

**No 18 Shelley Road, Colchester,
Essex**

Planning application: 192089

HER Event Ref: ECC4412

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(April 2020)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details for HER

Name: No 18 Shelley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4JL

Client: Mr S Licence

Local planning authority: Colchester BC

Planning application ref: 192089

Development: Erection of side extension

Date of fieldwork: 5 March, 2020

Event ref: ECC4412

Accession ref: tbc

OASIS: johnnewm1-387796

Grid ref: TL 96528 24738

Former land use: Garden

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Summary: Colchester, 18 Shelley Road (ECC4412, TL 96528 24738) monitoring of ground works for a side extension in an area close to the Triple Dyke system on the western side of the town did not reveal any archaeological features or finds with much of the area being extensively disturbed by roots from a recently removed major tree (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr S Licence).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr S Licence 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 192089. 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 erection of a side extension at 18 Shelley Road, 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. This town having been established after the conquest period inside the large area that what was probably the largest late Iron Age regional centre in Britain that comprised areas of settlement and areas for stock control inside a complex system of dykes or defensive ditches. The Roman town is well known from a series of major archaeological excavations through the 20th and early 21st century period with 18 Shelley Road being located some 2700m south-west of the Roman town and c1250m south of the River Colne in an area of relatively recent development. Natural glaciofluvial deposits in the area are described by the British Geological Survey as being Cover Sand (with clay, silt and sand) at c40m OD.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development derives from its proximity to The Triple Dyke (HER MCC 7041, SM NHLE 1019993) which forms one of the major dyke systems of late prehistoric to early Roman period date on the landward, western side of Colchester and which emphasise the then importance of the town as a major social and political centre in this period. While the core area of Roman Colchester is more clearly defined by existing and recorded defensive wall lines recorded archaeological evidence clearly demonstrates that past prehistoric and Roman settlement related and burial activity extends for a considerable distance beyond the core of the historic core. The earlier later Iron Age complex of settlement foci and defensive dykes, with some probable early Roman period dykes, covers an area of some 10 square miles (Crummy, 1997, 13) with the Romanised name of *Camulodunum* being derived from the stronghold of Camulos, the Celtic god of war (*ibid.*). Crummy also notes that archaeological evidence from investigations of The Triple Dyke point to it being of early Roman date. Perhaps very early in the conquest of south-east Britain from the invasion of AD 43 when the initial Claudian encampment was possibly located just to the east of this linear triple dyke system (*ibid.* 34-36). This proposed development being just to the east of the dyke and therefore in the general area of the postulated site of the early Claudian encampment and just outside the Scheduled Monument area covering this dyke system.

1.4 Shelley Road therefore falls within this historic hinterland area. The relevant brief from Colchester BC then confirmed that this small scale potential disturbance to any archaeological deposits at this site could be mitigated by their monitoring and investigation by an approved archaeologist.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the foundation trenches, which were mechanically excavated using a small 360 machine equipped with a flat bucket, was carried out over a single day under wet weather conditions, which to some extent hindered the ground works, and the upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work progressed and it was stockpiled temporarily in the centre of the footprint area following scanning with a metal detector. Due to the poor weather conditions it became impossible to transfer the spoil to the front of the house and therefore the short, 3.60m long, trench on the eastern side of the planned extension was not opened during this monitoring. The opened trenches were entered and examined with any indistinct areas and the base of the trench 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 of just under 13m of 700mm wide and 800mm to 1000mm deep foundation trench (see Fig. 2 & Appendix I) were excavated under supervision on the northern and western sides of the planned extension area. The trenches revealed 300mm of topsoil over 400mm to 500mm of mid brown sandy subsoil over orange silty sand with flints. The northern trench being excavated by some 300mm into the natural underlying deposit as a now removed nearby major tree had left numerous roots running through the subsoil and into the top of the sand with flints.

3.2 The opened trenches did not reveal any archaeological features and the few stray finds in the upcast spoil were brick or tile fragments and small metal and plastic fragments of recent and post 1900 date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While the scale of the works at this site was small the proximity of recorded Iron Age and Roman period evidence in this part of Colchester gives the overall area a high degree of archaeological potential. That a short length of trench was not monitored due to the then weather conditions is not seen as a likely loss of archaeological information given what was seen in the other trenches. 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 everyone on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring)

Ref:

Crummy, P 1997 'City of Victory- the story of Colchester- Britain's first Roman Town,' Colchester Archaeological Trust

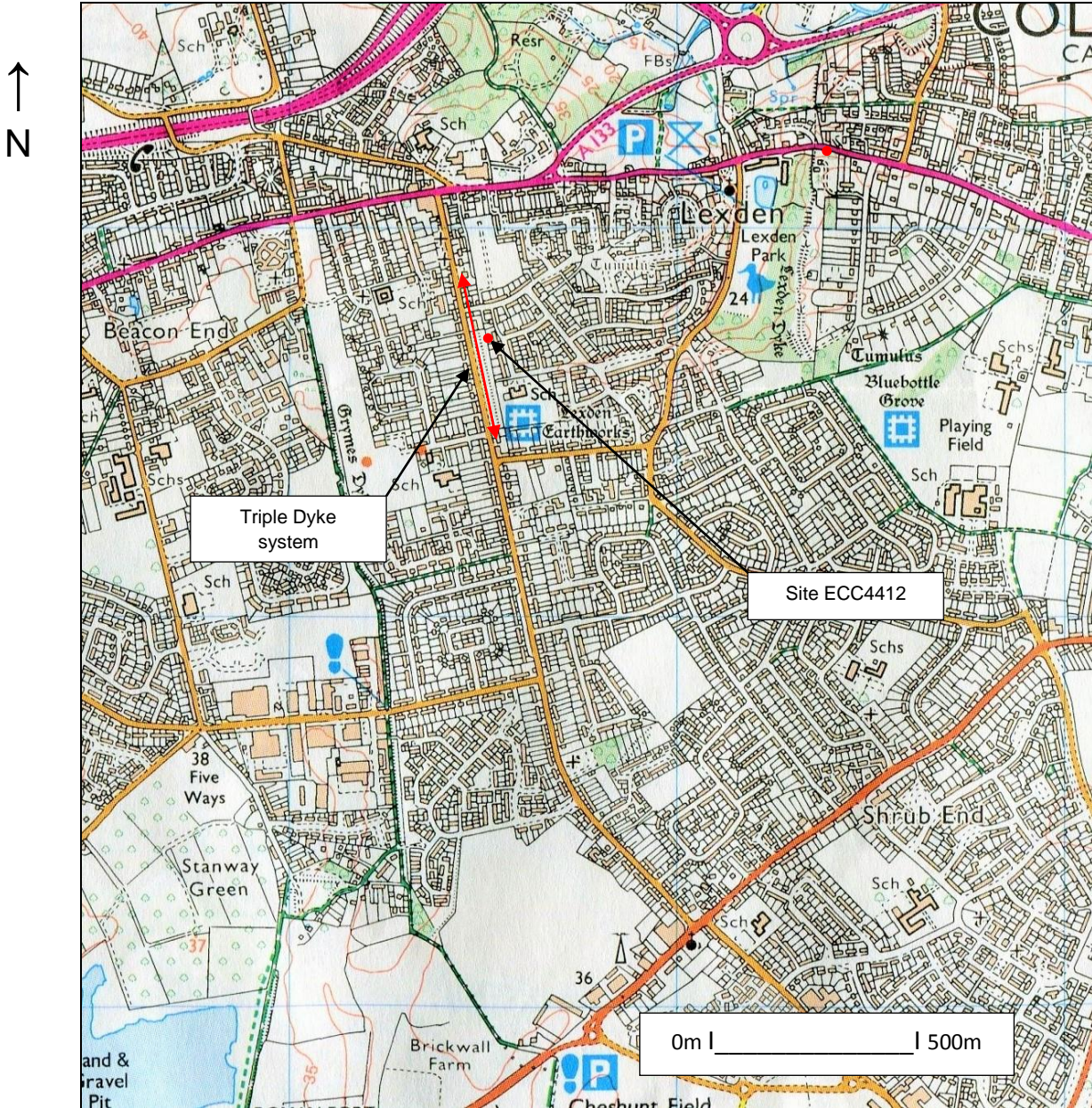


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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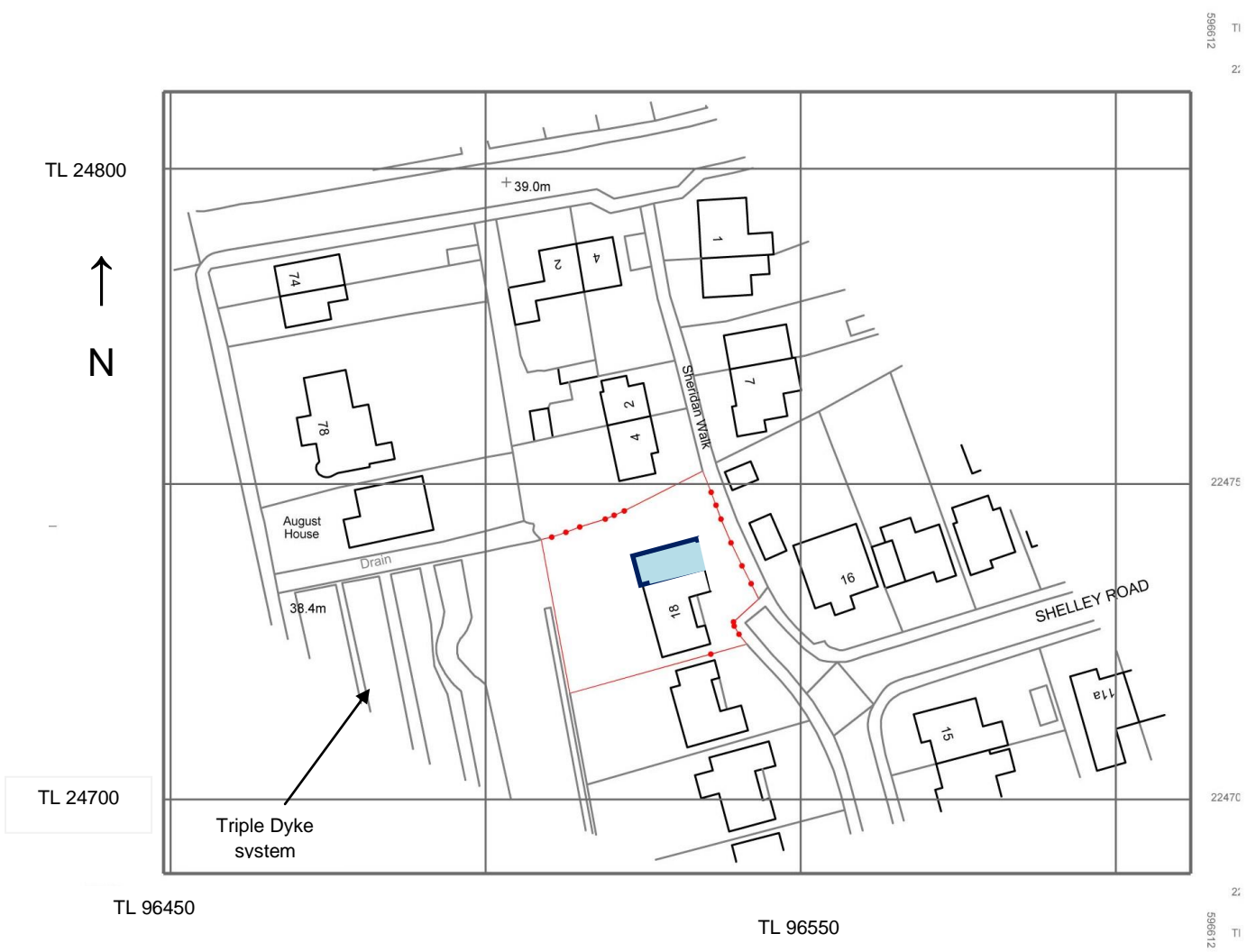


Fig. 2: Monitored extension area (light blue- footprint area, dark blue- trenches)

(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2018 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

596612
TI
2:
22475
22470
2:
596612
TI

Appendix I- Images



General view from northwest



Western trench from north



Northern trench from west



Northern trench deposit profile

**No 18 Shelley Road,
Colchester, Essex**

Planning application: 192089

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Monitoring**

Site details

Name: No 18 Shelley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4JL

Client: Mr S Licence

Local planning authority: Colchester BC

Planning application ref: 192089

Proposed development: Erection of side extension and adaptation work

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TL 96528 24738

Current land use: Garden

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1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Monitoring
5. Methodology
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1. Introduction

1.1 Mr S Licence 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 192089. 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 erection of a side extension at 18 Shelley Road, 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. This town having been established after the conquest period inside the large area that what was probably the largest late Iron Age regional centre in Britain that comprised areas of settlement and areas for stock control inside a complex system of dykes or defensive ditches. The Roman town is well known from a series of major archaeological excavations through the 20th and early 21st century period with 18 Shelley Road being located some 2700m south-west of the Roman town and c1250m south of the River Colne in an area of relatively recent development. Natural glaciofluvial deposits in the area are described by the British Geological Survey as being Cover Sand (with clay, silt and sand) at c40m OD.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the Brief 'The proposed development is situated within the area of archaeological interest that has been defined in the Historic Environment Record for Colchester, less than 40m from the earthwork remains of an important late prehistoric boundary dyke, The Triple Dyke (HER Monument no. MCC7041). The Triple Dyke is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE no. 1019993). There is high potential for encountering early occupation remains at this location. Groundworks relating to the application would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.'

3.2 While the core area of Roman Colchester is more clearly defined by existing and recorded defensive wall lines recorded archaeological evidence clearly demonstrates that past prehistoric and Roman settlement related and burial activity extends for a considerable distance beyond the core of the historic core. The earlier later Iron Age complex of settlement foci and defensive dykes covers an area of some 10 square miles (Crummy, 1997, 13) with the Romanised name of *Camulodunum* being derived from the stronghold of Camulos, the Celtic god of war (*ibid.*). Crummy also notes that

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archaeological evidence from investigations of The Triple Dyke point to it being of early Roman date. Perhaps very early in the conquest of south-east Britain from the invasion of AD 43 when the initial Claudian encampment was possibly located just to the east of this linear triple dyke system (*ibid.* 34-36). This proposed development being just to the east of the dyke and therefore in the area of the postulated site of the early Claudian encampment and just outside the Scheduled Monument area covering this dyke system.

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 18 Shelley Road is located close to one of the major dyke systems on the western side of Colchester. 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 in particular in relation to the possible site of the Claudian encampment.

5. Methodology

5.1 The ground works, which are anticipated as trench-fill foundations, 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 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 18 Shelley Road 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

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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 design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (in this case the possibility of finding burials given past records for this area is assessed as being low given the scale of the planned works).

5.4 Dependant on the results from the monitoring CBC have also advised that provision for radio-carbon or archaeomagnetic dating of deposits that are revealed may be required for which costs would have to be submitted to the client once the nature of the archaeology recorded has been examined and characterised.

5.5 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.

5.6 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 deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.7 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 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 and positive results may require a CBC HER search request for the area of this site.

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.

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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 Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

7. Specialists

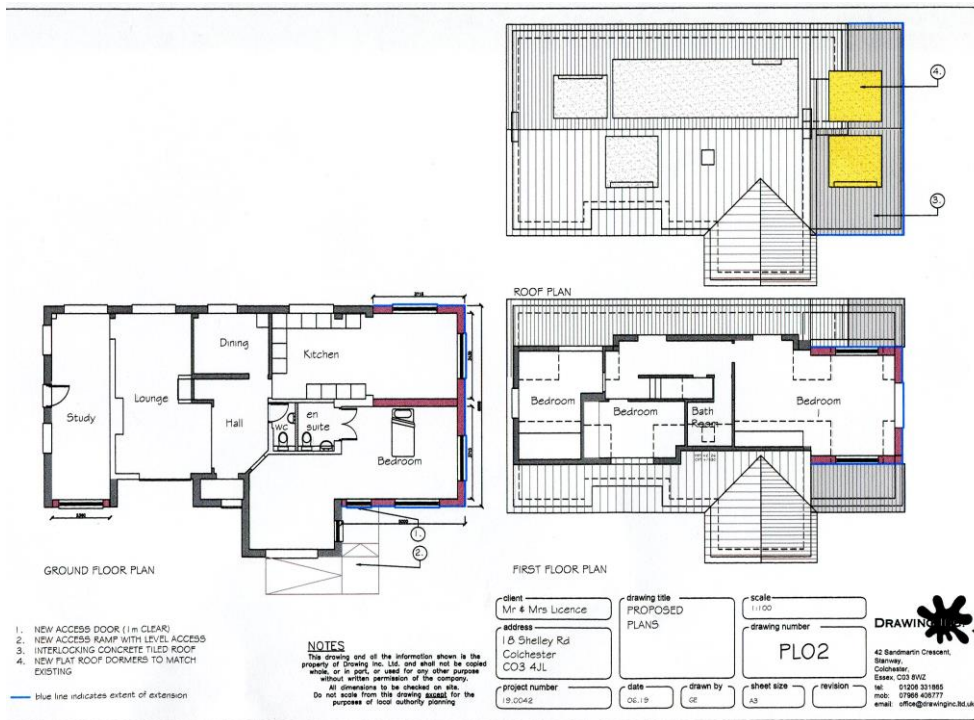
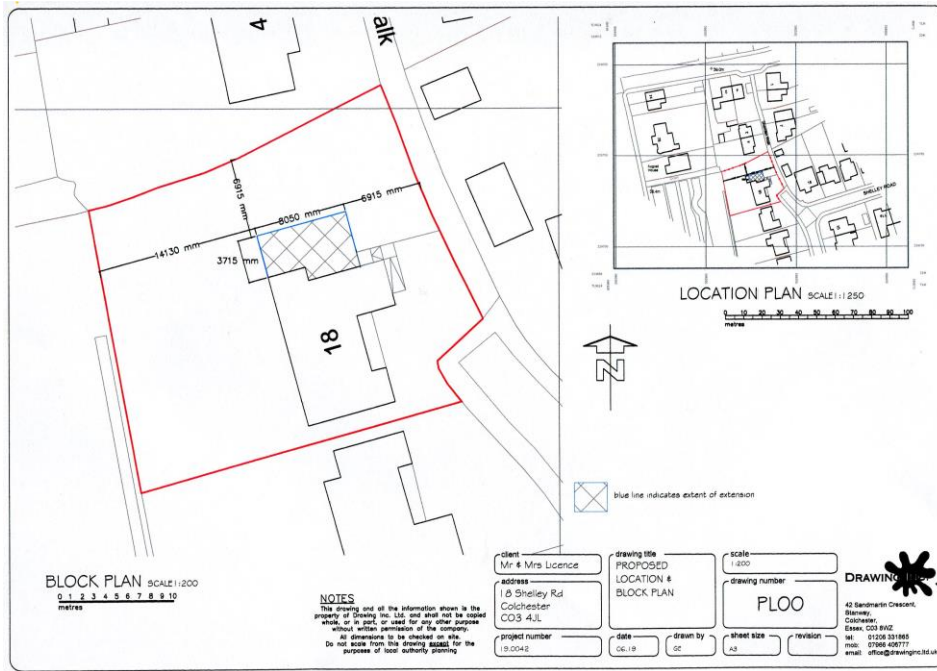
(All of the specialists are conversant with current works within their areas of study in East Anglia and work regularly in the region).

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)
Roman small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman pottery & CBM	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS
Scientific dating of deposits	tbc (dependant on character of deposits)

Ref:

Crummy, P 1997 'City of Victory- the story of Colchester- Britain's first Roman Town,' Colchester Archaeological Trust

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Planned extension roof works (with dykes shown in upper inset just to west of house)

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-387796

Project details

Project name	No 18 Shelley Road, Colchester, Essex- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Colchester, 18 Shelley Road (ECC4412, TL 96528 24738) monitoring of ground works for a side extension in an area close to the Triple Dyke system on the western side of the town did not reveal any archaeological features or finds with much of the area being extensively disturbed by roots from a recently removed major tree.
Project dates	Start: 05-03-2020 End: 05-03-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4412 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	192089 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
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 18 SHELLEY ROAD
Postcode	CO3 4JL
Study area	40 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 96528 24738 51.885984729578 0.856043855836 51 53 09 N 000 51 21 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 39m Max: 40m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator	John Newman
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"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	No 18 Shelley Road, Colchester, Essex- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henley, Suffolk
Description	Report in pdf format
Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
Entered on	18 April 2020