



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org

CAT Report 1842 Archaeological monitoring at 7 Wroxham Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RQ: August 2022	Planning reference: 220876
	CHER Event no.: ECC4740
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-508246
	Grid Reference: TL 97904 24871 (centre)
	Number of site visits: 2
	Dates of visit: 22nd-23rd August 2022
Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for two-storey rear extension	
Reason for condition: The site lies 1.7km WSW of Colchester town centre within the Late Iron Age <i>oppidum</i> of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town and surrounded by areas of Roman cemeteries.	
% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.	
Results The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services. The foundation trenches for the extension totalled 13.9m long, 0.6m wide and 1.1m deep. Four horizons were observed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modern paving slabs and the associated concrete (L1, partially removed before excavation)• Modern topsoil (L2, c 0.48m thick)• Subsoil (L3, c 0.38m thick)• Natural geological deposits (L4, identified at a depth of c 0.86m below current ground level (bcgl)). L1, modern paving slabs and associated concrete. L2, topsoil, friable moist dark brownish grey sandy silt with brick and tile flecks. L3, friable/firm moist medium grey/brown sandy silt. L4, natural sand and gravel. A probable modern drain was uncovered in the south-western corner of the trench. It had steep, straight sides and cut L3. A sondage was cut into the feature to a maximum depth of 1.6m bcgl but no base or pipe were uncovered. More modern services were identified in the eastern foundation trench which will have truncated any surviving archaeological deposits.	



Photograph 1 Representative section 1, looking north-north-east



Photograph 2 Sondage through modern ?drain F1, looking south



Photograph 3 Western foundation, looking north-north-east



Photograph 4 South foundation, looking east-south-east



Photograph 5 Eastern foundation, looking north-north-east



Photograph 6 General site shot, looking north-east

Recorded by: Bronagh Quinn (bq@catuk.org)

Date: 23/8/2022

Checked by: Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)

Date: 20/9/2022

Checked and approved by:
Howard Brooks (hb@catuk.org)

Date: 7/10/2022

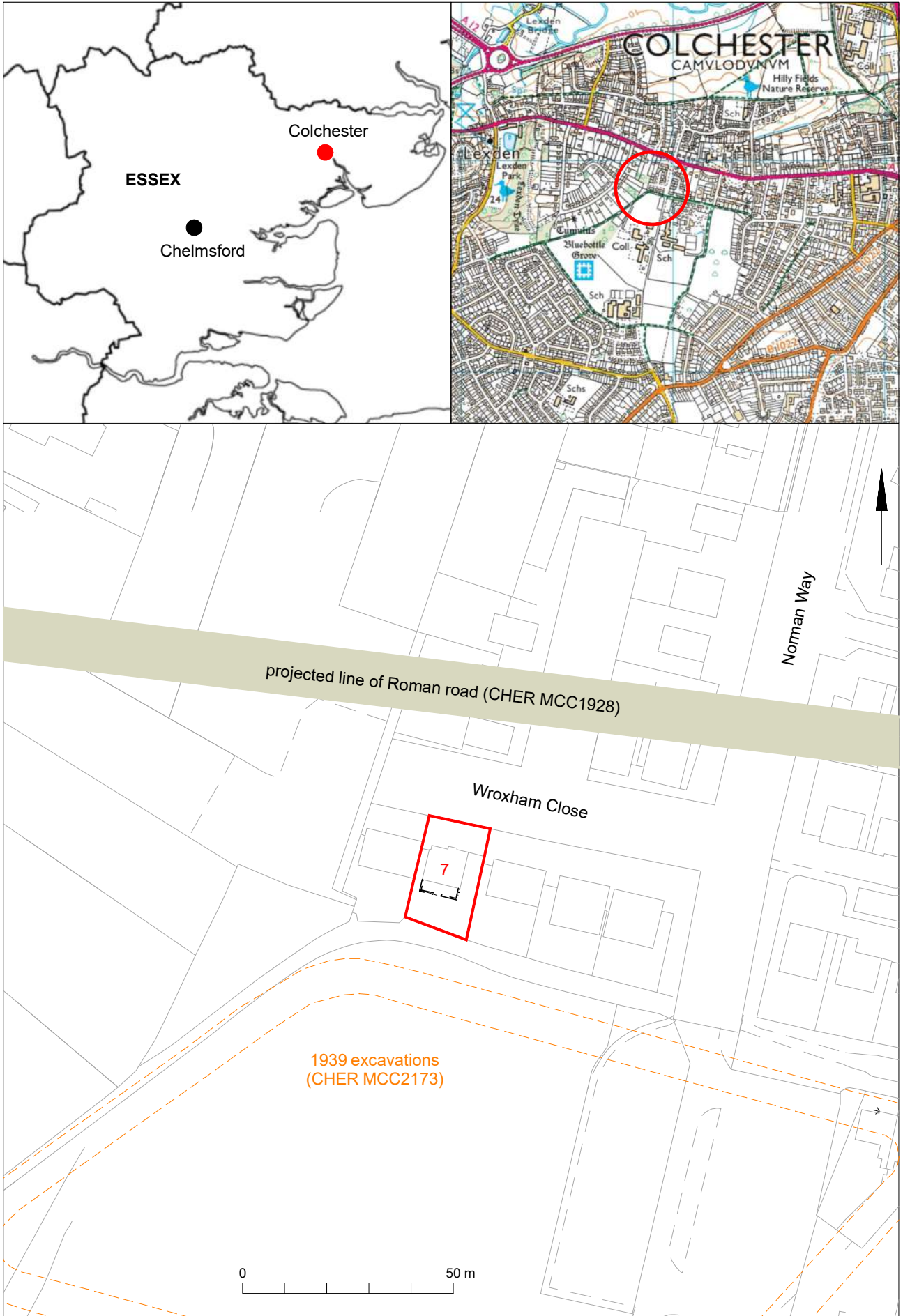


Fig 1 Site location.

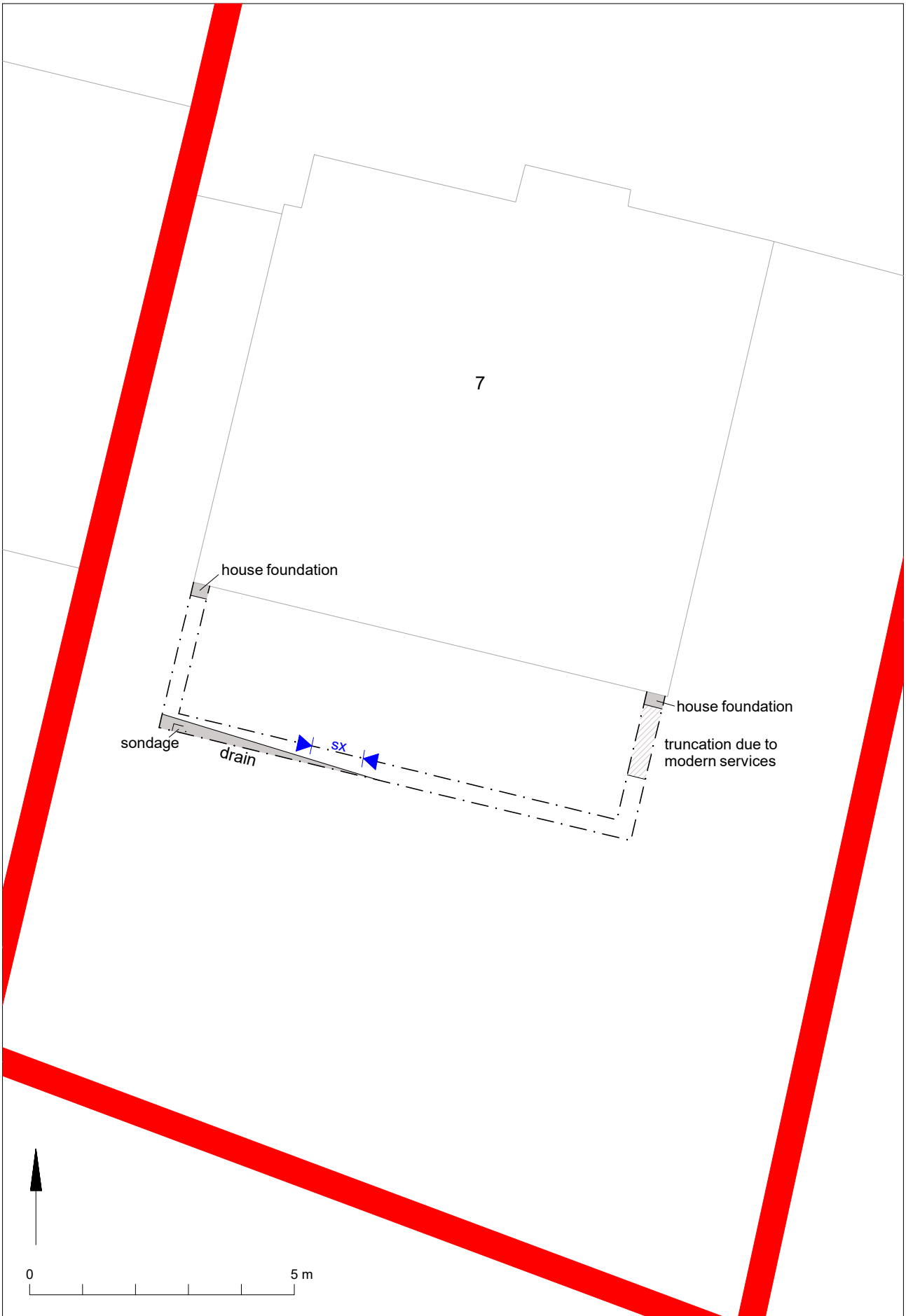


Fig 2 Results (modern features in grey).

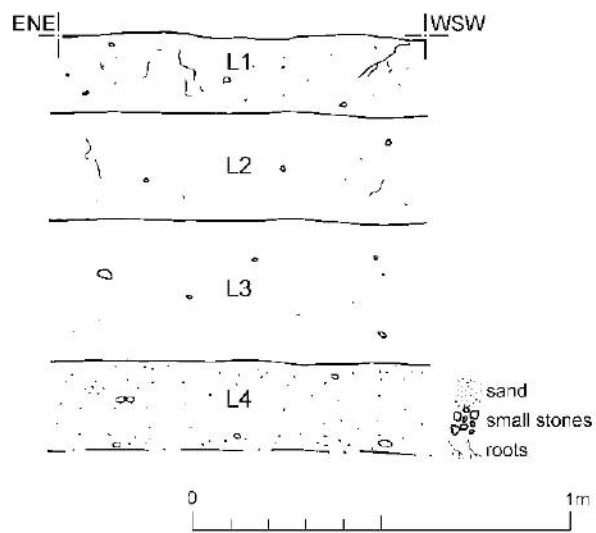


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 7 Wroxham Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RQ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 97904 24871 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/07c CHER ref: ECC4740 OASIS ref: colchest3-508246
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 22nd-23rd August 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.04ha
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: -
Final report: CAT Report 1842	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 7 Wroxham Close, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a two-storey extension. Despite being in an area rich in both Late Iron Age and Roman archaeology, no archaeological deposits were uncovered during the groundworks.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Bronagh Quinn	Date of summary: August 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 7 Wroxham Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RQ

NGR: TL 97904 24871 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Colchester

Planning reference: 220876

Client: Homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/07c

OASIS project number: colchest3-508246

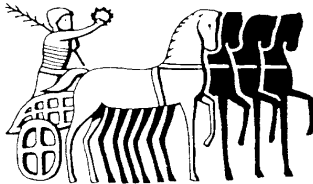
Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 22/07/2022



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at 7 Wroxham Close, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 97904 24871.

Proposed work

The development comprises of the construction of a two-storey extension to the rear of the property and any associated groundworks.

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 1.7km WSW of Colchester town centre within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town and surrounded by areas of Roman cemeteries. Immediately to the west is an area termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (MCC7525). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London - MCC1928) (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). To the south of the site a Roman amphora burial was found to the west of Altancealgach House (MCC7676) and a trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road in 2009 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (ECC2906, ECC Field Archaeology Unit Report).

Archaeological investigations in and around Colchester County High School for Girls to the immediate south, have also revealed some significant archaeological remains. Excavations in 1939 revealed an early Roman curving ditch, possibly the corner of an unfinished fort, to the northwest of the school (MCC2173). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull 1958, 273). It was later shown that these form a continuation of the Heath Farm Dyke North (MCC2101, CAR 11, 32).

The Roman Road of Stane Street runs east/west c 133m north of the development site (underneath the current Lexden Road). Stane Street was the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing (Hull 1958 and CAR 11) (MCC7518). Plotted in CAR 11 Fig 6.1 is another possible Roman Road, aligned east/west, located between Stane Street and the development site, c 25m north of the development site (MCC1928). The road is projected in a straight-line between patches of gravel identified during excavations at the Colchester Royal Grammar School and an entrance through Lexden Dyke (between Lexden Dyke Middle and Lexden Dyke North) (for projected route see Fig 1). However, there is little evidence to confirm whether the road exists or the route it might have taken, and there was no trace of the road during recent archaeological monitoring at 4 Park Road (CAT Report 1199).

Watching briefs in 2017 at 1 Mossfield Close (CAT Report 1112, ECC3984), and in 2020 at 8 Mossfield Close did not reveal anything of archaeological significance (CAT Report 1568, ECC4446).

Planning background

A planning application (220876) was made to Colchester Borough Council in April 2022 for a *proposed two storey extension to enlarge kitchen and dining area with enlarged bedrooms over*.

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 monitoring of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022).

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 2022)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2022).

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 investigate 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). 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): Megan 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: Tom Lawrence
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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- 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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

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>

Brooks, H	1997	An historical survey of Castle Park
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
	2nd ed	
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 1112	2017	<i>Archaeological recording at 1 Mossfield Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RG: June 2017</i>
CAT Report 1199	1199	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 4 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL: November 2017</i>

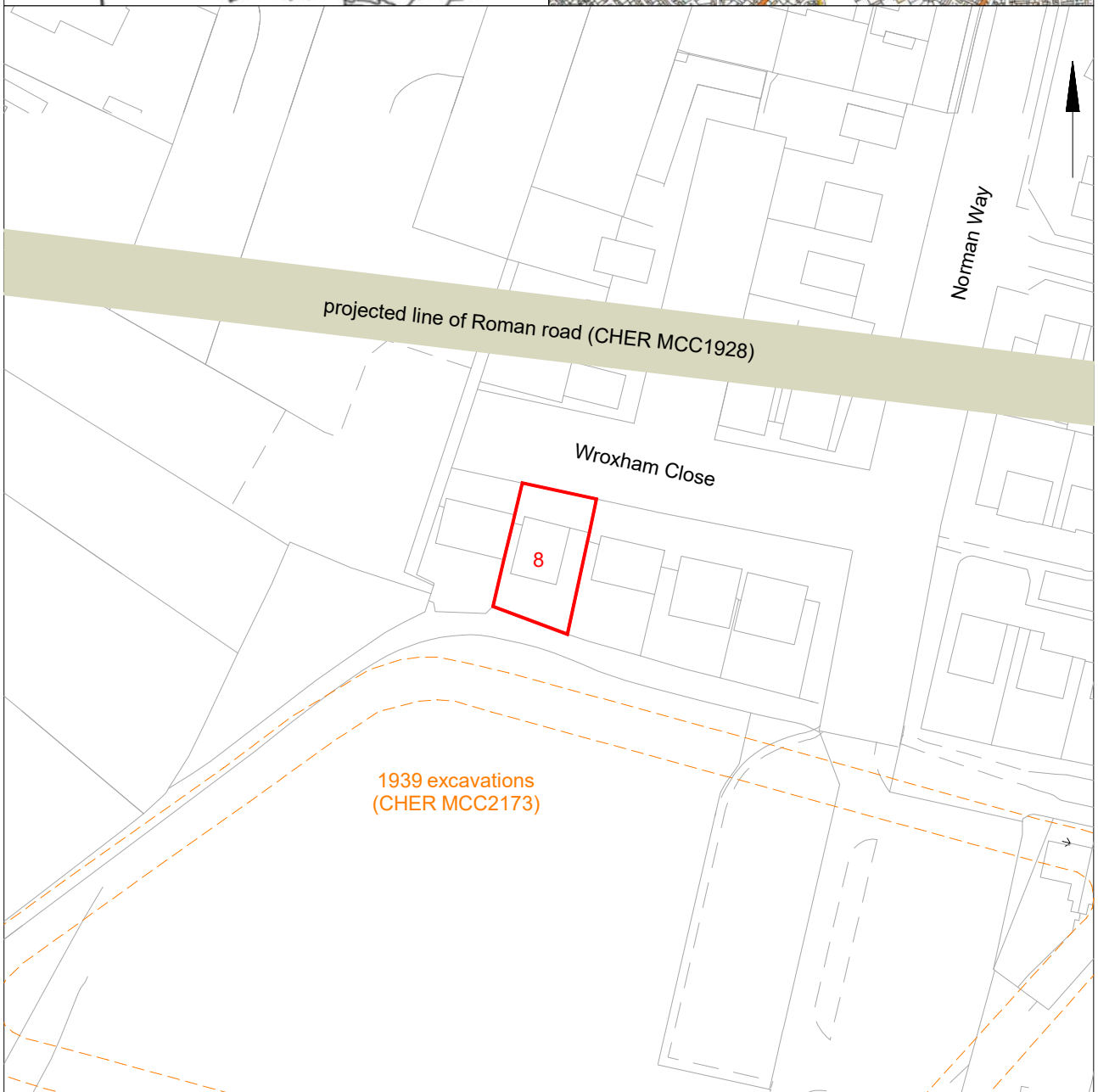
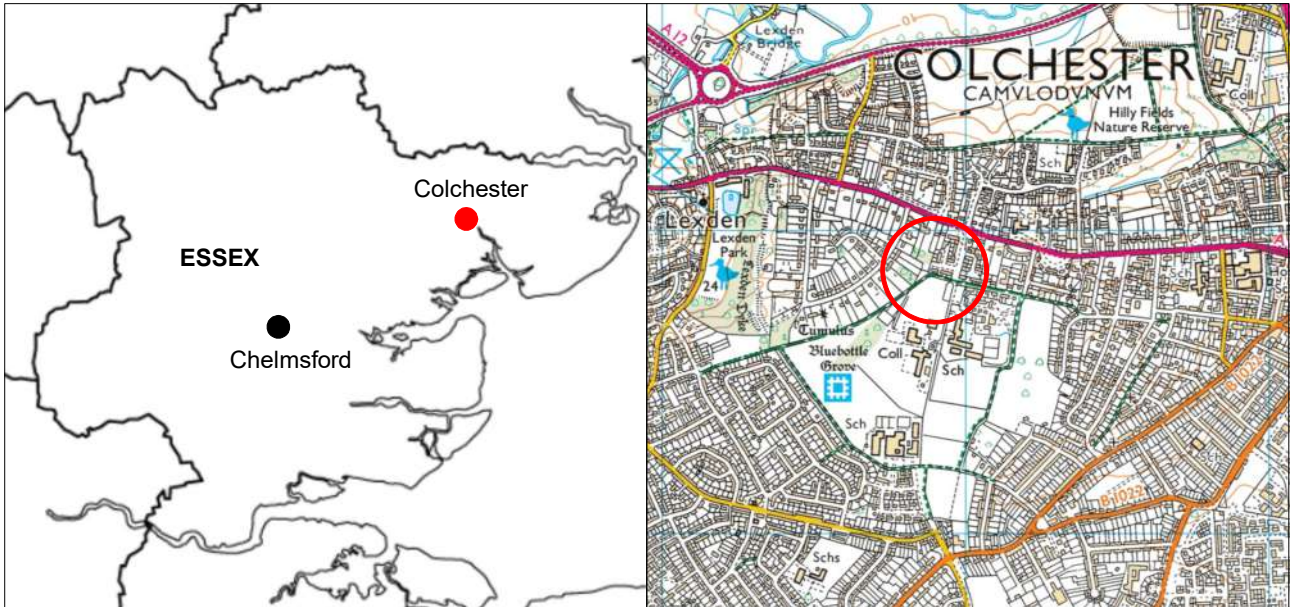
CAT Report 1568	2020	<i>Archaeological monitoring at 8 Mossfield Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RG: June 2020</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 7 Wroxham Close, Colchester. By S Wood</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Revised June 2020</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Updated Oct 2020</i>
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct. Revised Oct 2021</i>
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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole & P Backhouse</i>
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. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</i>
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL 20</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

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Fig 1 Site location.



Summary for colchest3-508246

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-508246
Project Name	Archaeological Monitoring at 7 Wroxham Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RQ
Sitename	7 Wroxham Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RQ
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/07c
Planning Id	220876
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	22-Aug-2022 - 23-Aug-2022
Location	7 Wroxham Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RQ NGR : TL 97904 24871 LL : 51.8872554404618, 0.874350901907753 12 Fig : 597904,224871
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services. The foundation trenches for the extension totalled 13.9m long, 0.6m wide and 1.1m deep.
Project Results	Four horizons were observed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern paving slabs and the associated concrete (L1, partially removed before excavation) • Modern topsoil (L2, c 0.48m thick) • Subsoil (L3, c 0.38m thick) • Natural geological deposits (L4, identified at a depth of c 0.86m below current ground level (bcgl)). <p>L1, modern paving slabs and associated concrete. L2, topsoil, friable moist dark brownish grey sandy silt with brick and tile flecks. L3, friable/firm moist medium grey/brown sandy silt. L4, natural sand and gravel.</p> <p>A probable modern drain was uncovered in the south-western corner of the trench. It had steep, straight sides and cut L3. A sondage was cut into the feature to a maximum depth of 1.6m bcgl but no base or pipe were uncovered.</p> <p>More modern services were identified in the eastern foundation trench which will have truncated any surviving archaeological deposits.</p>
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn

HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4740
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;