

# Archaeological monitoring at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF

September 2021



**by Megan Seehra**

figures by Laura Pooley and Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Ziya Eksen

**commissioned by the homeowner**

NGR: TL 99085 24797 (centre)

Planning ref.: 211463

CAT project ref.: 21/08b

CHER code: ECC4660

OASIS ref.: colchest3-428877



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**CAT Report 1713**  
October 2021

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CAT WSI  
OASIS summary sheet

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a two-storey extension to the rear of the property. The site lies within the heart of the Roman cemetery area to the west of Colchester town centre, as well as other significant Roman activity located nearby. Despite this however, no archaeological features were found during the monitoring.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex on 28th September 2021. The work was commissioned by the homeowner and took place during groundworks for a two-storey rear extension. This work was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Richard Hoggett advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Investigation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Simon Wood (CBCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background 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 following archaeological background 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 immediately to the southwest of Colchester town centre within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, to the southwest of the Roman walled town and within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (MCC7525, CAR 11).

The area is further dominated by burials from the Roman period, including a rectangular walled cemetery immediately north of and adjacent to the Roman road (Hall 1946). A number of 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. These have been found at the site of the former County Hospital (MCC1081; 2427, MCC1081; 2498, MCC1366; 2676), the police station on Butt Road (CAR 9, 4-202), Maldon Road (CAR 9, 261), and Colchester Royal Grammar School (CAT Report 345). Associated Roman funerary sculptures have also been found at the former

County Hospital site in the 19th century (MCC2133; MCC7654; EHER 11858). In 2020 and 2021, respectively, further excavations to the north and south car parks at the former County Hospital have revealed significant Roman structures, fourteen burials, at least seventeen tile-built structures (likely ovens), and a trackway (CAT report forthcoming).

There are also a number of burials recorded along Wellesley Road itself (Hull 1958, 203-5). These include a single Roman burial at 23 Wellesley Road (just to the south of the Colchester County High School), a Roman lead coffin from the west side of Wellesley Road (just north of the school), and a group of five Roman burials from the north-west corner of Wellesley Road. This last is also the reported find spot of the glass Colchester circus cup (CAR 8, 43-9). A find such as a glass cup would normally come from a cremation burial, so it would seem that the burials in and around Wellesley Road may include both Roman cremations and inhumations. In particular a cremation burial was recorded 20m southeast of the proposed development at the junction of Maldon Road and Beaconsfield Avenue.

An archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at the High School, 17 Wellesley Road revealed a fairly high level of activity. Evidence suggested the site may have been used as an open area for rubbish disposal during the Roman period. A large pit excavated during the evaluation phase included a number of cattle horn cores (CAT Report 352). Several patches of gravel were recorded that were thought to be a possible trackway leading to the Roman road junction under the Grammar School (CAT Report 373).

#### **4 Aims**

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

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

Prior to monitoring works commencing, the old basement to the rear of the property had been demolished. All new groundworks were carried out by a mechanical excavator under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The new foundation trenches totalled 26.7m long and were 0.6m wide and 0.8-1.5m deep.

Several layers likely associated with the previous development of the property were identified. L1 was a modern topsoil (c 0.1-0.45m thick), and L2-L5 (all between 0.1-0.6m thick) were layers of post-medieval/modern made-ground with fragments of CBM scattered throughout along with re-deposited orange natural sand. L6 is a natural, orange sand, visible from c 1.3-1.5m below current ground level (bcgl).

Concrete base L7 (c 0.15m thick) was related to previous landscaping of the back garden and sealed L1 to the east of the site. Finally, L8 (0.60m thick) was the base of the demolished basement which was sealed by concrete walls, parts of which were still *in situ* (see Fig 3 sx2).

See Fig 3 for the stratigraphy of the site. A full description of each context can be seen in Appendix 1.

There were no archaeological features found at this site.



**Photograph 1** General working shot, looking roughly west



**Photograph 2** South-east corner of foundation trenches, looking roughly north-west



**Photograph 3** Working shot, looking south

## 6 Finds

There were no finds recovered from this site.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite being in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological features were found during monitoring. There was a significant depth of modern and post-medieval layers covering the site, likely relating to the construction of the original basement and current standing building. Prior to the development of the area in the late 19th century however, the site was open fields and some of the earlier post-medieval layers could be agricultural in origin.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by Z Eksen. Figures were prepared by L Pooley and S Veasey. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Dr Simon Wood.

## 9 References

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

- |          |      |  |
|----------|------|--|
| Brown, D | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>   |
| CAR 8    | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Price   |
| CAR 9    | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan |

CAR 11	1984	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF</i> by E Holloway
CAT Report 345	2006	<i>A Roman temple-tomb at Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2005</i> , by H Brooks
CAT Report 352	2005	<i>An archaeological evaluation at Colchester High School, 17 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex: November-December 2005</i> , by K Orr
CAT Report 373	2006	<i>An archaeological excavation and watching brief at Colchester High School, 17 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex: February and May-June 2006</i> , by K Orr
CBCPS	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester</i> , by S Wood
Cifa	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Revised June 2020
Cifa	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated October 2020
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)
Hall, A F	1945	'A Roman walled cemetery at Colchester', in <i>Archaeological Journal</i> , 101 (1944), 69-90
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i>
Historic England (HE)	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (MoRPHE)
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.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
Cifa	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1713)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation  
Original site record (plan/sections)  
Site digital photos and log

**Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1713)  
CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation  
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log  
Graphic files  
Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under reference number ECC4660.

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### Distribution list

Homeowner

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record



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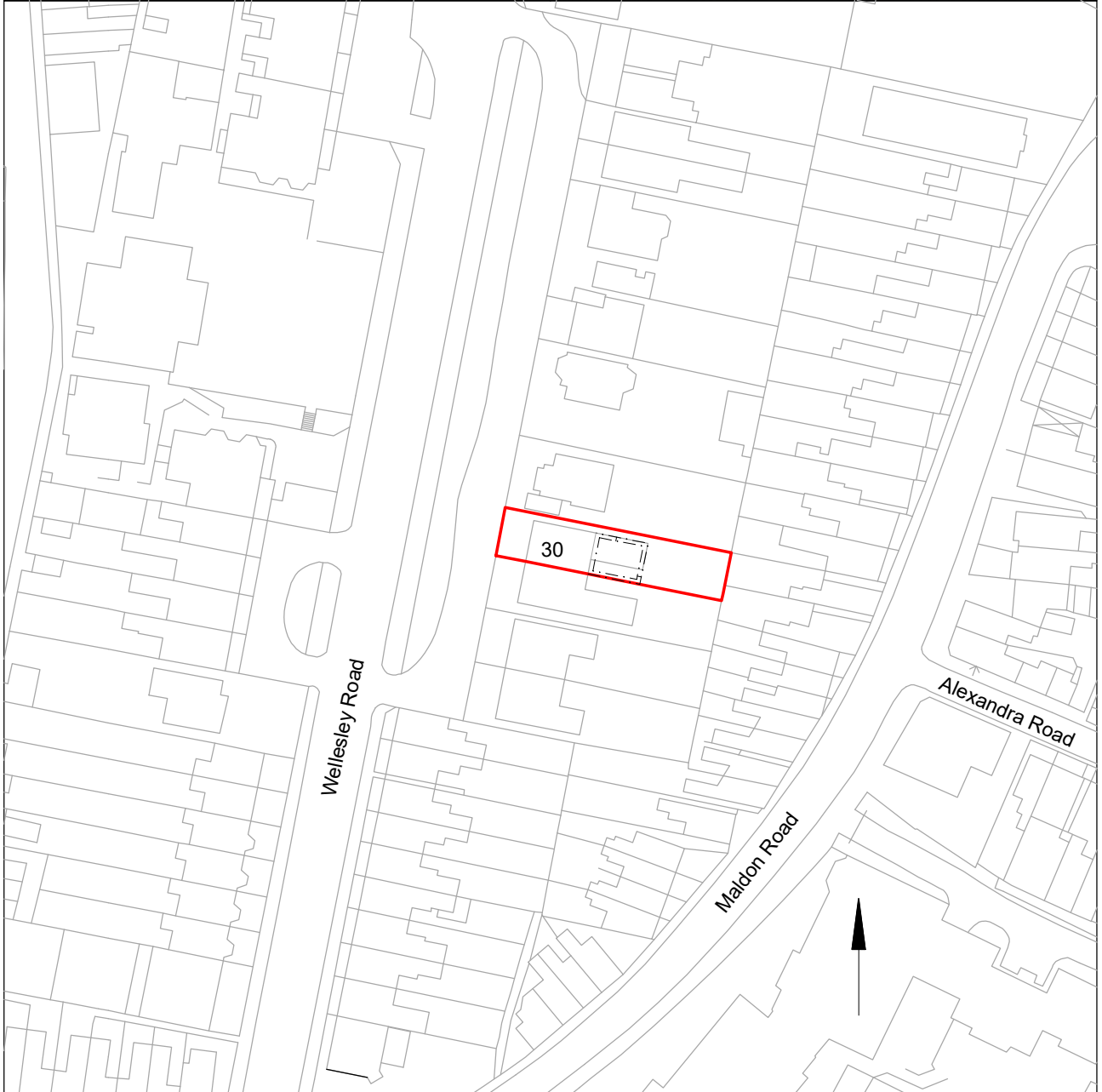
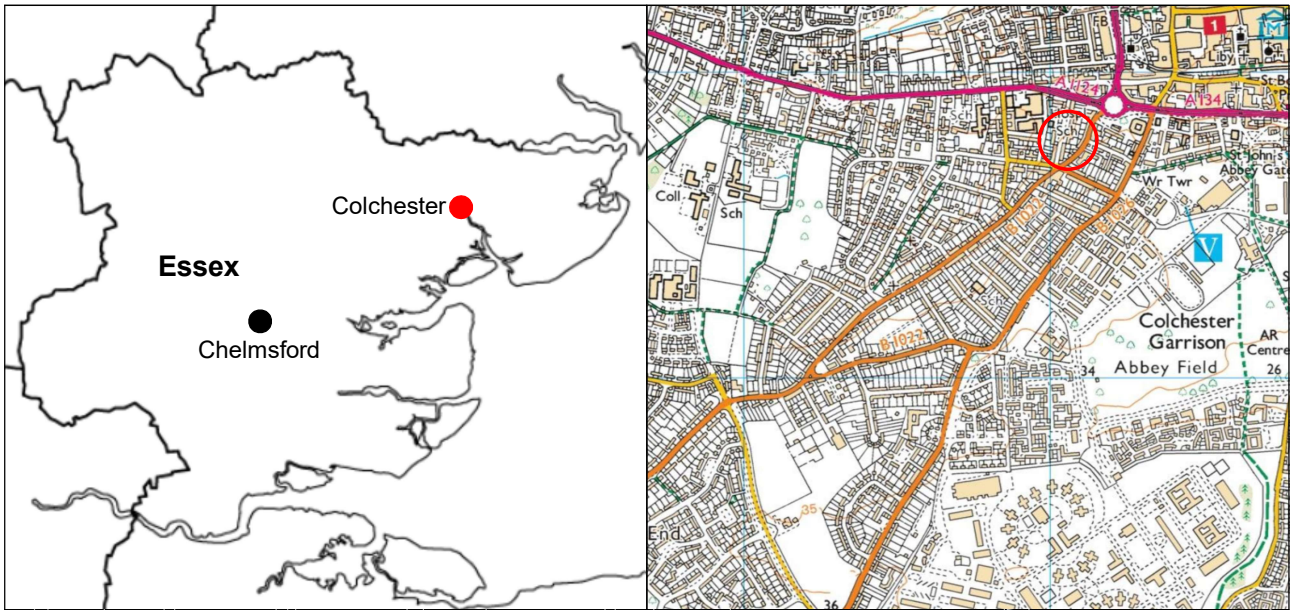
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 14/10/2021



## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Context type	Description	Date
L1	Topsoil	Loose moist dark brown/black sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 20%	Modern
L2	Made-ground	Soft/friable moist medium orange/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 30% tile/brick 15%	Post-medieval/ modern
L3	Made-ground	Loose/soft moist medium grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 20% tile/brick 15%	Post-medieval/ modern
L4	Made-ground	Soft moist medium/dark orange/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: gravel 5% stone 15%	Post-medieval/ modern
L5	Made-ground	Firm moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy clay and inclusions of: stone 10%	Post-medieval/ modern
L6	Natural	Soft moist medium orange sandy silt and inclusions of: gravel 30% stone 30%	Post-glacial
L7	Concrete base	Grey concrete	Modern
L8	Wall foundation	Red brick base with concrete walls above	Post-medieval- modern



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m



Fig 2 Results

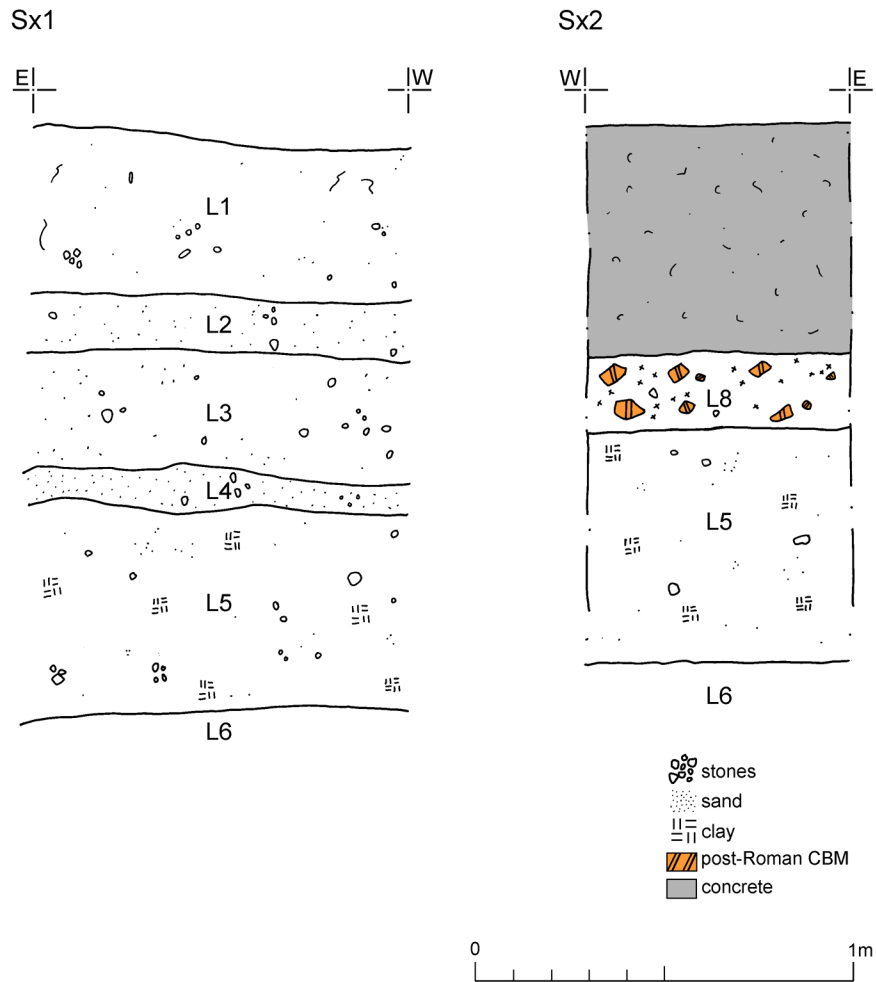


Fig 3 Foundation trench sections

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 99085 24797 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 21/08b CHER ref: ECC4660 OASIS ref: colchest3-428877
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 28th September 2021	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.03ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC7525, MCC1081, MCC1366, MCC2133, MCC7654
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1713	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Post-medieval/modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a two-storey extension to the rear of the property. The site lies within the heart of the Roman cemetery area to the west of Colchester town centre, as well as other significant Roman activity located nearby. Despite this however, no archaeological features were found during the excavation of the foundation trenches.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Simon Wood	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Megan Seehra	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2021

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF

**NGR:** TL 99085 24797 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** Colchester

**Planning reference:** 211463

**Client:** homeowner

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** tbc

**CAT project code:** 2021/8b

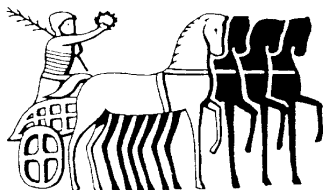
**OASIS project number:** colchest3-428877

**Contracts manager:** Chris Lister

**Fieldwork manager:** Adam Wightman

**CBC monitor:** Dr Simon Wood

**This WSI written:** 23.08.2021



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located to the immediate southwest of Colchester Town centre at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99053 24758. The site is situated inside the Colchester-Lexden Road, The Avenue Conservation Area (DEX22988).

## Proposed work

The development comprises of the demolition of a raised terrace area and conservatory to be replaced with a new two storey extension and any associated groundworks. A new low height wall will be demolished and constructed at the front of the house.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background 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 immediately to the southwest of Colchester town centre within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum*, to the southwest of the Roman walled town and within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (MCC7525). Extra mural cemeteries were quickly instigated from the mid to late 1st century AD in zones a few hundred metres beyond the town wall. These were initially focused either side of roads. The Lexden cemetery includes large concentrations of early to late Roman burials found adjacent to Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing) leading out of Balkerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and *CAR 11*), including a high-status rectangular walled cemetery immediately north of and adjacent to the Roman road (Hall 1946). A number of 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*.

At least 12 Roman burials have previously been found within the site of the former County Hospital. Inhumation graves (MCC1081; 2427) and cremations (MCC1081, 2498) along with high status tombstones (MCC1366; 2676) have also been found within the site during periods of hospital construction (*CAR 9*, 258). The main cluster of known burials were located at the Operating Theatre site. These were mainly urned cremations. However, several others have been found within the central northern area (northern car park) and the inference is that much of the site may have been associated with burial. Associated funerary sculpture from the site includes a famous stone sphinx and another bronze sphinx (MCC2133; MCC7654; EHER 11858) which were found in 1820/1 in the garden of the hospital, and are depicted on the 1876 Ordnance Survey map, just beyond the north-west corner of the hospital (see Purcell 2014 fig 4.4). These 'votive' sphinxes were probably associated with a high status mausoleum/tomb or shrine.

Over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Police station on Butt Road (*CAR 9*, 4-202). Eighteen Roman inhumation burials were excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (*CAR 9*, 261). In 2005 CAT excavated the remains of a Roman temple-tomb at the Colchester Royal Grammar School (CAT Report 345).

There are also a number of burials recorded along Wellesley Road itself (Hull 1958, 203-5). These include a single Roman burial at 23 Wellesley Road (just to the south of the Colchester County High School), a Roman lead coffin from the west side of Wellesley Road (just north of the school), and a group of five Roman burials from the north-west corner of Wellesley Road. This last is also the reported find spot of the glass Colchester circus cup (*CAR 8*, 43-9). A find such as a glass cup would normally come from a cremation burial, so it would seem that the burials in and around Wellesley Road may include both Roman cremations and inhumations.

In particular a cremation burial was recorded 20m southeast of the proposed development at the junction of Maldon Road and Beaconsfield Avenue.

An archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation at the High School, 17 Wellesley Road revealed a fairly high level of activity. Evidence suggested the site may have been used as an open area for rubbish disposal during the Roman period. A large pit excavated during the evaluation phase included a number of cattle horn cores (CAT Report 352). Several patches of gravel were recorded that were thought to be a possible trackway leading to the Roman road junction under the Grammar School (CAT Report 373)

Following decanting of the former County Hospital, an archaeological excavation took place within the northern car park in 2020 (CAT Report forthcoming). Key results included a north-west/south-east alignment of linear Roman quarries through the disturbed north-western zone of the former car park. These appear to have been cut on the east side of the major Roman road leading to the Balcerne Gate, although no Roman metalling had survived the modern car park truncation. The quarries appear instead of a flanking roadside ditch and may have the source of gravels for the truncated away road agger. Perpendicular to the road alignment were a series of early phase Roman gullies that separated the central and south-western zones of the excavation into a series of plots – perhaps residential yard or garden plots. The most significant structure exposed took the form of square foundation (c 14m by 14m), with 0.8m wide foundations to a depth of c 1m in the south-east corner of the excavation between the Main Hospital and the Outpatients building. Internally part of the lower level of an opus signinum floor had survived truncation. The floor along with the large scale and substantial depth of the foundations has led CAT to suggest the building may have been of high status either as a two-storey temple tomb or a wing of a large town villa (the wings of which are sometimes interpreted as two-storey elements). Several other potential structures were noted within the central eastern area of the excavation. These were of two forms. The first are post-defined buildings, one of which appears to be square or rectangular formed of a series of quite large post-holes, whilst another to the south-east was comprised of smaller post-holes and is more problematic in terms of form. The other form are sunken-floored structures. A relatively low number of Roman burials (fourteen) were found during the excavation. Of these two were baby burials in pits, two pits contained pyre debris relating to cremations and ten were inhumation graves (two with coffin nails and hobnail shoes, four with coffin nails, two small graves with no nails, two with human bone surviving – including the prone burial). There other major component of the archaeological findings were a series of at least 17 Roman tile built features recorded as ovens within a clearly defined zone set back from and laid out parallel to the Roman Road (with one exception in the south-western area of the excavation). The form was generally rectangular with a long flue and a circular chamber (thirteen were brick/tile built examples of keyhole-shaped form, there was one larger brick/tile oven and three smaller, sub-round/square ovens, which were seemingly earlier than the larger, better constructed ovens).

Excavation of the Southern car park of the former County Hospital in 2021 identified 10 inhumations. A series of E-W ditches and a trackway were identified at the southern end of the southern block. The complex sequence of intercutting ditches identified to the north of the trackway (and beneath it), suggests that there was a long-lived boundary here in the Roman period. This may have taken the form of a driveway which was later metalled. A series of post-holes in the centre of the southern block indicated the presence of a probable post-built structure and two parallel fences lines. In addition, a number of pits, most of which were probably dug to extract sand and gravel for nearby trackways, were also recorded during the excavations (CAT Report forthcoming).

## **Planning background**

A planning application (211463) was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 2021 proposing the *demolition of existing raised terrace area and conservatory to provide a new two-story extension, providing additional living space at ground level and a new kitchen at basement level, including the demolition and construction of a new low height wall to the front of the house.*



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* (ClfA 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 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 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 Historic England guidance (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 (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* (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 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 8	2nd ed 1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Price
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by N Crummy, P Crummy & 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 &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 345	2006	<i>A Roman temple-tomb at Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2005</i> , by H Brooks
CAT Report 352	2005	An archaeological evaluation at Colchester High School, 17

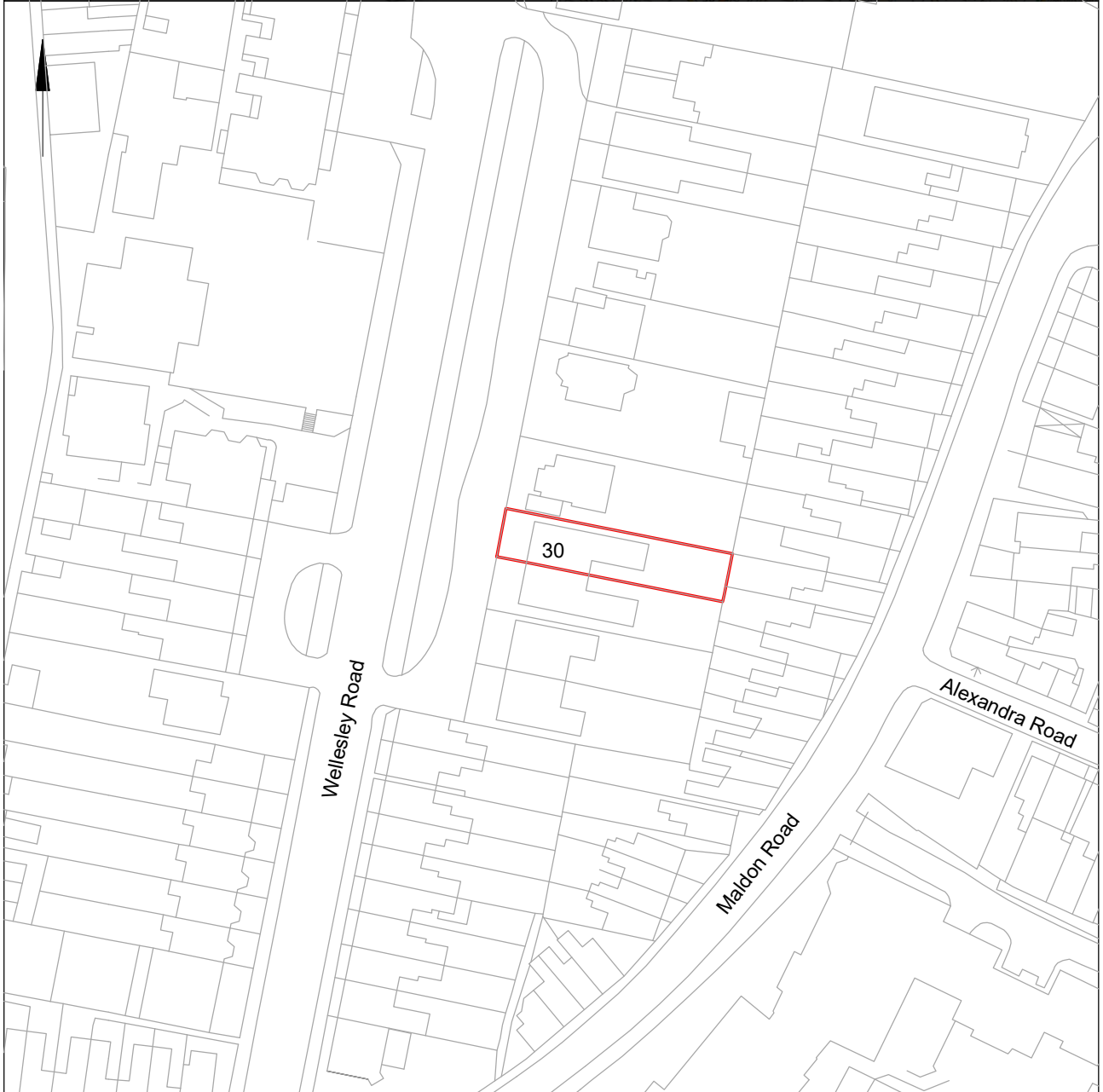
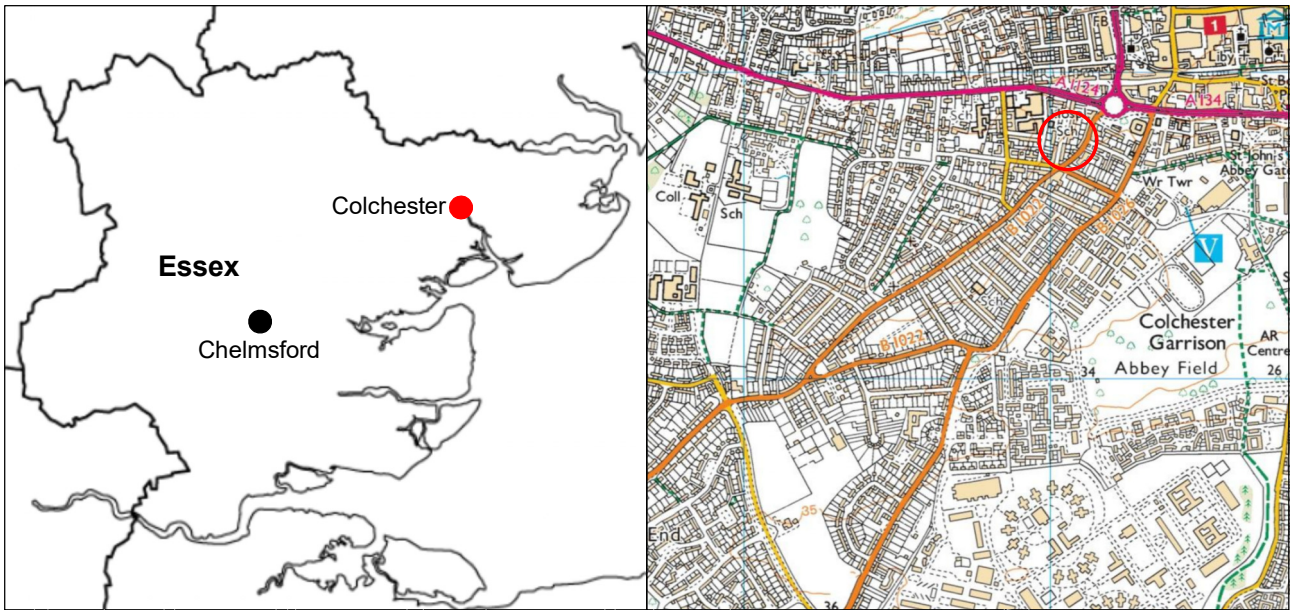
		Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex: <i>November-December 2005</i> , by K Orr
CAT Report 373	2006	<i>An archaeological excavation and watching brief at Colchester High School, 17 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex: February and May-June 2006</i> , by K Orr
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester</i> . By S Wood
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Revised June 2020
CifA	2014b	<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).
Hall, A F	1945	'A Roman walled cemetery at Colchester', in <i>Archaeological Journal</i> , 101 (1944), 69-90
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	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.

0 50 m

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-428877**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a two-storey extension to the rear of the property. The site lies within the heart of the Roman cemetery area to the west of Colchester town centre, as well as other significant Roman activity located nearby. Despite this however, no archaeological features were found during the excavation of the foundation trenches.
Project dates	Start: 28-09-2021 End: 28-09-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2021/8b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	211463 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4660 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester
Postcode	CO3 3HF
Study area	0.03 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 99085 24797 51.885603109486 0.893186735574 51 53 08 N 000 53 35 E Point



**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Adam Wightman
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ziya Eksen
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Homeowner

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Archive ID	ECC4660
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4660
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Report","Survey "

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at 30 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Seehra, M.
Other bibliographic details	1713
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf brass stapled
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html</a>

Entered by Megan Seehra (ms@catuk.org)  
Entered on 14 October 2021

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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