

Colchester Archaeological Trust

CAT Report 1932

Archaeological monitoring at 1 Piper Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3SF: April-May 2023

Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for a two-storey rear and side extension to the existing dwelling and associated groundworks.

Reason for condition:

The development lies 50m south of a significant archaeological area known as Sheepen Farm (MCC7488), designated as a scheduled monument (NHLE 1002173) due to its Late Iron Age and Roman industrial activity and occupation. The development site is also surrounded by a concentration of Roman pottery and tile kilns, with the closest kiln recorded c 122m south-east of the site. Further to the south, the Lexden cemetery area is found on both sides of Lexden Road, where a number of Roman cremations and inhumations have been recorded.

% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.

Results:

The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a Project Brief written by the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor. The WSI was written by Emma Holloway of CAT.

Approximately 33m of trenching was machine excavated under archaeological supervision. The trenching ranged between 0.8m to 1.10m wide and c 1.2m deep. Two soakaways were also monitored. The soakaway at the front of the property measured 1.7m by 1.2m and reached a depth of 1.4m. The soakaway at the rear measured 2.7m by 1.9m and reached a depth between 1.4m and 1.5m.

Four horizons were observed consistently throughout:

- made-ground formed of concrete slabs and crushed concrete (L1, firm medium grey/brown silty sand with brick flecks between 0.25m to 0.3m thick), sealed
- modern topsoil (L2, dark brown silty sand with brick flecks, 0.4m to 0.47m thick) overlying
- an undulating subsoil (L3, medium yellow/brown silty sand and inclusions of: gravel 25%, 0.45m to 0.5m thick), which sealed
- natural (L4, friable dark orange sand from c 0.22 to 0.44m below current ground level).

No archaeology was uncovered during the monitoring. Three sherds of 19th- to 20th-century pottery were recovered from L2 and were later discarded. The layers were significantly truncated by modern services (a ceramic drainage pipe, a gas pipe and a water pipe). These services were coated within concrete, reaching a thickness of *c* 1.2m at the property front.



Photograph 1 General foundation trench shot, looking north.



Photograph 2 Representative section of east to west aligned foundation trench, looking south.



Photograph 3 Trenching in west corner of site with concrete footing, looking north west.



Photograph 4 Concrete and services in section with scale, looking north.

Prepared by: Tabitha Lawrence (tl@catuk.org)	Date: 04/05/2023
Reviewed by: Laura Pooley	Date: 09/05/2023
Reviewed and approved by: Philip Crummy	Date: 10/05/2023

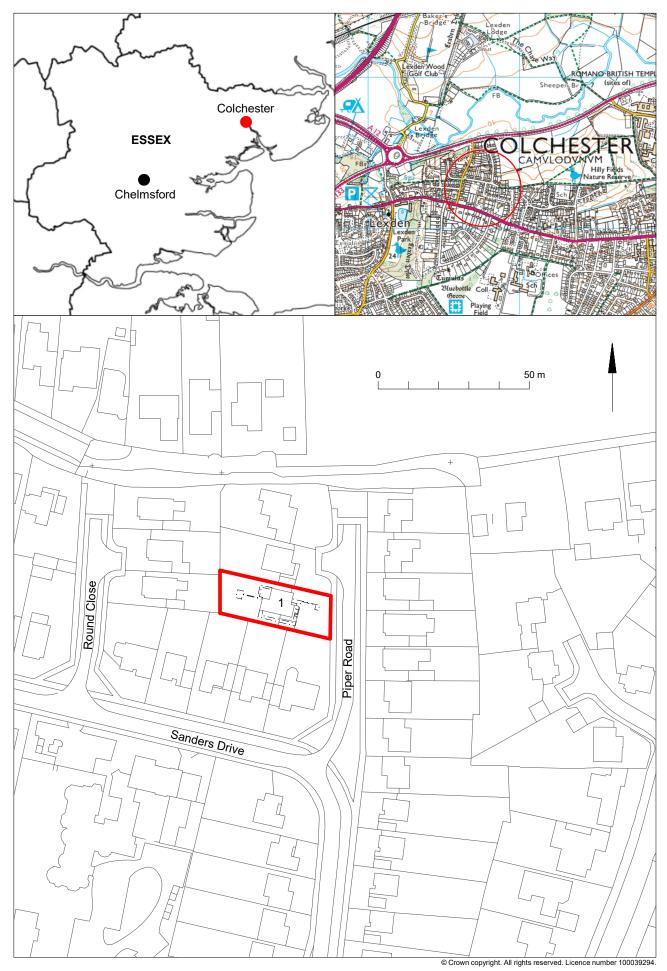


Fig 1 Site location.

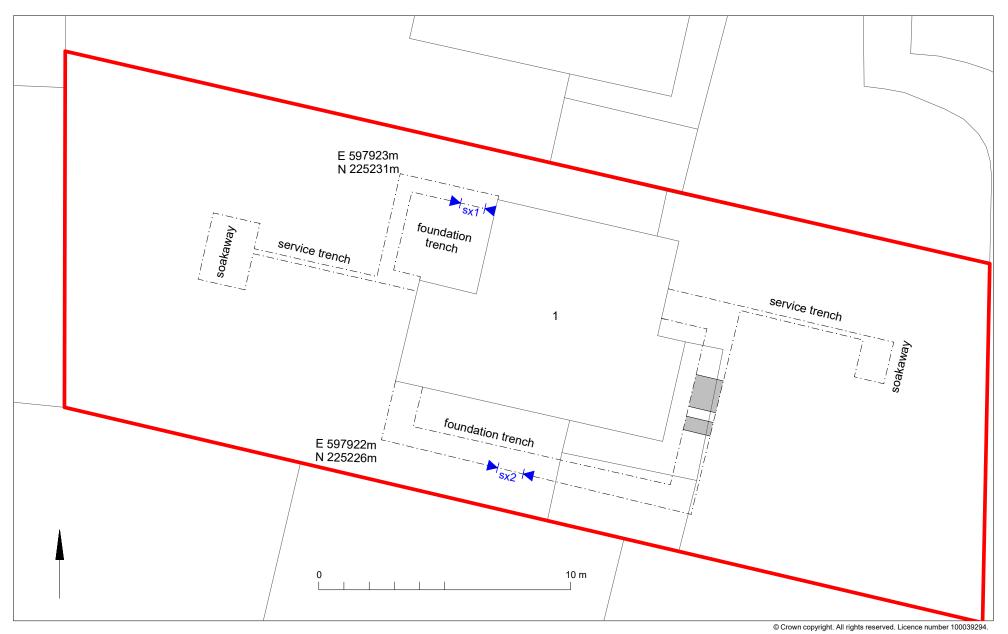


Fig 2 Results (modern concrete in grey).

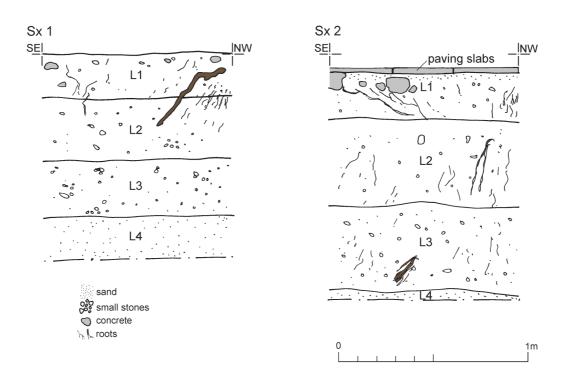


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 97926 25224 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2023/02f CHER ref.: ECC4785 OASIS ref.: colchest3-513271
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 25th April to 3rd May 2023	Size of area investigated: 0.052 hectares
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Homeowner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER ECC4785
Final report: CAT Report 1932	
Periods represented: -	
groundworks for extensions to the existi	ad, Colchester, Essex was carried out during ng property. Despite being located near to the of Sheepen Farm, no archaeological remains were
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Tabitha Lawrence	Date of summary: May 2023

Colchester Archaeological Trust



Written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring at 1 Piper Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3SF

February 2023

CAT project ref.: 2023/02f

CHER code: tbc

Written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring at 1 Piper Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3SF

February 2023

NGR: TL 97926 25224

Planning district.: Colchester Planning ref.: 223059

CAT project ref.: 2023/02f

CHER code: tbc

CCC monitor: Simon Wood OASIS id: colchest3-513271

WSI prepared by: Emma Holloway Figure by: Chris Lister

Client: Homeowner

Prepared by:	Emma Holloway	Junior Project Officer
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	28/02/2023	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

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Site location and description

The development site is located at approximately 1.6km west of the historic core within Colchester City Centre at 1 Piper Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 97926 25224.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises of a two-storey rear and side extension to the existing dwelling and 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, which are accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map).

The site lies approximately 50m south of an area of significant archaeology where evidence of concentrations of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation, and industrial activity, have been recorded in an area known as Sheepen Farm (MCC7488). The area is designated as a heritage asset (Scheduled Monument number 1002173). The late Iron Age and Roman site at Sheepen involves a main period of occupation between c AD 5-60 (Hawkes & Hull 1946; Niblett 1985), though Bronze Age occupation is also attested there (*CAR* 11, 132-3).

The site is surrounded by a concentration of Roman pottery and tile kilns. In Warren Field *c* 240m north-east of the site four kilns were excavated by Joslin in 1877 (MCC1524, MCC1525, MCC1526 and MCC 1527. Hull 1963, 3). In Endsleigh Court a kiln was found in 1959 (MCC8509, Hull 1963, 168). Three kilns were recorded *c* 122m south-east of the site in Lockhart Avenue (MCC2157, MCC2158, MCC2159, Hull 1963, 157-168).

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 and Braughing), leading out of Balkerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and *CAR* **11**). 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**. Burials close to the current site include a fragment of skull found inside Roman kiln 26 (MCC2686, Hull 1963, 161). A Roman lead coffin was found at 55 Endsleigh Court (MCC8509).

A nearby evaluation and monitoring by CAT at Lexden Grange (CAT Report 338 and 431), off Lexden Road, revealed part of a Late Iron Age pedestal urn, thought to be part of a disturbed cremation and some Roman pits and ditches which included metalworking debris and a fragment of crucible used for brass-making.

Monitoring at 3 Sanders Drive (CAT Report 1013) revealed a Roman pit (containing pottery, CBM, fired clay and an iron strip) associated with a spread of large Roman tile fragments to the south-west of the site. No archaeological finds or features were found during monitoring at 10 Sanders Drive (CAT Report 1058).

Planning background

A planning application (223059) was submitted to Colchester City Council in December 2022 for a proposed *two-storey rear and side extension*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an archaeological monitoring of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by the CCCAA (CCC 2023).

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 CCCAA will be informed immediately and the CCCAA 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 CCCAA 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 2022)
- the Project Brief issued by the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCC 2023).

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 the CCCAA 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the EHER. This will include an uploaded PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CCCAA 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), at least 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 1:10 and 1:20 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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming 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.
- 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 process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or 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 the CCCAA.

The CCCAA 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.

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 CCCAA 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.

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:

<u>ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material)</u>: Matthew Loughton <u>animal bones</u>: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flint: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn osteology: (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

<u>conservation/x-ray</u>: 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 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 the CCCAA.

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 CCCAA 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 the CCCAA as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- 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 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 CCCAA.

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 City 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 the CCCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the CCCAA. 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 CCCAA 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 CCCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

The CCCAA 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 the CCCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with the CCCAA prior to them being carried out.

The CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the CCCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

Public outreach

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

Events, activities and social media

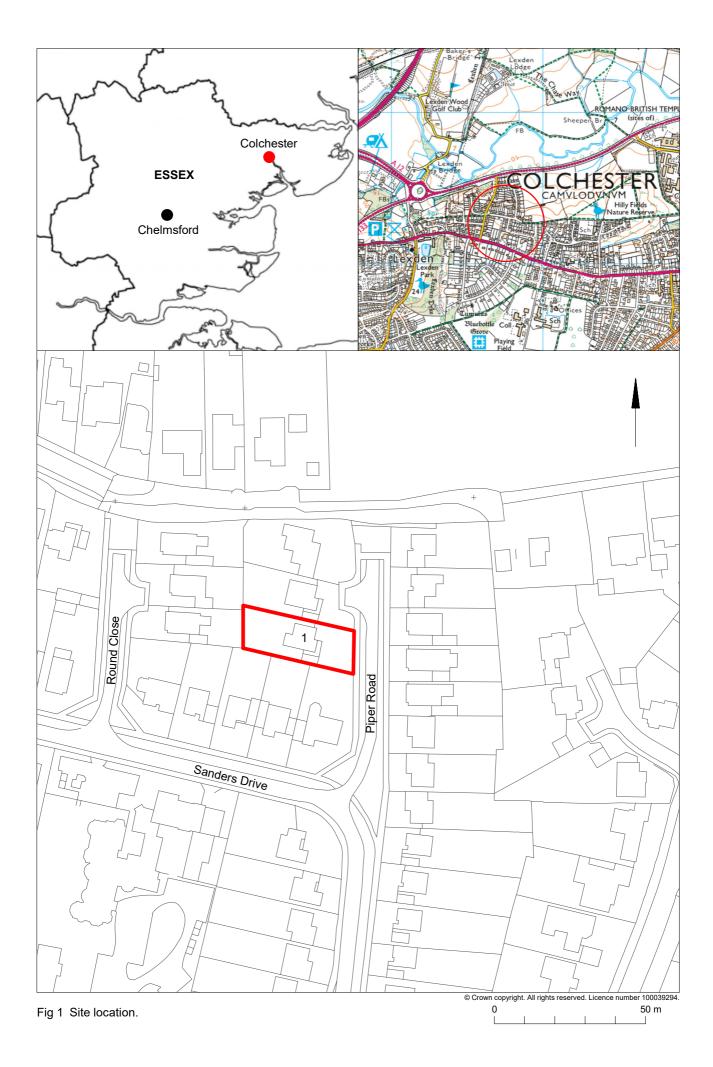
In addition, the CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at http://cat.essex.ac.uk/. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

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
Brown, N &	2000	Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern
Glazebrook, J		Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy. East Anglian
		Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAR 9	1993	Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and
		monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88. Colchester Archaeological
		Report 9 . By N Crummy, P Crummy, and C Crossan
CAR 11	1995	Colchester Archaeological Report 11 : Camunlodunum 2 by C F C
		Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2022	Health & Safety Policy
CAT Report 48	1999	A Watching Brief at The Lindens, 139 Lexden Road, Colchester
		(Phase 1)
CAT Report 338	2005	An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Lexden Grange,
0.4.7.0	0007	127 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2005
CAT Report 431	2007	An archaeological watching brief at Lexden Grange, 127 Lexden
047.0	0040	Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2006-February 2007
CAT Report 1013	2016	Continuous archaeological monitoring at 3 Sanders Drive,
OAT D 1 4050	0047	Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SE
CAT Report 1058	2017	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 10 Sanders Drive,
CCC	2023	Colchester, Essex – January 2017
CCC	2023	Brief for Archaeological Monitoring 1 Piper Road, Colchester, by S Wood
CIfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.
CIIA	2014a	Revised June 2020
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,
CIIA	20140	conservation and research of archaeological materials. Revised
		October 2020
CIfA	2014c	Code of Conduct. Revised October 2022
Digital Curation	2013	Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0
Centre (DCC)	2010	Chooking to Bata management han v. 1.5
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East
J, , _		Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Hawkes, C F C and	1947	Camulodunum, Report of the Research Committee of the Society
Hull, M R		of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14
Historic England	2015a	Digital Image capture and File Stor age: 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

Hull, M R Medlycott, M	1963 2011	Fieldwork Project, by S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell The Roman Potters' Kilns of Colchester Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2021	National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Niblett, B R K	1985	Sheepen: an early Roman Industrial site at Camulodunum, CBA Research Report, 57



Summary for colchest3-513271

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-513271
Project Name	Watching Brief at 1 Piper Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3SF.
Sitename	1 Piper Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3SF.
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2023/02f
Planning Id	223059
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	25-Apr-2023 - 03-May-2023
Location	1 Piper Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3SF.
	NGR : TL 97926 25224
	LL: 51.8904174144455, 0.874872533523306
	12 Fig : 597926,225224
Administrative Areas	Country : England
	County: Essex
	District : Colchester
	Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological Monitoring of all groundworks carried out as specified in the project brief and WSI.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring at 1 Piper Road, Colchester, Essex was carried out during groundworks for extensions to the existing property. Despite being located near to the scheduled monument (NHLE 1002173) of Sheepen Farm, no archaeological remains were impacted.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	T, Lawrence
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4785
Archives	