

Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

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CAT Report 1673

**Archaeological monitoring at 1
Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex,
CO1 1XP: May 2021**

Planning reference: 201670

CHER Event no.: ECC4585

OASIS ref.: colchest3-410077

Grid Reference: TL 99480 26006 (centre)

Number of site visits: 1

Dates of visit: 18th May 2021

Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for two-storey side extension and a single-storey rear extension.

Reason for condition: The site lies in the midst of the locations of a number of Roman burials.

% of total seen: Approximately 65% of the groundworks.

Results: The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Richard Hoggett of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

- a) Foundation trenching to accommodate the rear extension, 10.6m long, 0.5-0.6m wide and 1.2-1.3m deep.
- b) A section of foundation trenching to accommodate the side extension, 4.7m long, 0.5m wide and 2.3m deep.

Two layers were recorded:

Modern topsoil L1, c 0.5-0.6m thick, very dark grey/brown loam with CBM and charcoal flecks;
Natural L2, light yellow/brown silty-sand with abundant gravel.

No archaeological features were encountered but a single sherd from a Yellow ware (fabric 48E) bowl/mixing bowl dating to the 19th-20th century was recovered (J. Cotter, *Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85* (2000), 253).



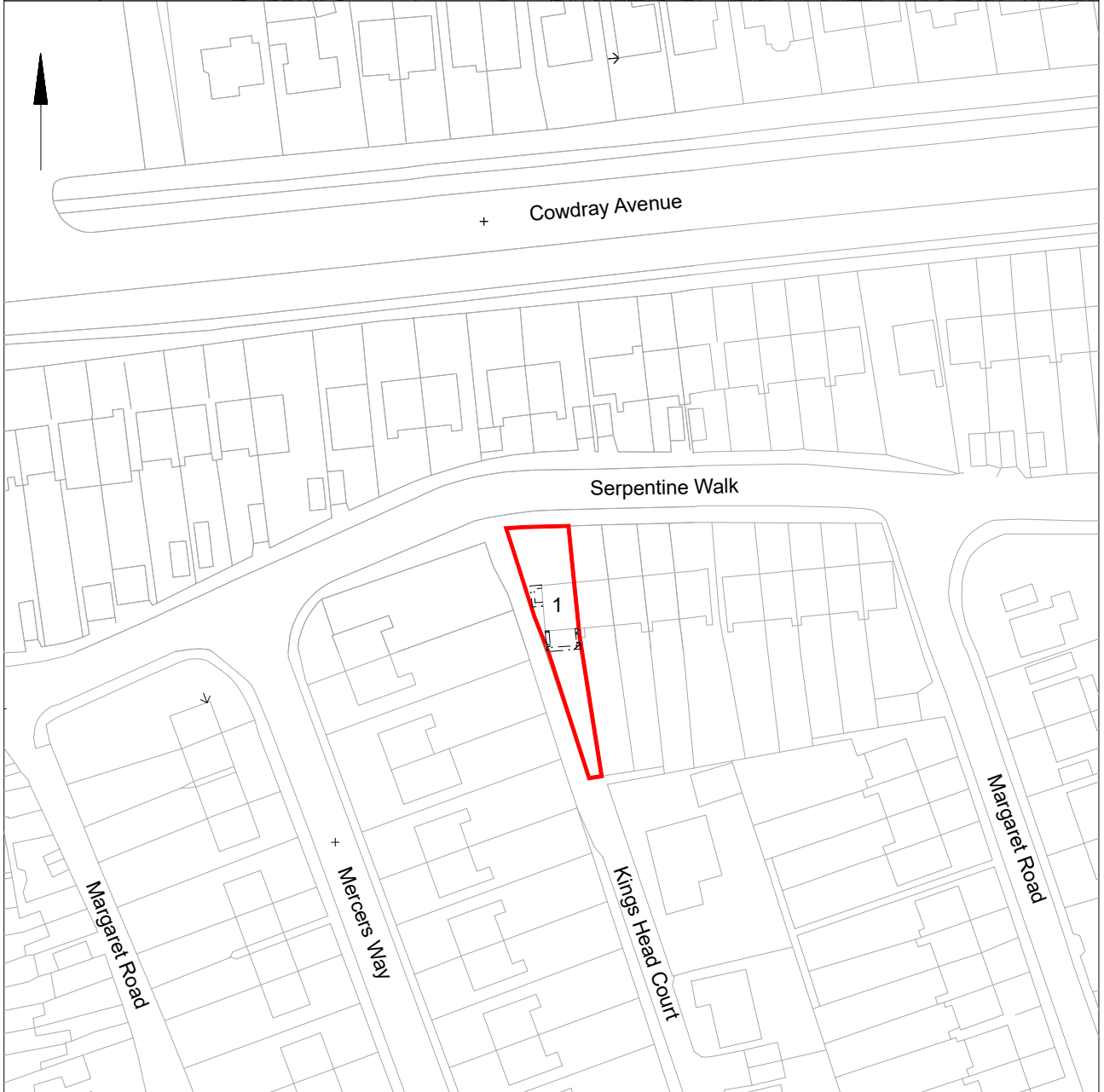
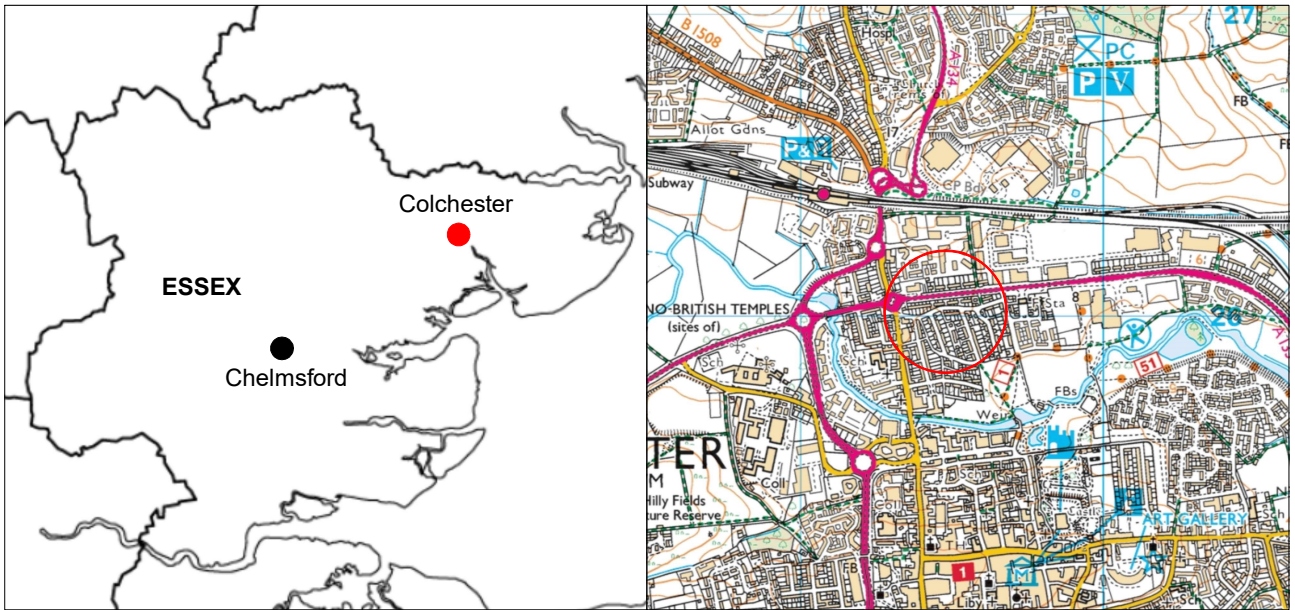
Photograph 1 Site shot

Recorded by: Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)

Date: 03.06.2021

Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)

Date: 14.06.2021



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Fig 1 Site location.



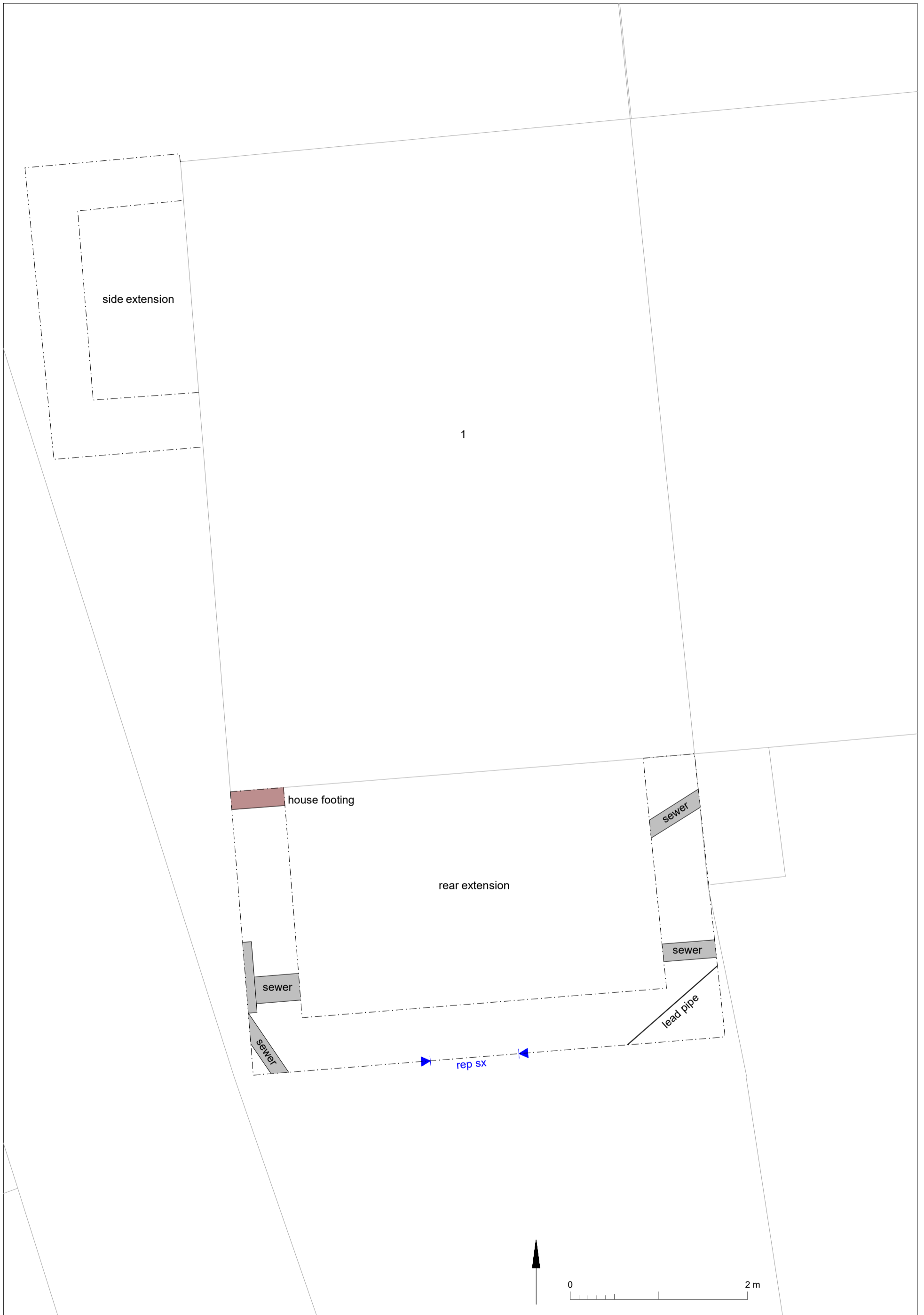


Fig 2 Results.

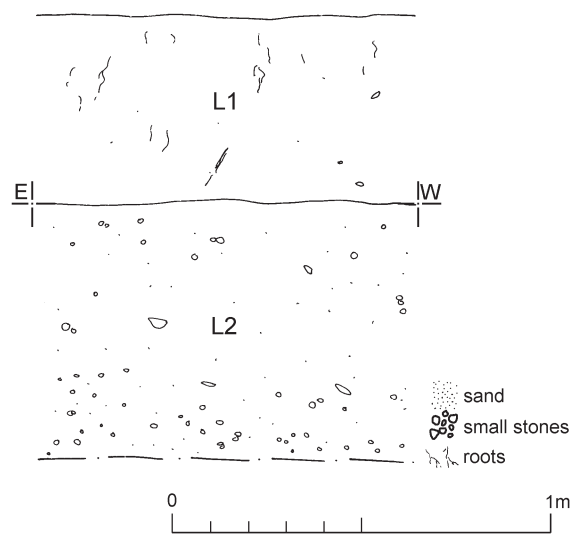


Fig 3 Representative section.

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 1 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XP.

NGR: TL 99480 26006 (centre)

District: Colchester

Planning references: 201670

Commissioned by: Nikki Collins (Real8 Group)

On behalf of: Caron Slade

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: ECC4585

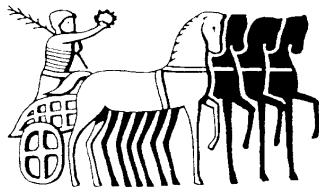
CAT project code: 2020/12d

OASIS project number: colchest3-410077

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett

This WSI written: 08/12/2020



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 890m north-east of the town centre, at 1 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99480 26006.

Proposed work

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

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECC/MCC numbers accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)).

The site is close to the location of a number of Roman burials including; a grave group found at 22 Mercers Way in 1939 during the construction of an air-raid shelter; three recorded burials at the junction of Serpentine Road and Margaret Road, an urned cremation (MCC2516), tile tomb (MCC2515) and a burial with 11 beads (MCC2517); and a scatter of Roman urned cremations have been recorded between Kings Meadow and the railway (MCC7690).

In 2003 CAT carried out an archaeological evaluation to the south-west of the site in the car-park of the Globe Hotel on North Station Road (CAT Report 248, MCC5427). Two phases of Roman building were recorded (MCC3026, MCC3027). The later Roman phase featured a large building, the evidence for which was four robbed-out walls running on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment, which appear to match up with other Roman buildings excavated along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appeared to have been of high status, having evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls.

Nearby find spots include a Roman coins found at 1 Mercers Way (MCC1208) and 18 Cowdray Avenue (MCC1252). A quantity of Roman pot was recorded from around the junction of Serpentine Walk and Margaret Road, this is thought to be from a site Hull refers to as a possible pottery kiln site (MCC1341). There are pottery kilns within this area as a kiln was discovered in the former Strowgler's Ground nursery gardens (MCC2305). Roman pottery has been found between Margaret Road and Catchpool Road (MCC1899) and at the Colchester Fire Station on Cowdray Avenue (MCC1332) and two civil war cannon balls were found in the garden at 14 Mercer Way (MCC2524).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in August 2020 (application No. 201670) proposing the *construction of two storey side and single storey rear 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 archaeological monitoring of all groundworks (including services and landscaping) associated with the project. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020).

Specifically, the monitoring 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 additional archaeological work is 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 (and satisfactorily preserved in situ) by the development, 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).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

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)

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 Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER). 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' groundworks 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 under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until the required depth of the groundworks is reached.

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 investigated 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 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 investigation, 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 may be subject to 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 (Historic England 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.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby / Gwladys Monteil

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

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

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* (Historic England 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

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

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 with Colchester & Ipswich Museum *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. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

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> 2nd edition. |
| Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT | 2020 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 248 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, October 2003.</i> By Kate Orr |
| CBCAA | 2020 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at The Coach House, 27 Inglis Road, Colchester, CO3 3HU.</i> By R Hoggett |
| CifA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Updated Oct 2020 |
| CifA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020 |
| Digital Curation Centre (DCC) | 2013 | <i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i> |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England (HE) | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse |
| 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.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 |

MHCLG

2019

(EAA 24)

National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local Government.

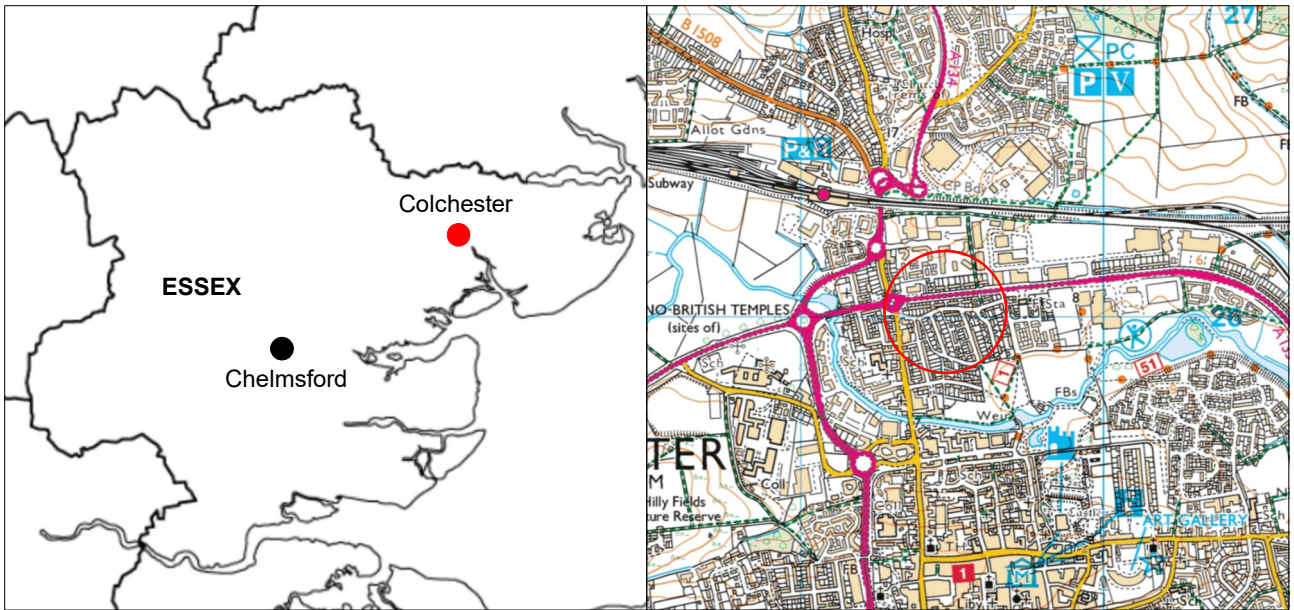
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Fig 1 Site location.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-410077

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Archaeological monitoring at 1 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XP |
| Short description of the project | Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 1 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a side extension and a rear extension. The development site lies in a known area of Roman burials. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered. |
| Project dates | Start: 18-05-2021 End: 18-05-2021 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 2020/12d - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECC4585 - Sitecode |
| Any associated project reference codes | colchest3-410077 - OASIS form ID |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Residential 1 - General Residential |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Modern |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 1 Serpentine Walk, Colchester |
| Postcode | CO1 1XP |
| Study area | 0.01 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TL 99480 26006 51.896318436892 0.899618381418 51 53 46 N 000 53 58 E Point |

Project creators

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Project brief originator | CBCAO |
| Project design originator | Sarah Carter |
| Project director/manager | Chris Lister |
| Project supervisor | Nigel Rayner |

Type of sponsor/funding body
Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID ECC4585

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4585

Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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