

**No 50 Endsleigh Court, Colchester,
Essex**

Planning application: 170478

Event Ref: ECC 4035

Archaeological Monitoring Report

(© John Newman BA MCIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(August 2017)

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Site details for HER

Name: No 50 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QW

Client: Mr & Mrs R Halim

Local planning authority: Colchester BC

Planning application ref: 170478

Development: Removal of front and side walls to an existing conservatory and replacing with new cavity walls/pitched tiled roof to match existing house.

Date of fieldwork: 3 August, 2017

Event ref: ECC 4035

Accession ref: COLEM:2017.114

OASIS: johnnewm1-291474

Grid ref: TL 9802 2512

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Summary: Colchester, 50 Endsleigh Court (ECC 4035, TL 9802 2512) monitoring of ground works for a side extension close to the site of recorded Roman period pottery kilns did not reveal any archaeological features or finds (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs R Halim).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs R Halim commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 170478. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr J Tipper of Colchester BC to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the removal of a side conservatory and its replacement with an extension on a slightly larger footprint at 50 Endsleigh Court, Colchester.

1.2 The major Roman period town at Colchester, '*Colonia Victricensis*' or 'City of Victory,' is located to the south/south-west of the River Colne with the river flowing below from west to east before turning to flow to the south-east. The Roman town is well known from a series of major archaeological excavations through the 20th and early 21st century period with 50 Endsleigh being located some 1000m west of the Roman town and c650m south of the River Colne in an area of relatively recent development. Natural glaciofluvial deposits in this area are generally sands and gravels.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by the proximity of 50 Endsleigh Court to the site of three Roman period pottery kilns recorded in the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER nos. MCC2157, MCC2158 & MCC2159) giving this area high potential to contain further evidence of early occupation and related activities.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the foundation trenches, which were undertaken using a small 360 machine, was carried out over a single day under dry and sunny conditions and the upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work progressed and it was transferred to a skip. The trenches were entered and examined with any indistinct areas being scraped clean; then the trenches were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 A total 12.50m of 600mm wide and 1000mm deep foundation trench (see Fig. 2) were excavated following the breaking out of the concrete footings to the conservatory that had been demolished previously. Along the western side of the footprint area the concrete removed was only 600mm deep however along the northern and southern sides it was up to 900mm deep as drainage pipes related to the house had been encased in a substantial amount of concrete. Once the concrete

had been removed the trench deposit profiles could be examined and these comprised 300mm of topsoil on the outer face of the trenches over 400mm to 500mm of mid brown sandy subsoil. The locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposit at the site was pale brown very silty sand with small flints. A single drainage pipe on a north-south alignment was revealed at the base of the trench and this was left in situ.

3.2 Close inspection of the foundation trenches did not reveal any archaeological features and the upcast spoil did not contain any stray finds apart occasional small fragments of 20th century building debris.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this monitoring did not reveal any archaeological features or finds the scale of the works was small and the proximity of the recorded Roman period pottery kilns in this part of Colchester gives the overall area a high degree of archaeological potential. Therefore continued observation and investigation during future ground works in this area would be of potential archaeological value in a landscape close to a major Roman period town.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Lee and everyone else on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring)



Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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Fig. 2: Monitored extension area (dark blue- trenches)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from southwest



Southern trench from east



Western trench from north



Deposit profile in northern trench

**No 50 Endsleigh Court, Colchester,
Essex**

Planning application: 170478

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Monitoring**

Site details

Name: No 50 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QW

Client: Mr & Mrs R Halim

Local planning authority: Colchester BC

Planning application ref: 170478

Proposed development: Removal of front and side walls to an existing conservatory and replacing with new cavity walls/pitched tiled roof to match existing house.

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TL 9806 2512

Current land use: part of existing house

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1. Introduction

1.1 Mr & Mrs R Halim has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring (watching brief) of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 170478. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Dr J Tipper, archaeological officer at Colchester BC, to satisfy this condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This development concerns the removal of front and side walls to an existing conservatory and replacing with new cavity walls/pitched tiled roof to match existing house at 50 Endsleigh Court, Colchester.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 The major Roman period town at Colchester, '*Colonia Victricensis*' or 'City of Victory,' is located to the south/south-west of the River Colne with the river flowing below from west to east before turning to flow to the south-east. The Roman town is well known from a series of major archaeological excavations through the 20th and early 21st century period with 50 Endsleigh being located some 1000m west of the Roman town and c650m south of the River Colne in an area of relatively recent development. Natural glaciofluvial deposits in the area are likely to be sands and gravels.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the Brief 'The proposed development is located close to the site of three Roman pottery kilns, recorded in the Colchester Historic Environment Record (HER nos. MCC2157, MCC2158 and MCC2159). There is high potential for encountering further archaeological remains in this area. Groundworks relating to the application would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording as invasive ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above 50 Endsleigh Court is located in close proximity to the remains of three Roman pottery kilns. Therefore further evidence for pottery production and related activities may be present at this site. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details of the exposed overburden, any archaeological features and depth of local deposits as revealed within ground works that disturb ground that

has not been disturbed in recent times as some new build will re-use existing foundations if they are suitable.

5. Methodology

5.1 The ground works for that disturb previously undisturbed areas will be monitored as they progress and if any archaeological features are revealed these will be cleaned, investigated by hand and recorded in plan, section and by photography by the monitoring archaeologist. The upcast spoil will also be examined both visually and with a metal detector for archaeological finds as works progress to this point. Any unexpected or exceptional findings or any further burial evidence at the site will be reported back to the relevant Colchester BC Archaeological Officer as will notice of when the site works are scheduled to start. In addition if the monitoring records positive archaeological results a request will be made to Colchester BC for a search of the immediate area around 50 Endsleigh Court on the relevant urban archaeological database.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site event number gained from the Colchester BC Archaeological Officer before site works commence. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and related to the proposed development, and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and any exposed features.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trench foundations with sections at appropriate points. Contained features such as pits and post holes will be at least 50% excavated and linear features at least 10% excavated again within the trench foundations. Full excavation and recording will be carried out for structural features such as hearths, furnaces or kilns and bonded features, such as walls, will be cleaned and investigated in relation to any other features including sectioning within the trench foundations. If no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden and any evidence of truncation that could help in an understanding of the history of the land use at the site. Where appropriate 40 litre palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if suitable deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the relevant Colchester BC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains which may entail enlarging the trench. Any such work will incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work

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design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (in this case the possibility of finding burials is assessed as being low).

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant Colchester BC Archaeological Officer and an accession number will be requested from the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Documentation Officer beforehand. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the Colchester and Ipswich museum service under their site event and accession numbers for future reference in accordance with the *Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums (2008)*. If this is not possible then the relevant Colchester BC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Colchester BC.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles and guidelines in *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the Colchester and Ipswich museum service within 6 months of working finishing on site under the relevant event number. As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles and guidelines in *MoRPHE* and the requirements outlined in section 5.6 of the Brief, the report will also include this WSI as an appendix. The report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility given the nature of the underlying natural deposits and the width of the trench. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter and the findings will be discussed in relation to a search of the Colchester urban data base for the area around this site. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). A draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Officer at Colchester BC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a final pdf version will be sent to the Colchester HER in addition to a pdf version for the client for submission to the relevant LPA. The site monitoring will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before field work starts followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual county journal. The reporting will be commensurate with the findings from the monitoring and at its most

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basic level will detail the planning details, event/accession/OASIS references, date(s) of fieldwork, recorder/organisation carrying out the monitoring, location, area(s) examined in relation to the ground disturbance, circumstances and characteristics of the deposits exposed (depth and profile of deposits) and any finds that are revealed. If required a vector plan will be provided.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client's agent and ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 Close liaison will be maintained with the contractor on site with regard to the depth and stability of the footing trenches and any potential health and safety considerations.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Tovergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

(All of the specialists are conversant with current works within their areas of study in East Anglia and work regularly in the region).

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)

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Roman small finds:

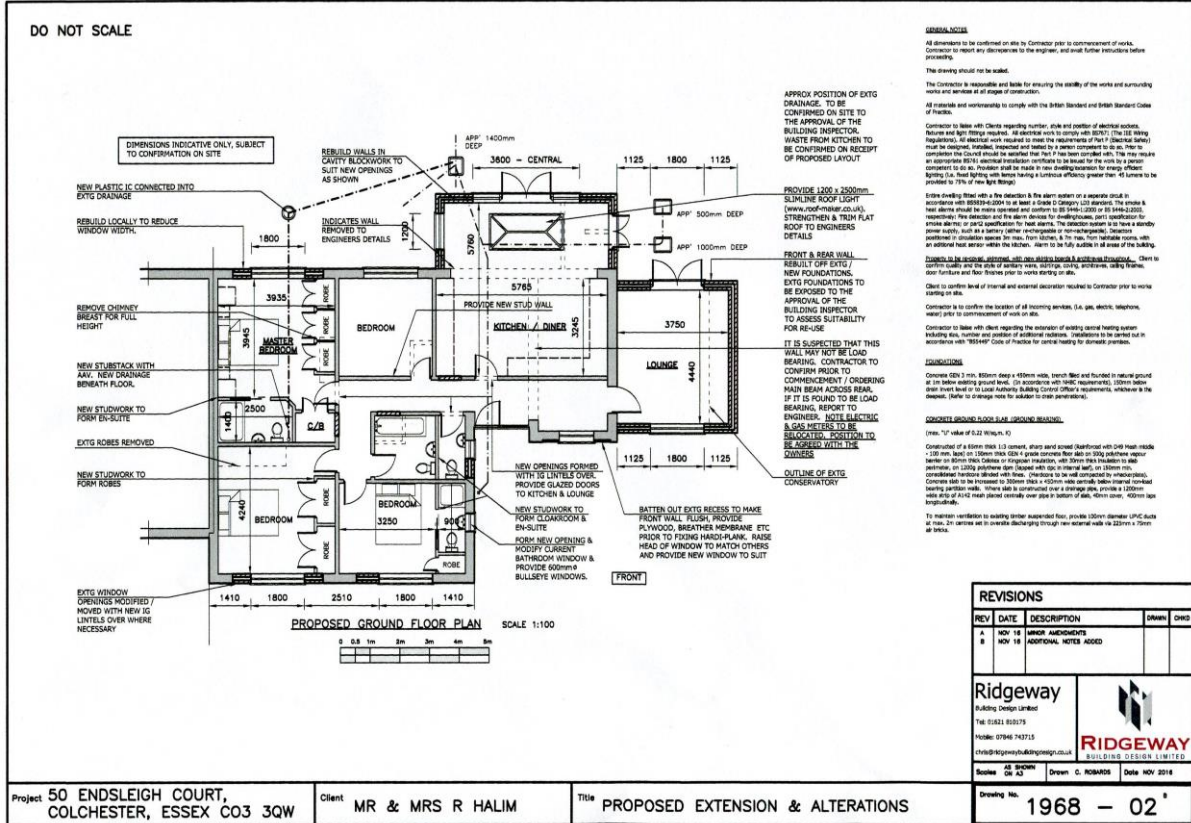
N Crummy (Freelance)

Roman pottery & CBM

S Benfield (CAT)

Post Roman small finds:

JNAS



Planned extension works

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-291474

Project details

Project name	No 50 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Colchester, 50 Endsleigh Court (ECC 4035, TL 9802 2512) monitoring of ground works for a side extension close to the site of recorded Roman period pottery kilns did not reveal any archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 03-08-2017 End: 03-08-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECC 4035 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	170478 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER No 50 ENDSLEIGH COURT
Postcode	CO3 3QW
Study area	20 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9802 2512 51.888884880063 0.87791623676 51 53 19 N 000 52 40 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 33m Max: 34m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design	John Newman

originator

Project director/manager John Newman

Project supervisor John Newman

Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester and Ipswich Museums

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester and Ipswich Museums

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Report"

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