



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

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CAT Report 1702

**Archaeological monitoring at
15 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex,
CO3 3TY: August 2021**

Planning reference: 202655

CHER Event no.: ECC4649

OASIS ref.: colchest3-426926

Grid Reference: TL 98259 24253 (centre)

Number of site visits: 3

Dates of visit: 24th-26th August 2021

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

Reason for condition: The site lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum* and to the south of known Roman cemeteries which cluster around the Roman roads radiating out of Colchester.

% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.

Results

The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Simon Wood, Archaeological Advisor, Colchester Borough Council Place Services.

Groundworks consisted of foundation trenching and a soakaway. Both were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Foundation Trench

The foundation trench was 18.6m in length, 0.6m wide and 1.1m deep. The area was cleared of a patio and concrete sub-base prior to the archaeologists arrival. The trench was excavated through subsoil (L2, friable, firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy/silt with 20% stone, c 0.49-0.60m thick) and into the natural sand (L3, friable, firm, dry, light/medium orange sand with 75% stone, encountered c 0.49m-0.60m below current ground level). No archaeologically-significant features or finds were uncovered. A modern tree-throw, F1 (0.96m wide and 0.35m deep), and several modern services were present.



Photograph 1 Site shot showing completed foundation trench, looking east



Photograph 2 F1 sx, looking southwest

Soakaway

A soakaway (2.0m by 1.9m and 1.0m deep) was excavated through topsoil (L1, firm, dark/grey/brown silty/sand with 30% stone, c 0.09-0.10m thick), subsoil (L2, c 0.21-0.24m thick) and into natural (L3, c 0.31-0.34m bcgl). No archaeological finds or features were present in the soakaway.



Photograph 3 Soakaway working shot, looking S

Recorded by: Sarah Veasey (sv@catuk.org)

Date: 01/09/2021

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

Date: 10/09/2021

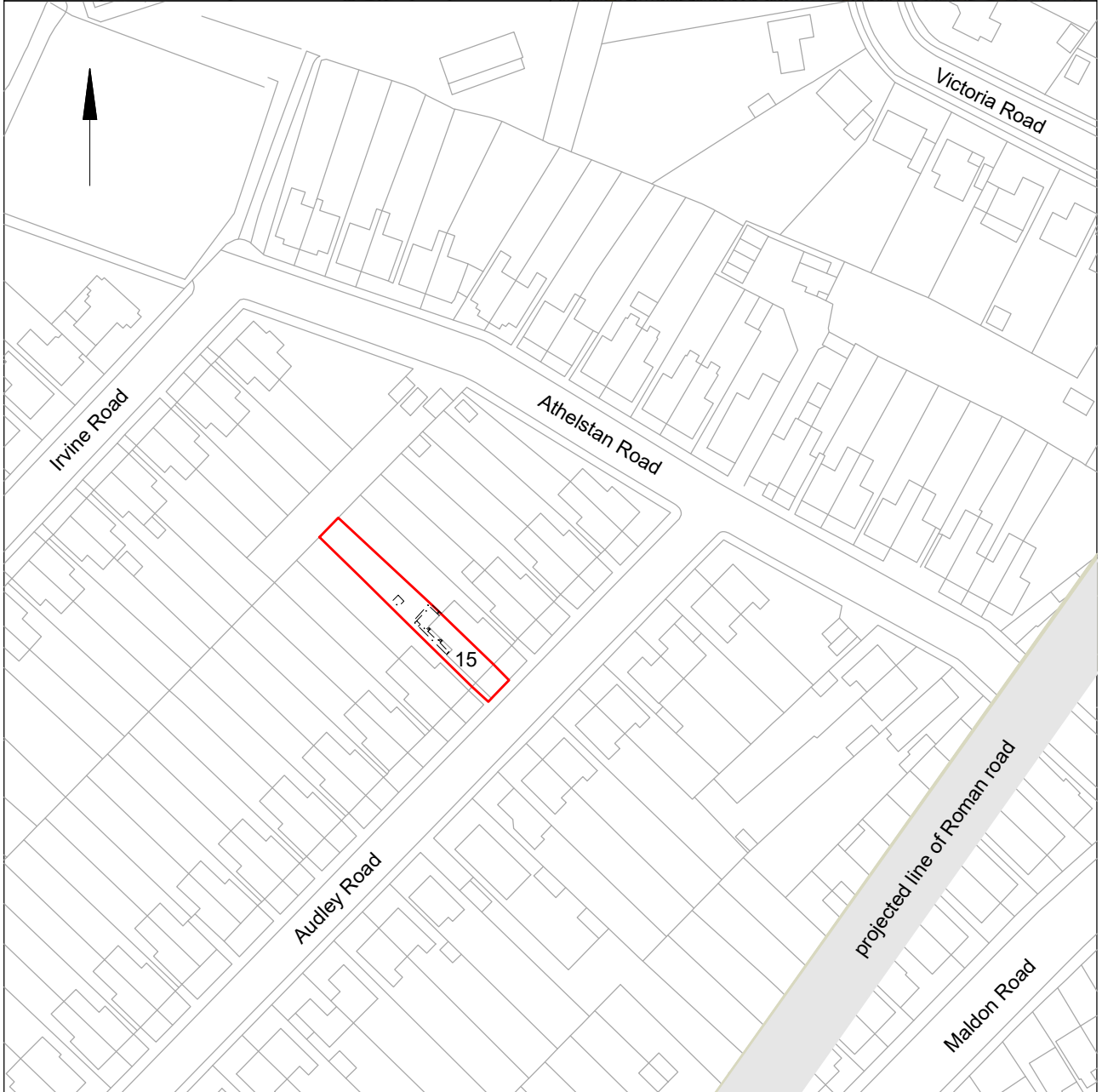
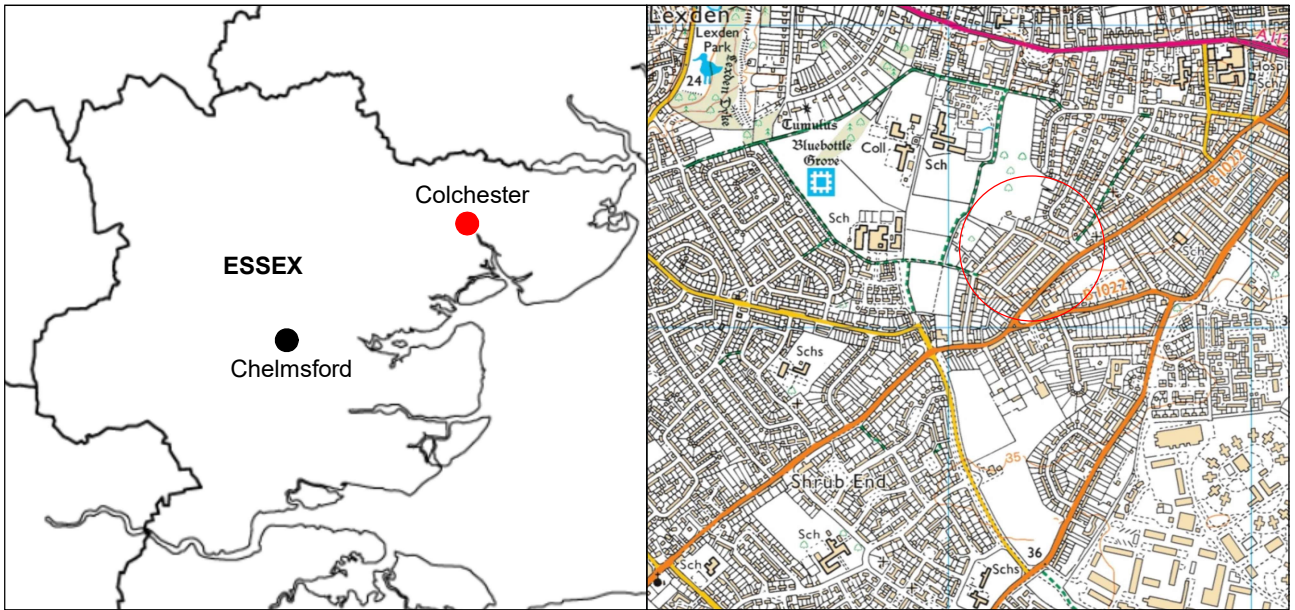


Fig 1 Site location.

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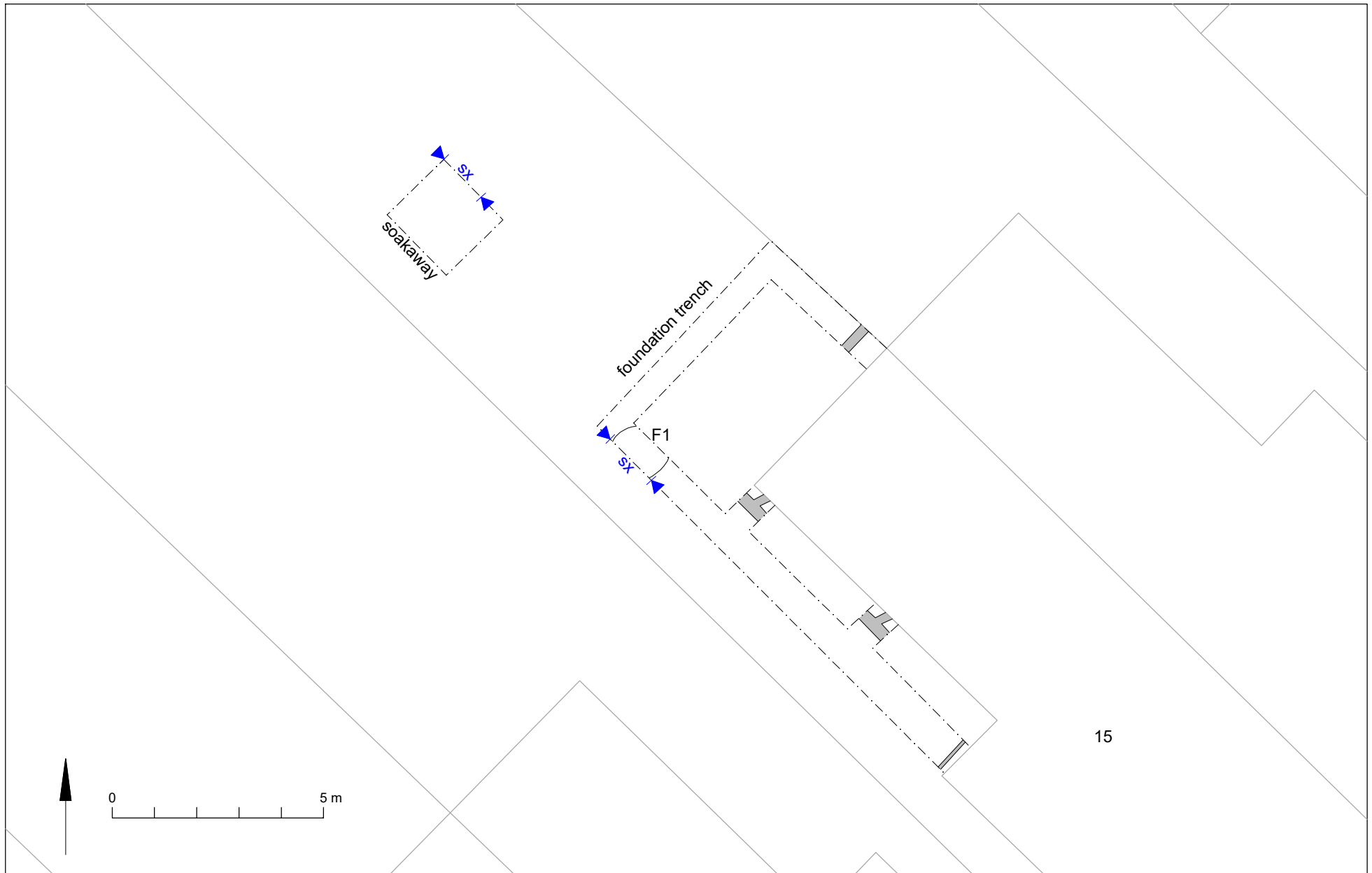
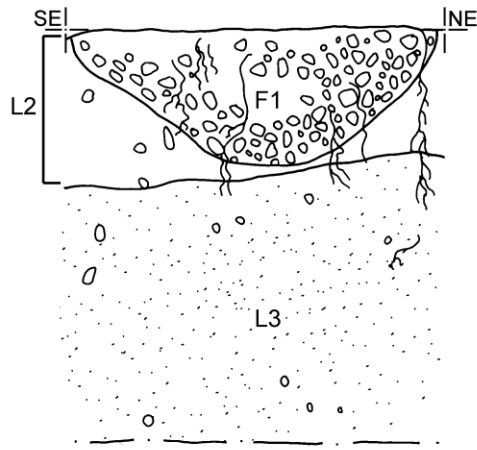


Fig 2 Results (modern services in grey)



Soakaway

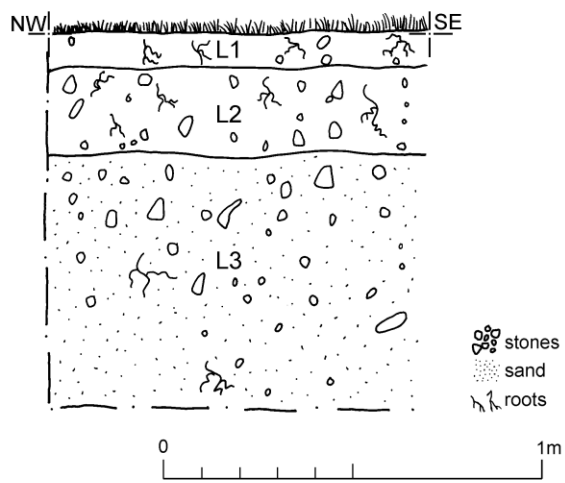


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological monitoring at 15 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TY

NGR: TL 98259 24253 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Colchester

Planning reference: 202655

Client: Homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2021/07n

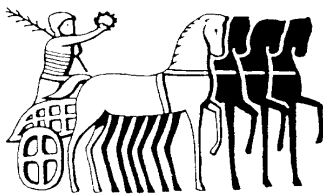
OASIS project number: colchest3-426926

Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 28/07/2021



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.63km southwest of the historic centre Colchester town centre at 15 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98259 24253.

Proposed work

The development comprises of a new single storey extension to the side and rear of the existing dwelling and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on extracts from CAT Report 1625, draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. Each dyke consisted of a V-shaped ditch with a simple bank behind, constructed so that the inner face of the ditch continued as the outer face of the bank (Crummy 1997, 14). Moat Farm Dyke (MCC2099/MCC7280) is located 520m west-southwest (CAR 11, 34), with Heath Farm Dyke (MCC2095/MCC2101) and Prettygate Dyke (MCC1742) also close-by.

It is also situated to the south of known Roman cemeteries that cluster around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road (78m east-southeast of the site; MCC2529). It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned to the orientation of this road. Finds recovered in the immediate vicinity include Roman coins from the rear gardens of 12 and 22 Audley Road (MCC1273 and MCC1302).

A substantial Roman temple complex (Temple 6) was also partly excavated in 1947 (MCC1959/MCC8407). It is located c 134m north of the site, in the playing fields of 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).

No significant archaeological features or horizons were identified during recent archaeological investigations at 20 Irvine Road (CAT Report 867); 40 Irvine Road (CAT Report 860); 10 Audley Road (CAT Report 813); 33 Audley Road (CAT Report 1284); 55 Audley Road (CAT Report 1260) or during a small evaluation on the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road) (CAT Report 180).

Planning background

A planning application (202655) was made to Colchester Borough Council in November 2020 for a *side and rear single storey 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 an archaeological investigation of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 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 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-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 monitoring.

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.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). 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

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

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 / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: 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 if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

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.

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 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>
CAR 9	2nd ed 1993	<i>Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88. Colchester Archaeological Report 9.</i> By N Crummy, P Crummy, and C Crossan
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 180	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation on Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2002</i>
CAT Report 813	2015	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2015</i>
CAT Report 860	2015	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording: 40 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, August 2015</i>
CAT Report 867	2015	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording: 20 Irvine Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0TR, July 2015</i>
CAT Report 1230	2018	<i>Archaeological monitoring at 55 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TZ: March 2018</i>
CAT Report 1284	2018	<i>Archaeological monitoring at 33 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex – June 2018</i>
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 15 Audley Road, Colchester.</i> By S Wood
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching</i>

CIfA	2014b	<i>brief</i> . Revised June 2020 <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2019
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</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
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway



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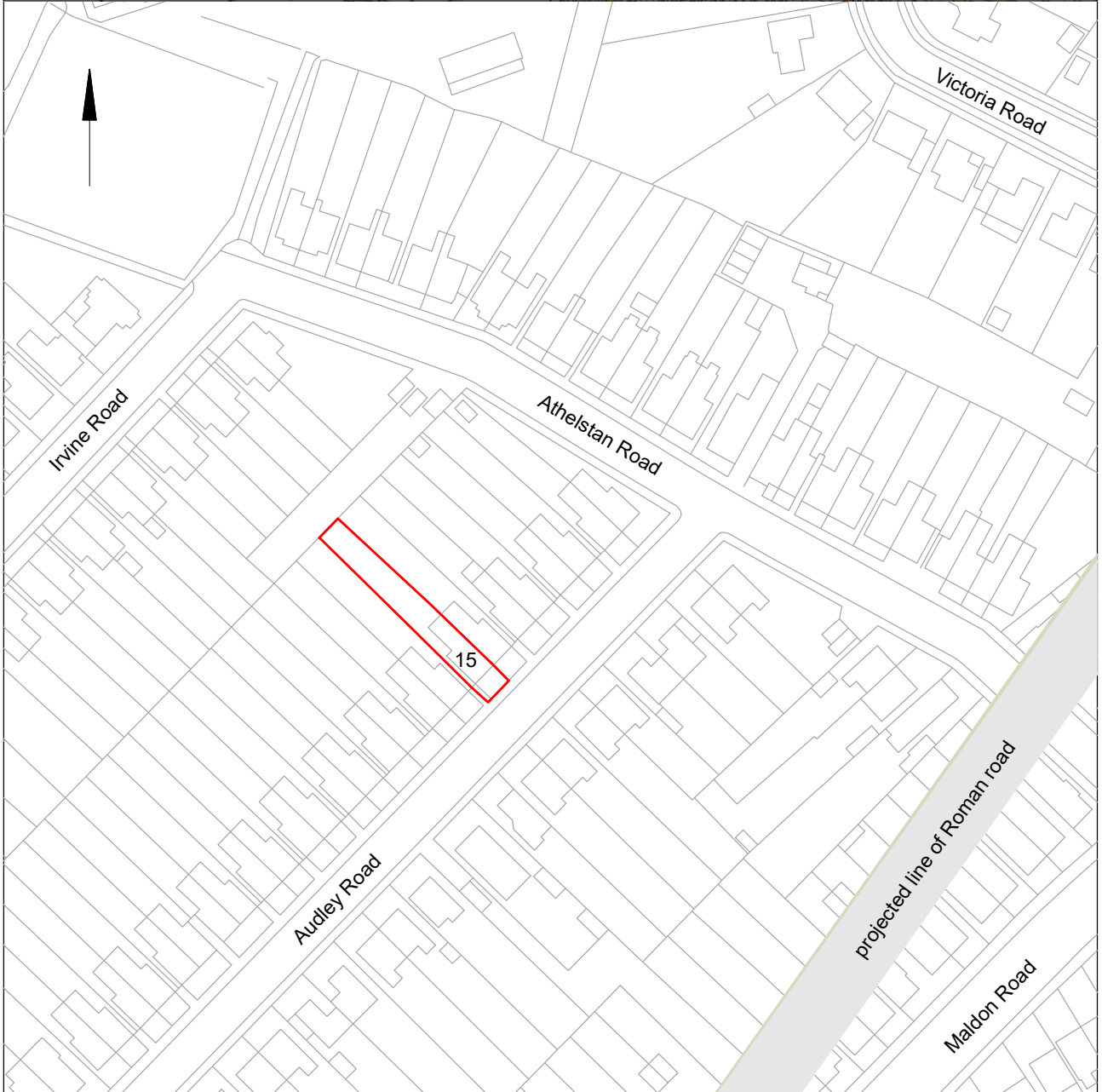
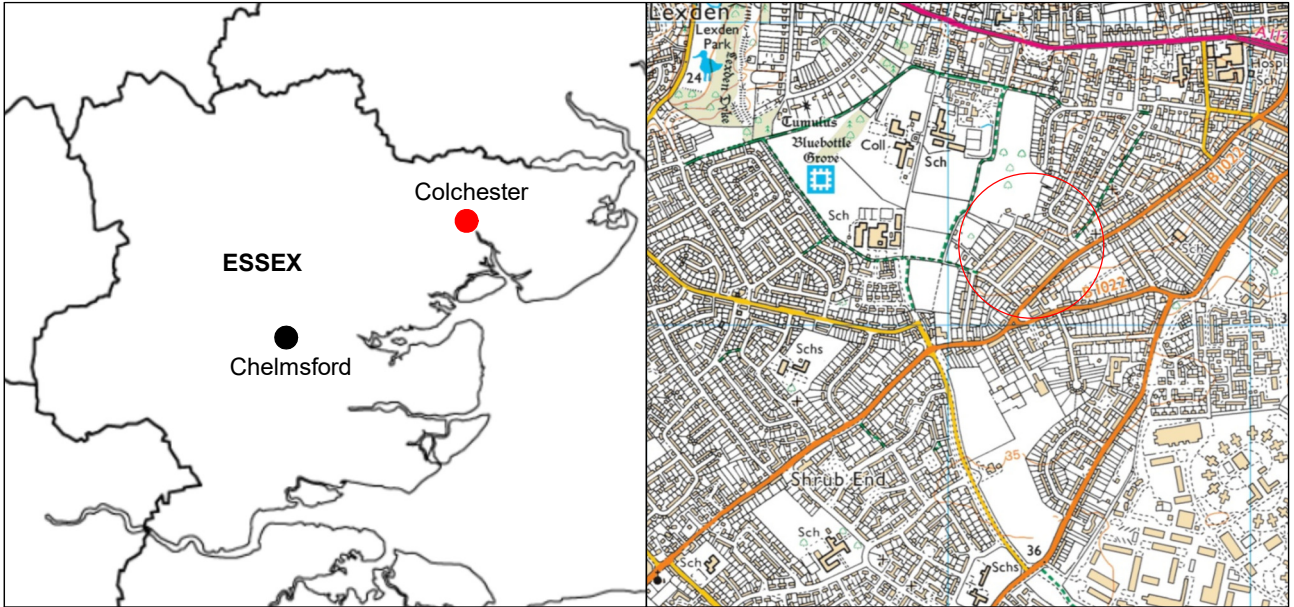


Fig 1 Site location.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-426926

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at 15 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TY.
Short description of the project	Groundworks consisted of foundation trenching and a soakaway. Both were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Foundation Trench The foundation trench was 18.60m in length, 0.60m wide and 1.10m deep. The trench was excavated through subsoil (L2, friable, firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy/silt with 20% stone, c 0.49-0.60m thick) and into the natural sand (L3, friable, firm, dry, light/medium orange sand with 75% stone, encountered c 0.49m-0.60m below current ground level [bcgl]). No archaeologically-significant features or finds were uncovered. A modern tree-throw, F1 (XXXXX), and several modern services were present. Soakaway A soakaway (2.00m by 1.90m and 1.00m deep) was excavated through topsoil (L1, firm, dark/grey/brown silty/sand with 30% stone, c 0.09-0.10m thick), subsoil (L2, c 0.21-0.24m thick) and into natural (L3, c 0.31-0.34m bcgl). No archaeological finds or features were present in the soakaway.
Project dates	Start: 24-08-2021 End: 26-08-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	202655 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/07n - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4649 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	TREE-THROW Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 15 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO3 3TY
Study area	175 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 98259 24253 51.881013473789 0.880886786015 51 52 51 N 000 52 51 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief	CBC Archaeological Officer

originator
 Project design originator Emma Holloway
 Project director/manager Adam Wightman
 Project director/manager Chris Lister
 Project supervisor Megan Seehra
 Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner
 Name of sponsor/funding body Homeowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Service
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological monitoring at 15 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TY: August 2021
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Veasey, S
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1702
 Date 2021
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
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 Description A4 loose-leaf comb-bound
 URL cat.essex.ac.uk
 Entered by Sarah Veasey (sv@catuk.org)
 Entered on 1 September 2021

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