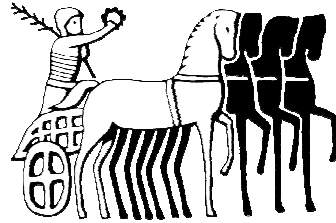


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2035
issued March 2024**

**Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at
1 The lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex,
CO3 3WD: March 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/05g
CHER code: ECC4846**

**Archaeological monitoring at
1 The Lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex,
CO3 3WD: March 2024**

NGR: TL 9735 2416 (centre)

Planning ref.: 230370

**CAT project ref.: 2023/05d
CAT Report 2035**

**CHER code: ECC4846
CCC Monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett
OASIS id: colchest3-515823**

report prepared by Ben Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway

commissioned by the homeowner

Prepared by:	Ben Holloway	Project Officer
Reviewed by:	Laura Pooley	Post Excavation Manager
Reviewed and approved by:	Howard Brooks	Interim Director of Archaeology
Issued:	27/03/2024	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: bh@catuk.org

web: www.catuk.org

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 1 The Lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a rear extension (garden room). Located close to the route of the main Roman road to London within the wider western cemetery area. The groundworks revealed no archaeological deposits or materials.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 1 the Lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, on 12th March 2024. The work was commissioned by the homeowner during groundworks for the construction of a single-storey rear extension (a garden room).

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).

A *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 1 The Lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester*, was produced by Dr Richard Hoggett detailing the required archaeological work (CCC 2023), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CCCAA in advance of the groundworks (CAT 2023).

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 field excavation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 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 Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site is London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand), with superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup (sand and gravel).

The development site is located within 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. One of these, Lexden Dyke, extends roughly north-south through Lexden Park c 570m west of the development site (CAR 11, 34-45, MCC2099).

A watching brief at The Lindens, 139 Lexden Road by CAT in 1999 (CAT Report 48) revealed 23 pits and a ditch running north-south (MCC2645-6). Two features contained Roman building material (two brick fragments and an imbrex fragment) whilst eleven pieces of animal bone were recovered from a late Iron Age or Early Romano-British ditch and pit. Additionally, c 12kg of pottery were recovered from the features. All of the pottery was dated from the Late Iron Age to early Roman period apart from two sherds of Samian pottery (MCC2647).

The pre-Roman settlement of Sheepen, which is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1002173), lies c 730m east of the development site. Excavations at the site uncovered settlement and industrial activity, including pottery kiln complexes and a coinage mint of the local ruler

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

Cunobelin (CAT 817). Approximately 500m south of the site is Lexden Tumulus (MCC1356), which is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHLE 1019965). Lexden Tumulus is an Iron Age barrow excavated by Henry Laver in 1924 (ECC770). Laver dug a single trench across the mound which was expanded to encompass the area of the burial chamber within its centre. Within the chamber was a rich Belgic burial with the remains of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion (MCC1356). Various pottery finds date the burial (a cremation) to just before the Roman conquest.

The development is situated directly north of the Lexden cemetery area (CAR 9, 261; CAR 11, 164-169, MCC7525). The core of this area, measuring around 75m across with at least 27 cremation burials, is centered on 20 St Clare Road and is of a Late Iron Age date (*ibid*). Later burials, 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD, were then more widely scattered throughout the area of St Clare Road, Fitzwalter Road and to the south of Lexden Road (CAR 11, 164-9).

CAT has undertaken several fieldwork projects in the St Clare Road and Fitzwalter Road c 280m south from the site, many of which revealed no significant archaeological horizons (CAT Reports 99, 136, 195, 225, 250, 258, 267, 334, 455, 568, 1004). However, two Roman urned cremation burials were identified during a watching brief at 12 St Clare Road (CAT Report 582, ECC3643). Excavation at 20 St Clare Road revealed a post-medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval/modern pits (CAT Report 832, MCC9288). A watching brief at 1 St Clare Road in 2016 revealed two early Roman pits, a post-medieval pit and a modern pit (CAT Report 959). Evaluation and excavation at 19 St Clare Road (CAT Report 958 and 1009) revealed four Roman ditches, a pit and a possible grave. Excavation and monitoring at High Trees, St Clare Drive revealed Roman ditches, pits and postholes representing a largely agricultural landscape (CAT Report 1008). A watching brief at 7 St Clare Road six features were recorded, one contained late Iron Age pottery, two were modern, and the rest were undatable due to lack of finds (CAT Report 1122, ECC3995). Monitoring at 16 St Clare Road revealed an urned cremation burial (CAT Report 1787, ECC4699). Monitoring at the Woodlands Residential Home for Ladies, 76 Lexden Road, revealed one undated pit (CAT Report 1517)

4 Aims

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

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 8m of foundation trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 0.6m in width and varied between 1.4-1.5m in depth. 4 horizons were observed during the monitoring works, a sub-base for a removed patio consisting of sand and type 1 0.15m in thickness (L1). This material sealed a remnant topsoil deposit, a grey-brown sandy silt (L2), sealing subsoil, a light grey-brown sandy silt 0.4-0.45m in thickness (L3). Natural geological deposits (L4) compact orange course gravels and sands were encountered at 0.7-0.8m bgl and observed to formation depth. Excavation for the relocation of the manhole was also monitored however this excavation ceased in L3 at 0.6m bgl.

A high level of modern disturbance was observed in the western foundation (around the location of the existing manhole) consisting of service runs that were reconnected into the new manhole. The main (retained) sewer connection was observed in the north foundation. Small quantities of modern building debris were observed in the surviving topsoil (L2), including brick and concrete. This material is likely associated with the construction of the Lindens development (1-5) in the late 1990's. No archaeological deposits or material was observed during the monitoring works.



Photograph 1 Representative section view south.



Photograph 2 Excavated foundation, view south east.

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds, modern building debris was observed but not retained.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring at 1 The Lindens produced no archaeological deposits or material. Activity was limited to modern disturbance associated with the relocated drainage and manhole and debris associated with the development of the Lindens site in the late 1990's.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway. Figures are by B Holloway. The project was monitored for CCC by Dr Richard Hoggett.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8). |
| CAR 6 | 1992 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by P Crummy |
| 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 and C Crossan. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2,</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy |
| CAT | 2023 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 48 | 1999 | A Watching Brief at The Lindens, 139 Lexden Road, Colchester (Phase 1) |
| CAT Report 99 | 2000 | <i>Report on an archaeological watching brief at 1a St Clare Road, Colchester:</i> October 2000 |
| CAT Report 136 | 2001 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 14 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex:</i> April 2001 |
| CAT Report 195 | 2002 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 10 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex:</i> June 2002 |
| CAT Report 225 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological excavation at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex:</i> March 2003. |
| CAT Report 250 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex:</i> November 2003 |
| CAT Report 258 | 2004 | <i>Report on a negative watching brief at 24 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex:</i> December 2003 |
| CAT Report 267 | 2004 | <i>Report on a negative watching brief at Lexden Tumulus, 30 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex:</i> November 2003-March 2004 |
| CAT Report 334 | 2005 | <i>Report on a negative watching brief at 36 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex:</i> July 2005 |
| CAT Report 338 | 2005 | An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Lexden Grange, 127 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2005 |
| CAT Report 431 | 2007 | An archaeological watching brief at Lexden Grange, 127 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2006-February 2007 |
| CAT Report 455 | 2008 | <i>Report on a negative watching brief at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex:</i> |

		<i>January 2008.</i>
CAT Report 568	2010	<i>Watching brief at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2010</i>
CAT Report 582	2010	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 12 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2010</i>
CAT Report 745	2013	<i>A Roman cemetery east of Lexden Dyke: archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 'High Trees', St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2013</i>
CAT Report 817	2015	<i>Heritage Statement: St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2015</i>
Cat Report 832	2015	<i>Archaeological strip, map and recording on land adjacent to 20 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2015</i>
CAT Report 958	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>
CAT Report 959	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>
CAT Report 1004	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: August 2016</i>
CAT Report 1008	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and excavation at 'High Trees', St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TA: February-July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1009	2016	<i>Archaeological excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1122	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 7 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex – June 2017</i>
CAT Report 1517	2019	<i>Archaeological monitoring at Woodlands Residential Home for Ladies, 76 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex – May 2018-September 2019</i>
CAT Report 1787	2022	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex – March 2022</i>
CCCAA	2023	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 1 The Lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3WD. By R Hoggett</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Revised October 2021</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Revised October 2020.</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct. Revised October 2022.</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Hawkes, CFC & Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum, Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14</i>
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).</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	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIFA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
EHES	Essex Historic Environment Record
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
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigati S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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 digital archive

CAT Report 1950
CCC Brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Digital photographs
Survey data
Site 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

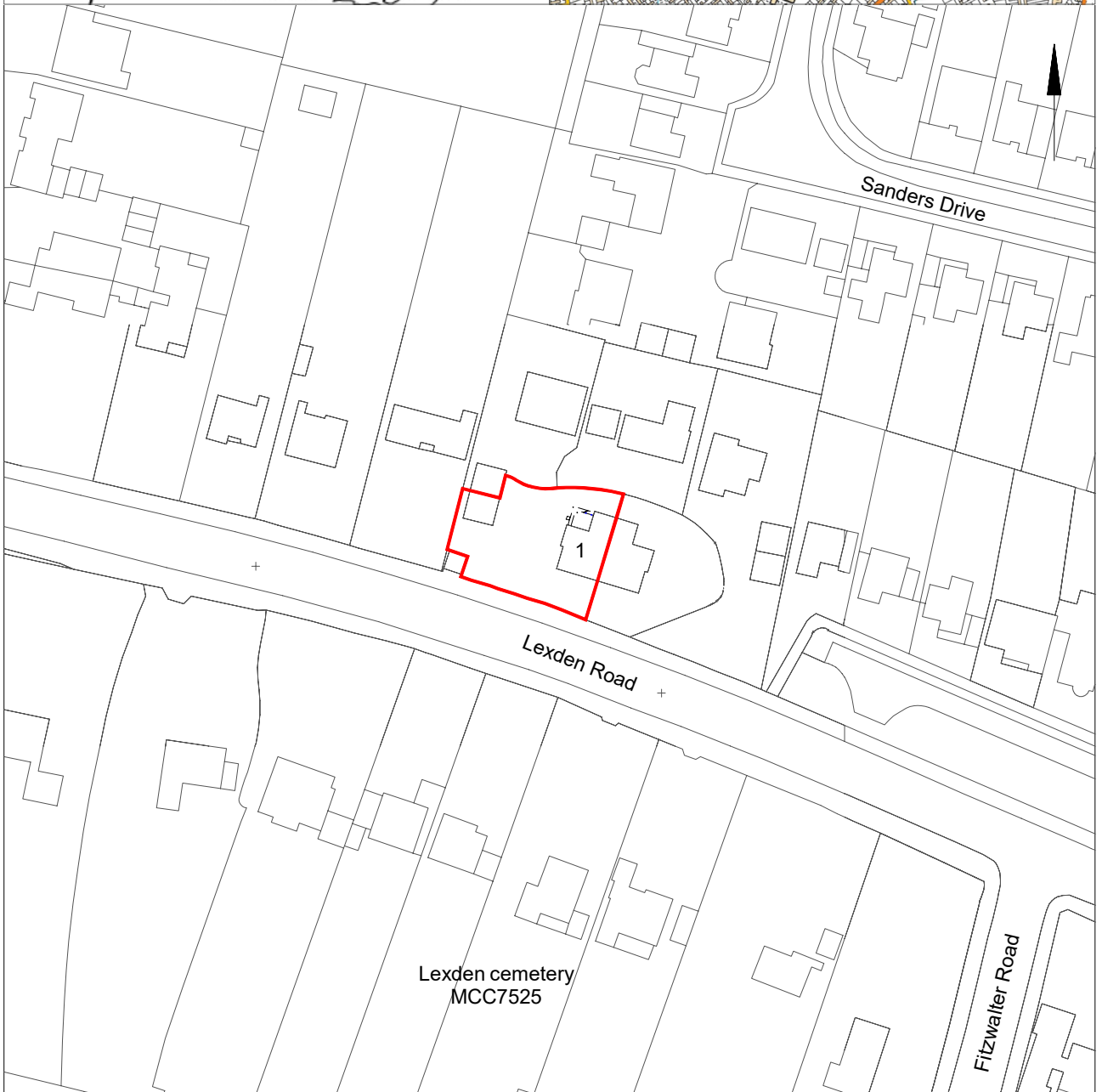
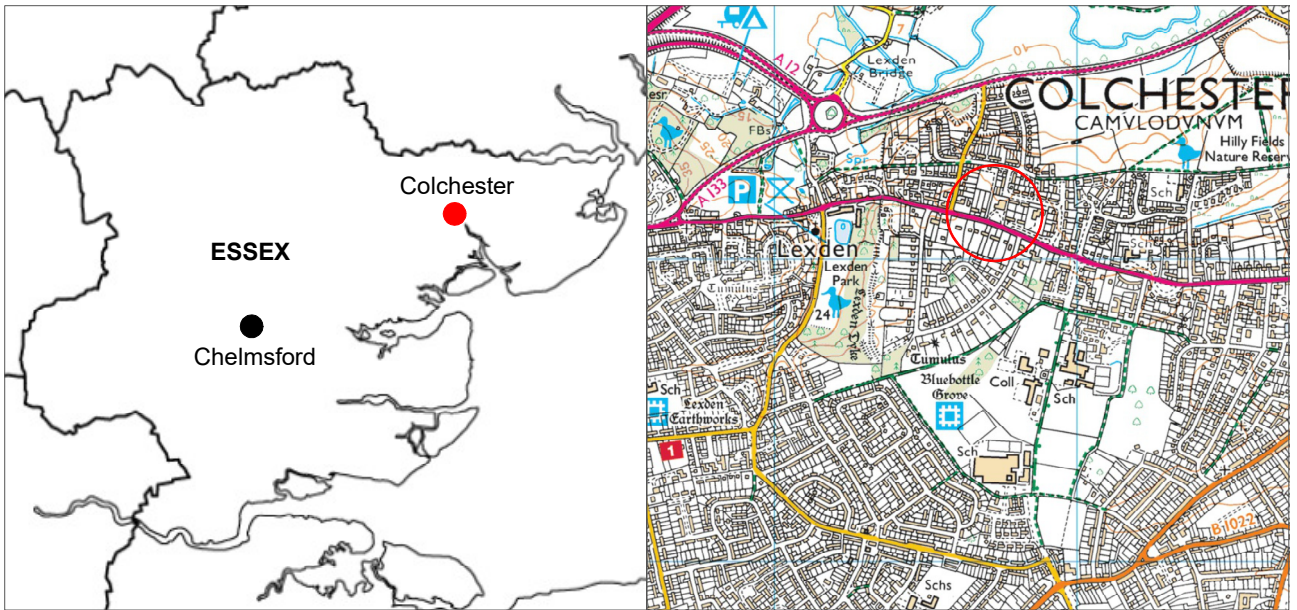
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Distribution list:

Homeowner
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council
Colchester Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

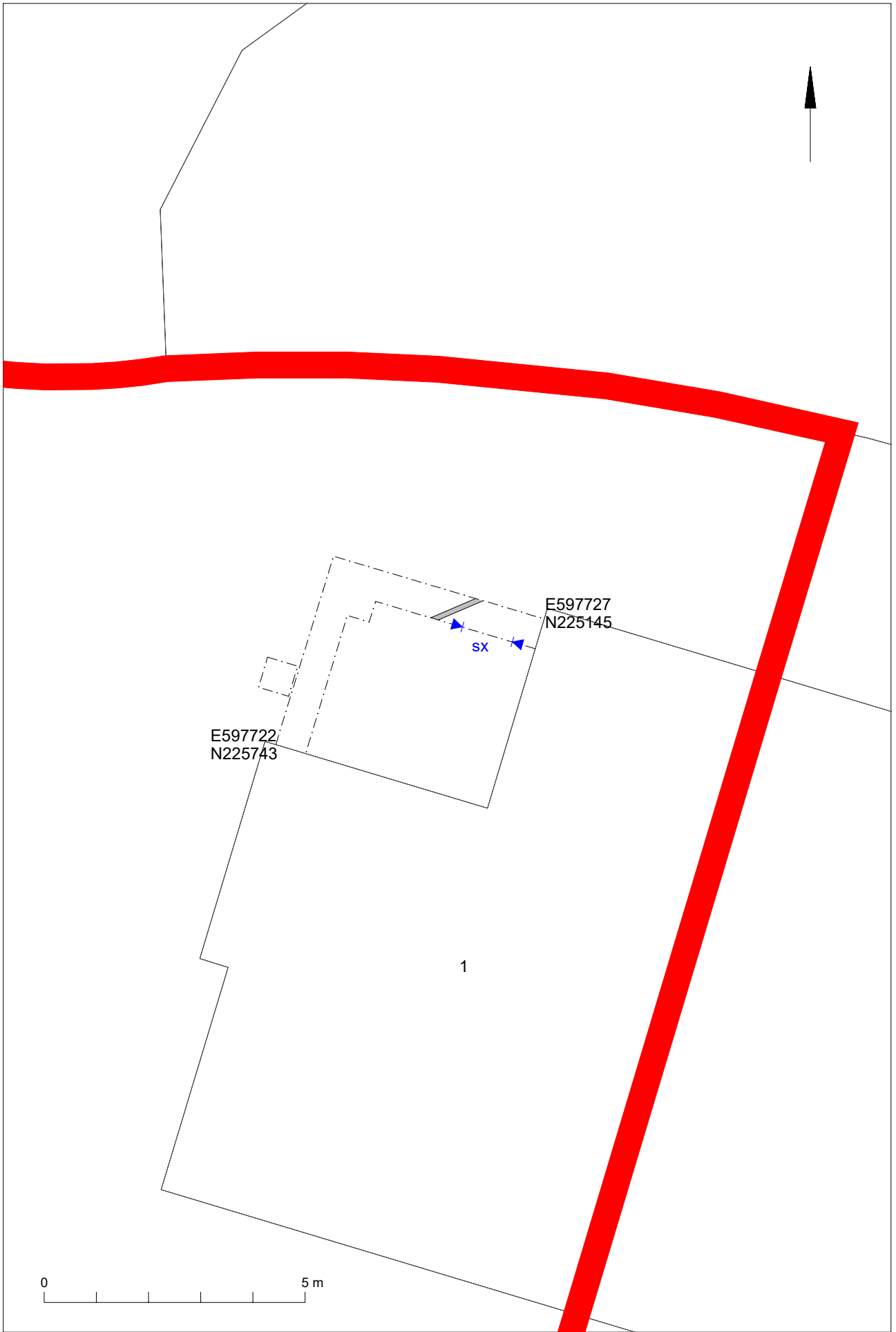
Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Patio sub-base	Sand/type 1	Modern
L2	-	Topsoil	Firm moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy silty loam with brick flecks, tile flecks	Modern
L3	-	Sub-soil		Undated
L4	-	Natural	Firm moist medium yellow/orange sand, coarse gravels	Natural



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m



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Fig 2 Monitoring results.

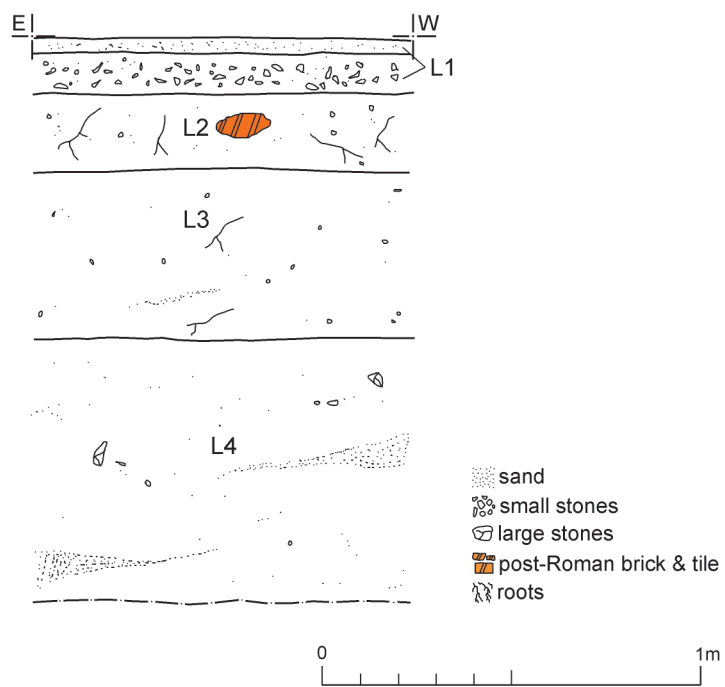


Fig 3 Representative section.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-515823

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-515823
Project Name	Watching Brief at 1 The Lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3WD
Sitename	1 The Lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3WD
Sitecode	ECC4846
Project Identifier(s)	2023/05g
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	221958
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	12-Mar-2024 - 12-Mar-2024
Location	1 The Lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3WD NGR : TL 97670 25140 LL : 51.889753887503616, 0.8711093062499 12 Fig : 597670,225140
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	archaeological monitoring carried out as per conditions outlined in project brief and wsi
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 1 The Lindens, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a rear extension. The site is located close to the route of the main Roman road to London and is within the Roman western cemetery area. Groundworks revealed no archaeological deposits or materials.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4846
Archives	