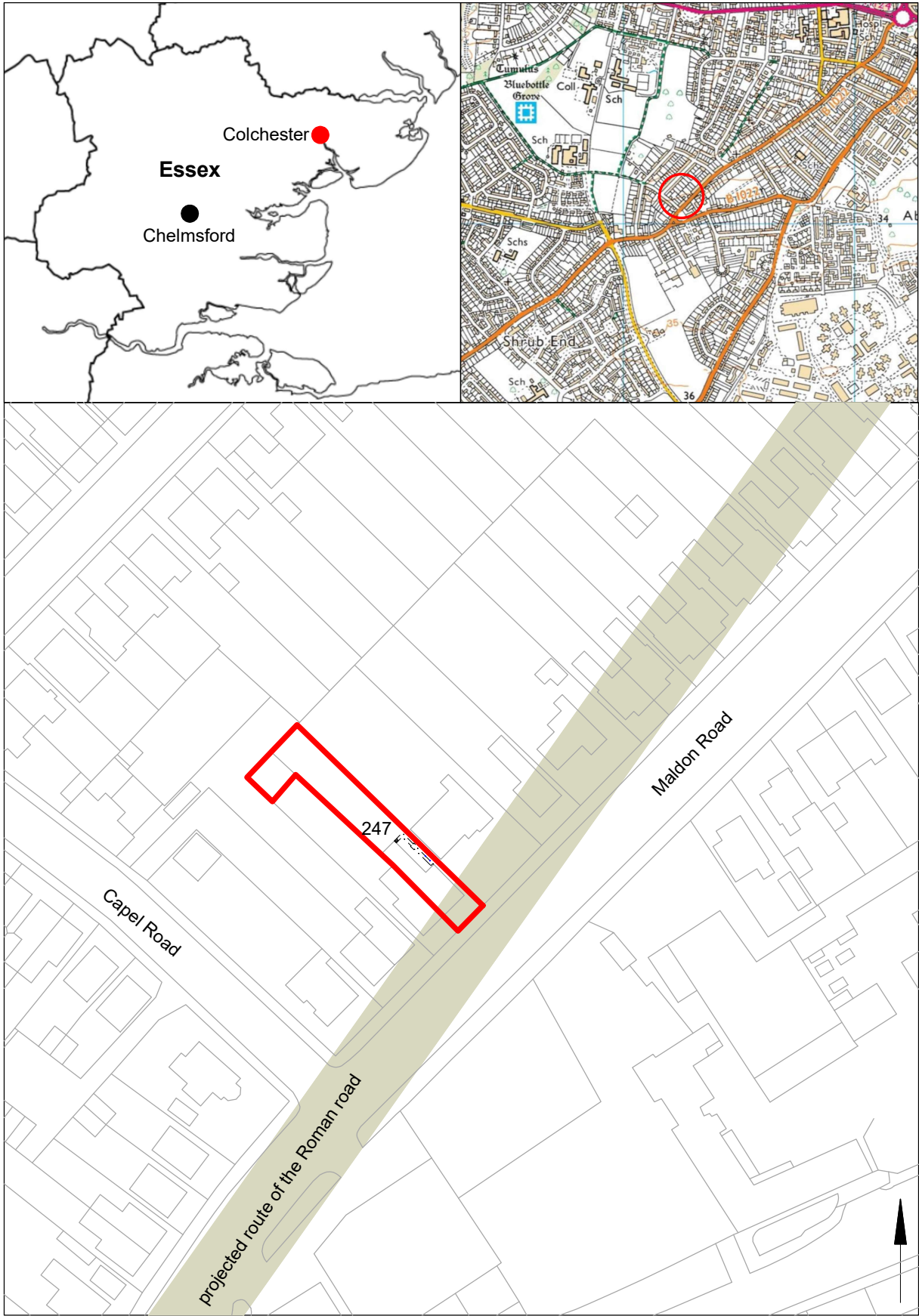


Colchester Archaeological Trust

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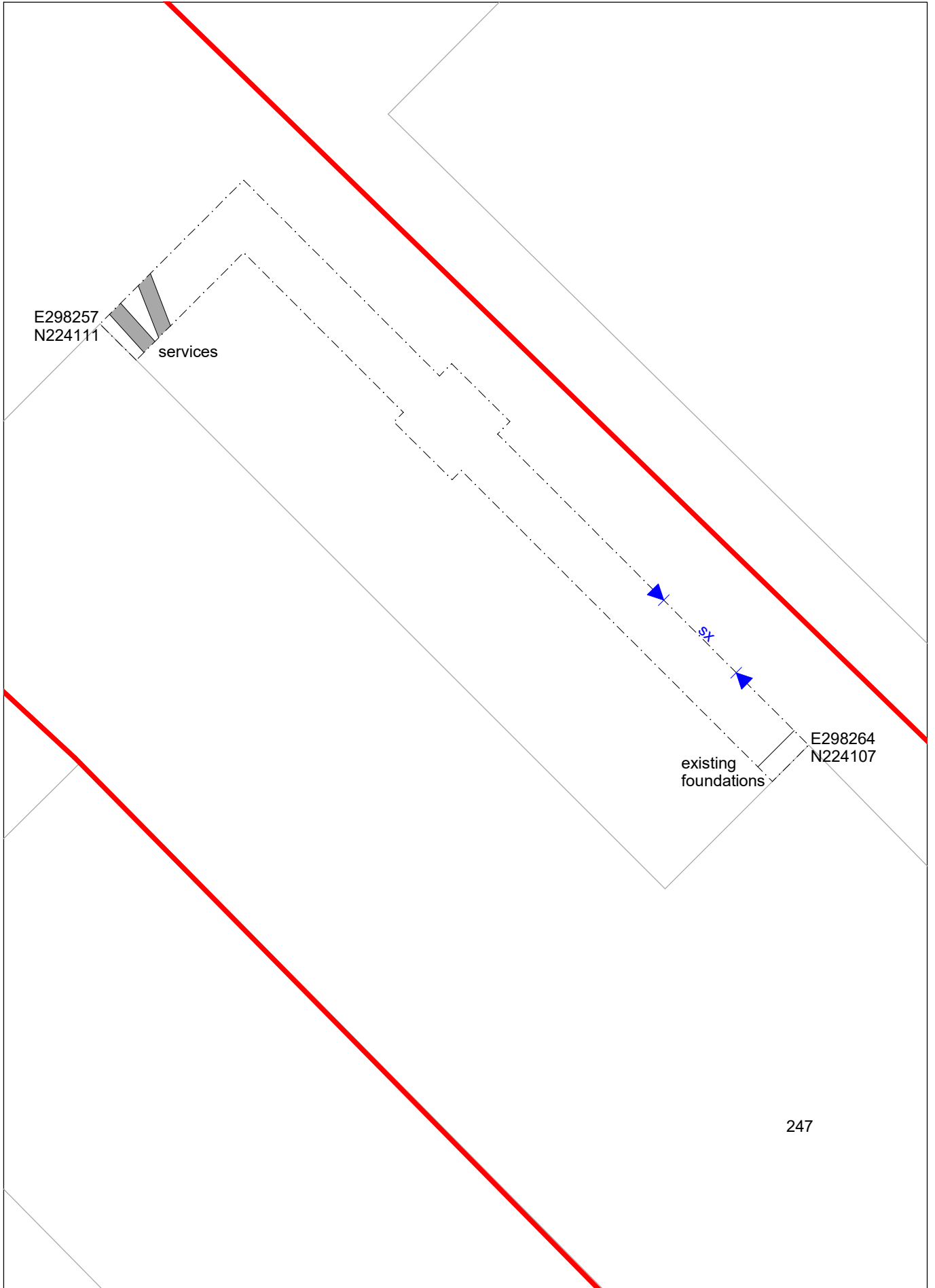
CAT Report 1586 Archaeological monitoring at 247 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BQ: March 2020	Planning reference: 192957
	CHER Event no.: ECC4536
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-399449
	Grid Reference: TL 98264 24103 (centre)
	Number of site visits: 1
	Dates of visits: 10th March 2020
Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for a new single-storey extension to the side of the property.	
Reason for condition: The site lies immediately to the north of the projected route of the Colchester-Gosbecks Roman road.	
% 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. A CAT archaeologist observed the excavation of foundation trenching 6.4m long, 0.5m wide and 1m deep incorporating a pit for a soakaway measuring 0.8m by 0.8m and 1m deep. Three layers were recorded: a) a modern crush layer L1, soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-loam with CBM flecks and 5% stones, 0.07m thick; b) subsoil L2, a soft, moist medium grey/brown loam with 5% stones, 0.43-0.51m thick; c) natural L3, a soft, moist medium yellow/orange/brown sand with 20% stones, encountered at a depth of 0.51-0.8m below current ground level. No archaeological features or material were encountered.	
	
Photograph 1 Foundation trenching – looking northwest	
Recorded by: Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)	Date: 10.08.2020
Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)	Date: 10.08.2020



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m



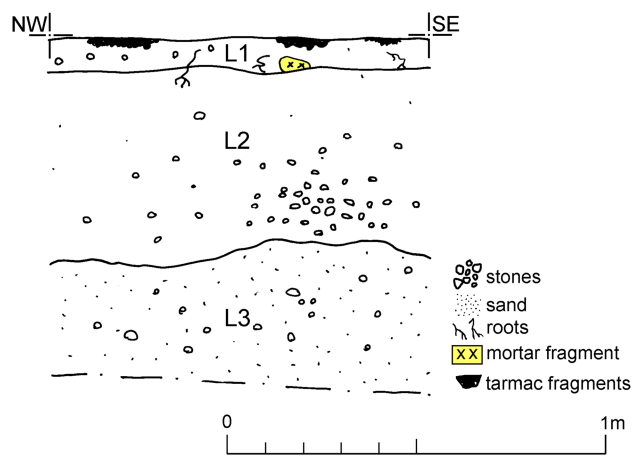


Fig 3 Representative section.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for continuous archaeological monitoring and
recording at 247 Maldon Road, Colchester,
Essex, CO3 3BQ**

NGR: TL 98264 24103 (centre)

Parish: Colchester

Planning references: 192957

Commissioned by: Sheridan Gibson

On behalf of: Matthew Barton

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: ECC4536

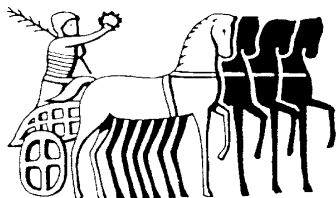
CAT project code: 2020/03d

OASIS project number: colchest3-399449

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 21/07/2020



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2km southwest from the historic core of Colchester Town Centre at 247 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98264 24103.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a single storey side extension.

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 development site is located within an area of high archaeological potential. In particular, the site is located immediately to the northwest of the projected route of a Roman Road which runs from Gosbecks to the southwest corner of the Roman town (CHER MCC2529) (see Fig 1). The road is largely defined by cropmarks at Gosbecks but has been excavated in several locations, including in 2005 when CAT excavated a section of the western roadside ditch and part of the metalled road surface at Colchester Royal Grammar School (MCC2791, CAT Report 345). Excavation occurred at the point where the road intersects with the main road between London and Colchester (MCC1928). To the north of this junction, the road alters alignment very slightly eastwards (for 600m) towards the Balcerne Gate (MCC555).

Approximately 330m north of the site is the edge of a substantial Roman temple complex (Temple 6), which was partly excavated in 1947 (MCC1959/MCC8407). The complex is located within land currently used as playing fields by the Colchester Royal Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of war and hunting (Crummy 1997, 107).

The site is also located c 880m south-southwest of the main cemetery area termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing) leading out of Balcerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in CAR 9. Although the current site is located outside of the main cemetery area, Roman burials tend to cluster around the Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. The nearest burials to the site include Roman graves recorded at the southern end of Cambridge Walk (MCC1450 and MCC7655) and a Roman cremation recorded at 186 Maldon Road (MCC1505).

Nearby find spots include Roman coins found at 12 Audley Road (MCC1273), 22 Audley Road (MCC1302), 21 Athelstan Road (MCC1201), 31 Irvine Road (MCC1215) and 76 Irvine Road (MCC1230).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in December 2019 (application No.192957) proposing a *single storey side extension*.

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 continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording 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* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2020)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2020)

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. Monitoring will include 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.

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 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).

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 2015).

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.

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>

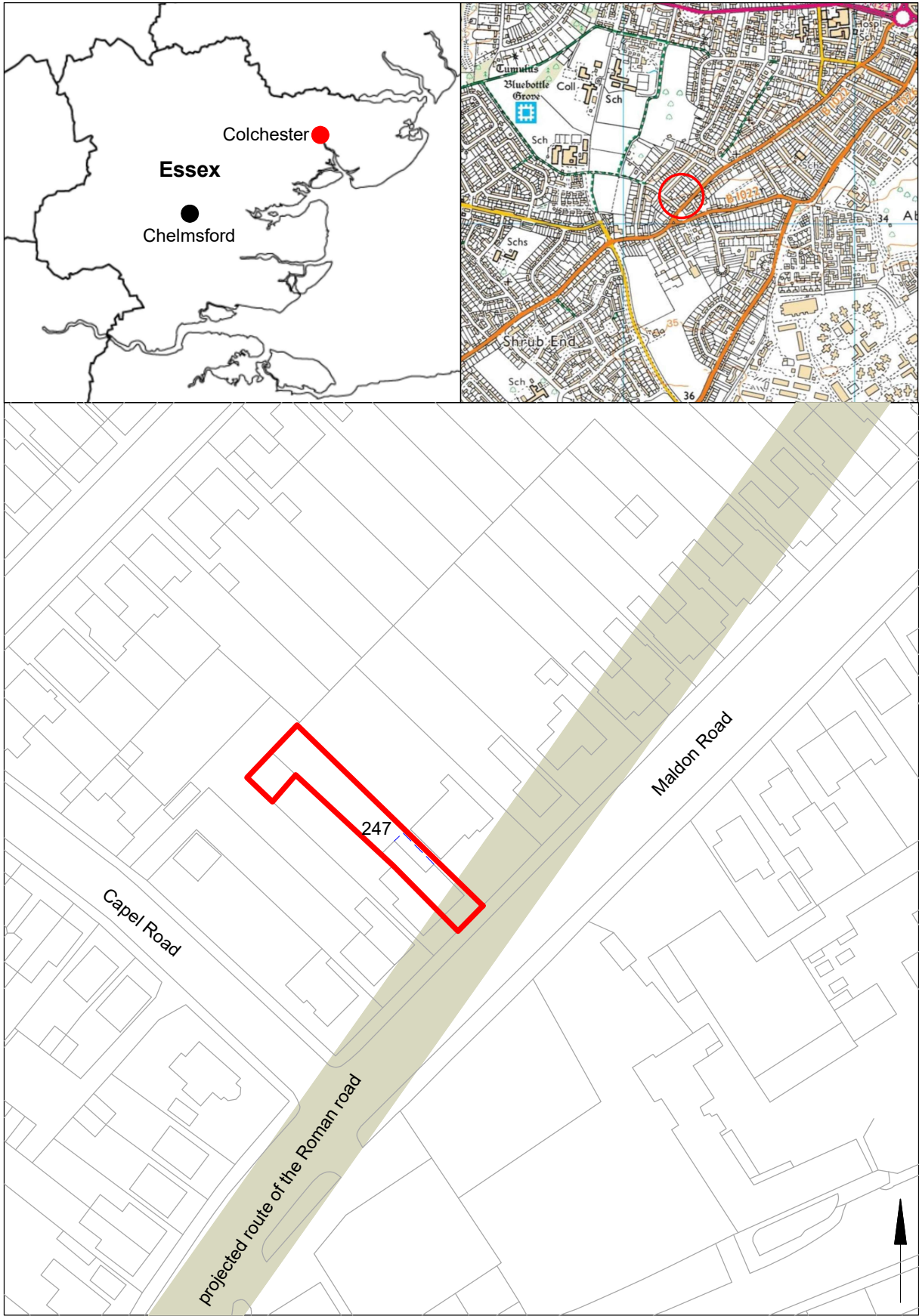
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85, by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan</i>
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 345	2005	<i>A Roman temple-tomb at Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2005. By H Brooks</i>
CBCAA	2020	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at 247 Maldon Road, Colchester, CO3 3BQ. 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>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</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)	2015	<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, MR	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>

L Pooley



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-399449

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at 247 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BQ
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was conducted at 247 Maldon Road, Colchester during groundworks for a single-storey side extension. The site lies immediately to the north of the Colchester-Gosbecks Roman road. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 10-03-2020 End: 10-03-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	192957 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2020/03d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4536 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 247 Maldon Road
Postcode	CO3 3BQ
Study area	0.03 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98264 24103 51.879664617467 0.880873166297 51 52 46 N 000 52 51 E Point

Project creators

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

Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4536
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive	Colchester Museum

recipient
Paper Archive ID ECC4536
Paper Media available "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological monitoring at 247 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BQ: March 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1586
Date 2020
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 loose-leaf brass-stapled
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on 12 August 2020

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