

Colchester Archaeological Trust

CAT Report 1872

Archaeological monitoring at 7 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL: November 2021

CAT code: 2021/11h
Planning reference: 182336
CHER Event no.: ECC4760
OASIS ref.: colchest3-502824
Grid Reference: TL 96087 25187 (centre)
Number of site visits: 2
Dates of visit: 22-23 November 2021

Nature of the work

Observation of groundworks for a single-storey rear extension.

Reason for condition

The site lies within the western part of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* as defined by a system of defensive dykes and to the west of the Roman walled town of Colchester. The Late Iron Age and early Roman complex of Sheepen lies *c* 335m north-north-east of the site, and a Roman road is projected to run to the north of the site. Archaeological monitoring was recommended after an earlier evaluation uncovered a Roman ditch terminus, a modern pit or tree throw and three silt patches or tree throws (CAT Report 1729).

% 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 78m long, 0.45m wide and 1.1m deep. Three horizons were observed, a modern topsoil (L1, c 0.4m thick) sealed subsoil (L2, c 0.3m thick) which overlay natural geological deposits (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.7m below current ground level).

- L1, topsoil, firm moist dark grey/brown silt with modern debris (brick and peg-tile).
- L2, subsoil, firm moist medium grey/brown sandy silt
- L3, natural sand and gravel.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered within the foundation trenches, just the remains of an old soakaway.

The results of the earlier evaluation and this current phase of monitoring are shown on Fig 2. Silt patches/tree throws F1 and F5 were not further investigated, and there was no further trace of F3 which was initially identified as the terminus of a Roman ditch. It now seems likely that this feature was actually an elongated pit or tree throw.



Photograph 1 Site shot of completed foundation trenches, looking north-east





Photograph 3 Completed central foundation, looking east-south-east

Recorded by: Bronagh Quinn (bq@catuk.org)	Date: 16/11/2022
Reviewed by: Laura Pooley	Date: 22/11/2022
Reviewed and approved by: Philip Crummy	Date: 25/11/2022

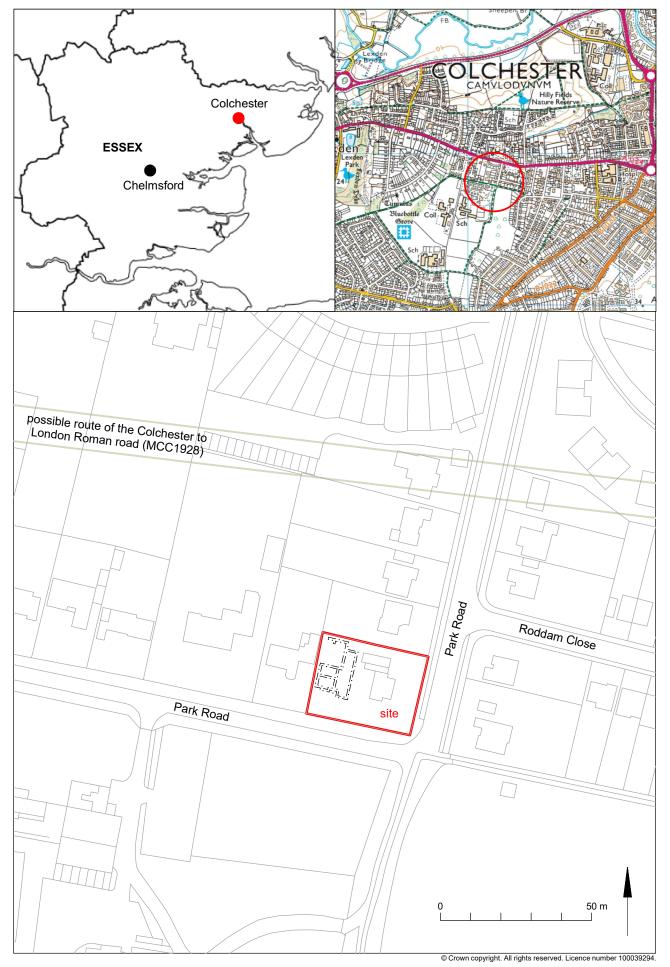


Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Results, shown in relation to the 2021 evaluation (in grey).

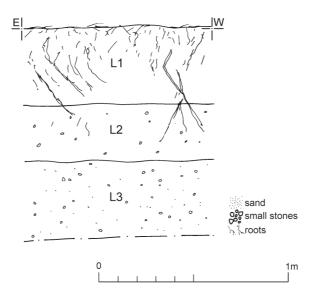


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 7 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL				
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester			
NGR: TL 98180 24811 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2021/11h CHER ref: ECC4760 OASIS ref: colchest3-502824			
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust			
Date of work: 22nd-23rd November 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.09ha			
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Owner			
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: ECC4664			
Final report: CAT Report 1872				
Periods represented: -				
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 7 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a single-storey extension. Located with the Iron Age oppidum and to the west of the Roman walled town, a previous archaeological evaluation on the site uncovered a Roman ditch, modern pit/tree throw and three silt patches/tree throws. No significant archaeological remains were impacted by the groundworks, and there was no further trace of the Roman ditch, suggesting that is actually more likely to be an elongated pit or tree throw.				
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 1729				
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood				
Keywords: -	Significance: -			
Author of summary: Bronagh Quinn	Date of summary: November 2022			

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 7 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL

NGR: TL 98180 24811(centre)

District: Colchester **Parish:** Colchester

Planning reference: 182336

Commissioned by: Mark Polley

Client: MP Associates

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2021/11h

OASIS project number: colchest3-502824

Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 16.11.2021



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.7km southwest of Colchester town centre (Fig 1) at 7 Park Road. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98180 24811.

Proposed work

The development comprises of the creation of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing dwelling 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 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. Approximately 335m north-north-east is the southern end of the Sheepen Dyke (MCC498), with the northern end of Heath Farm Dyke c 380m southwest (MCC2101), Lexden Dyke Middle c 860m to the west and Lexden Dyke South c 740m southwest (MCC2099 and MCC7280).

Approximately *c* 335m north of the development site is the Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement and industrial complex at Sheepen (MCC7487, Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 1002173). Sheepen was extensively excavated in the 1930s (Hawkes & Hull 1947) and 1970s (Niblett 1985; *CAR* **11**, 131-7). Finds were prolific, and evidence found included remains of a trackway and workshops, with evidence of metal-working and coin manufacture (Crummy 2001, 15- 16).

The development site is located to the west of the Roman walled town in an area of dense Late Iron Age and Roman burials, situated approximately half way between the 'western cemetery' (MCC7647) and 'Lexden cemetery' (MCC7525). However, Roman burials have previously been identified between these two cemetery areas, specifically along Park Road (MCC2511, MCC3089, MCC3091) and at Vint Crescent (MCC2308-2317).

The Roman Road of Stane Street runs east/west *c* 150m 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* 65m 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).

Archaeological investigations in and around Colchester County High School for Girls to the southwest have revealed parts of Heath Farm Dyke North (MCC2101; *CAR* **11**, 32), a possible 'triple-ditched dyke' (MCC2177; CAR **11**, 127) and the remains of a possible unfinished fort (MCC2173), along with a building with wooden posts, palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (*CAR* **11**, 124-126).

The CHER also shows a WWII spigot mortar emplacement on or very close to the development site with a second one opposite (MCC5300-MCC5301).

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at the current site by CAT in October 2021. The evaluation revealed a Roman ditch terminus, a modern pit or tree-throw and three undated silt patches or tree-throws (CAT Report 1729).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2018 (application No. 182336) for a *proposed detached dormer style dwelling to rear of 7 Park Road, Colchester.*

As the evaluation by CAT in October 2021 showed that archaeological remains from the Roman period survive within the proposed development and as the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, a further archaeological condition for archaeological monitoring 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 proforma 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	Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation,
	2nd ed	compilation, transfer and curation
CAR 11	1995	Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2 by C
0.4.T	0004	F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2021	Health & Safety Policy
CAT	2021	Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at 7 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL
CAT Report 1199	2017	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 4 Park Road,
0.4.7.0	0004	Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL: November 2017
CAT Report 1729	2021	Archaeological Evaluation at 7 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL – October 2021
CBCAA	2021	Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 7 Park Road, Colchester. By S Wood
CIfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.
		Revised October 2021
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,
		conservation and research of archaeological materials.
		Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	Code of Conduct. Revised Oct 2019
Crummy, P	1997	City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East
		Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015a	Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment
		(MoRPHE)
Historic England	2018	The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological
		Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hull, M R	1958	Roman Colchester
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for
		the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional
MHCLG	2019	Papers 24 (EAA 24) National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing,
IVII ICLG	2019	Communities and Local Government.
Niblett, R	1985	Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum,
INDIGIL, IX	1900	CBA Research Report 57
		ODIT NOODAIGH Nopolt VI

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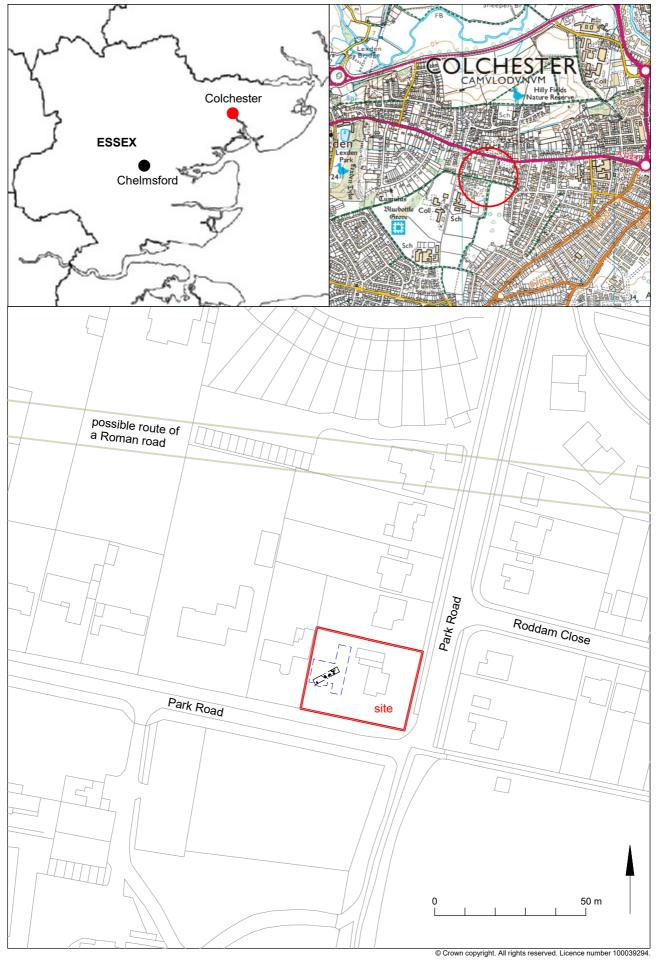


Fig 1 Site location with 2021 evaluation results.

Summary for colchest3-502824

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-502824		
Project Name	Archaeological Monitoring at 7 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL		
Sitename	7 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL		
Activity type	Field Observation (Monitoring)		
Project Identifier(s)	2021/11h		
Planning Id	182336		
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination		
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust		
Project Dates	22-Nov-2021 - 23-Nov-2021		
Location	7 Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UL		
	NGR : TL 98180 24811		
	LL: 51.886618705159, 0.878321578096019		
	12 Fig : 598180,224811		
Administrative Areas	Country : England		
	County : Essex		
	District : Colchester		
	Parish : Colchester, unparished area		
Project Methodology	All work was undertaken in accordance with the Archaeological Brief and the Written Scheme of Investigation.		
Project Results	The foundation trenches for the extension totalled 78m long, 0.45m wide and 1.1m deep. Three horizons were observed, a modern topsoil (L1, c 0.4m thick) sealed subsoil (L2, c 0.3m thick) which overlay natural geological deposits (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.7m below current ground level). The results of the earlier evaluation and this current phase of monitoring are shown on Fig 2. Silt patches/tree throws F1 and F5 were not further investigated, and there was no further trace of F3 which was initially identified as the terminus of a Roman ditch. It now seems likely that this feature was actually an elongated pit or tree throw.		
Keywords			
Funder			
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD		
Person Responsible for work			
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4760		
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;		