



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

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CAT Report 1834 Archaeological test-pit at 26 Shrub End Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7XD: August 2022	CAT code: 2022/07r
	Planning reference: 211729
	CHER Event no.: ECC4734
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-508852
	Grid Reference: TL 98139 23929 (centre)
	Number of site visits: 2
Dates of visit: 3rd-4th August 2022	
Nature of the work Single test-pit, 1m by 1m, to be excavated as close as possible to the foundations of a new extension and soakaway that were excavated without archaeological supervision, to ascertain the form and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits in the area.	
Reason for condition As the original requirement for archaeological monitoring of all groundworks associated with the new extension was not met, Simon Wood, Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council, required a test-pit to be excavated. An archaeological condition was originally placed on this planning application as the proposed extension lies within the projected route of the main Roman road from Gosbecks to Colchester (CHER MCC2529).	
% of total seen The test-pit was hand-excavated to natural by a CAT archaeologist (100%).	
Results (Figs 2-3) The test-pit was positioned c 3.8m south of the new extension and c 0.2m to the west of the new soakaway. It was 1m by 1m, and was hand-excavated to a depth of 0.83m. Three horizons were observed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• modern topsoil (L1, c 0.3m thick) sealed• modern made-ground (L2, c 0.5m thick) overlying• natural sand and gravels (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.80m below current ground level). L1, modern topsoil, soft, moist dark grey/brown silt with light rooting and small fragments of 20th-century glass and brick (not retained for post-excavation analysis). L2, modern made-ground, soft, moist, medium brown silt with 1% small stones and small fragments of 20th-century glass and brick (not retained for post-excavation analysis). L3, natural, firm, dry, light orange sand and gravels. Despite being located within the projected route of the main Roman road from Gosbecks to Colchester there were no archaeological remains within the test-pit. The most likely explanation is that the road surface has been truncated, either by deep ploughing on farmland before the development of modern-day Colchester, or during the construction of the properties now built here. Unfortunately it is difficult to determine what, if any, archaeological remains associated with the Roman road were impacted by the unsupervised foundation trenches and soakaway. Both areas of groundworks could potentially have encountered surviving Roman road surface and the roadside ditches. Photographs of the unsupervised works were passed to CAT by the homeowners, some of which are reproduced here (see Photographs 3-6).	



Photograph 1 Test-pit looking north-west towards the new extension.



Photograph 2 Test-pit, looking west



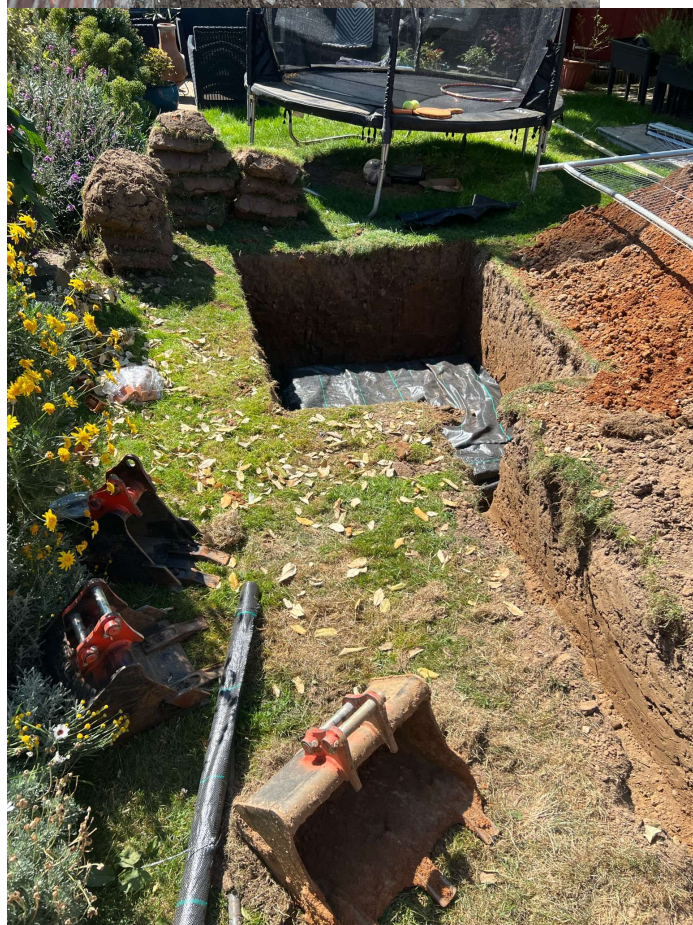
Photograph 3 Unsupervised foundation trenches, image supplied by the homeowner



Photograph 4 Unsupervised foundation trenches, image supplied by the homeowner



Photograph 5 Unsupervised ground reduction area inside of foundations, image supplied by the homeowner



Photograph 6 Unsupervised soakaway, image supplied by the homeowner

Recorded by: Adam Ronn (ar@catuk.org)

Date: 04/08/2022

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

Date: 24/08/2022



Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Results

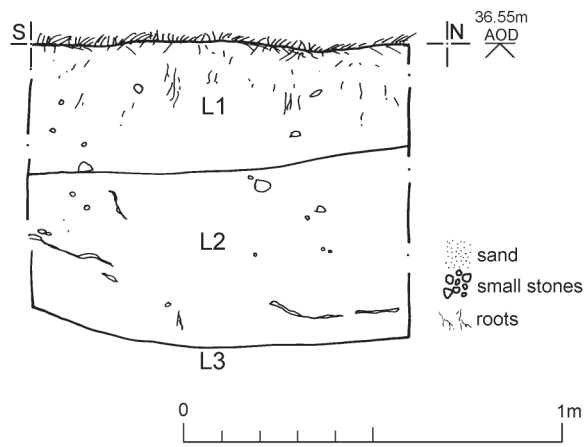


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 26 Shrub End Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7XD	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98139 23929 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/07r CHER ref.: ECC4734 OASIS ref.: colchest3-508852
Type of work: Test-pit	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 3rd-4th August 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.03ha
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Homeowner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC2529
Final report: CAT Report 1834	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was due to take place during groundworks for an extension to 26 Shrub End Road, Colchester, Essex. However, as this was carried out without archaeological supervision, the Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council required a test-pit to be excavated close to the original groundworks to ascertain the form and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits in the area. A test-pit, 1m by 1m by 0.83m deep, was hand-excavated to natural by a CAT archaeologist. Despite being located within the projected route of the Colchester to Gosbecks Roman road, no archaeological remains were encountered within the test-pit with modern made-ground sealing natural. It is therefore uncertain what, if any, archaeological remains were impacted by the unsupervised works.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: August 2022

Summary for colchest3-508852

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-508852
Project Name	Watching Brief at 26 Shrub End Road, Colchester, England, United Kingdom
Sitename	26 Shrub End Road, Colchester, England, United Kingdom
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/07r
Planning Id	211729
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	03-Aug-2022 - 04-Aug-2022
Location	26 Shrub End Road, Colchester, England, United Kingdom NGR : TL 98141 23930 LL : 51.878725, 0.877256 12 Fig : 598141,223930
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Hand-excavation of a 1m by 1m test-pit to natural by a professional archaeologist to ascertain the form and type of any archaeological remains in the area of previously unmonitored groundworks.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was due to take place during groundworks for an extension to 26 Shrub End Road, Colchester, Essex. However, as this was carried out without archaeological supervision, the Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council required a test-pit to be excavated close to the original groundworks to ascertain the form and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits in the area. A test-pit, 1m by 1m by 0.83m deep, was hand-excavated to natural by a CAT archaeologist. Despite being located within the projected route of the Colchester to Gosbecks Roman road, no archaeological remains were encountered within the test-pit with modern made-ground sealing natural. It is therefore uncertain what, if any, archaeological remains were impacted by the unsupervised works.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A, Ronn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4734
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;