

**No 33 Victoria Road, Colchester,
Essex**

Planning application: 192835

Event Ref: ECC 4567

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(December 2020)

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Site details for HER

Name: No 33 Victoria Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NU

Client: Mr & Mrs Rose

Local planning authority: Colchester BC

Planning application ref: 192835

Development: Erection of rear extension

Date of fieldwork: 26 October, 2020

Event ref: ECC 4567

OASIS: johnnewm1-411454

Grid ref: TL 98384 24485

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Summary: Colchester, 33 Victoria Road (ECC 4567, TL 98384 24485) monitoring of ground works for a new rear extension close to the site of a Roman period temple erected in honour of the god Silvanus did not reveal any archaeological features and the only stray finds were of recent date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs Rose).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 CPS Architecture on behalf of their clients Mr & Mrs Rose 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 192835. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr J Tipper then 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 new rear extension at 33 Victoria 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. The Roman town is well known from a series of major archaeological excavations through the 20th and early 21st century period with 33 Victoria Road being located some 1100m southwest of the Roman town and c200m west of the Roman road that linked the town with areas to the south-west in an area of relatively recent development. Natural glaciofluvial deposits in the area are likely to be sands and gravels in an area of gentle topography at c35m OD.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by the proximity of 33 Victoria Road to the site of a Roman period temple (UAD no. MCC1959) located c100m to the west in the adjacent school grounds. The temple in question was initially recorded on aerial photographs in 1938 and then investigated by staff and pupils of the Royal Grammar School just after World War II and dedications on two plaques recovered from the site indicate that it was erected in honour of Silvanus, god of woodland and hunting (Crummy, 1997, 107). In addition being outside the town walls and close to a Roman period road linking Colchester with areas to the south-west the area around Victoria Road also has the potential to contain Roman period burials. Human burial in the Roman period being precluded within the centre of any major town within the Empire making the areas along associated roads in the immediate hinterlands attractive for burials from the later 1st to the 4th century AD. In addition at Colchester the early Roman period saw the new administrators taking over what was already a complex late Iron Age tribal centre and numerous monuments are recorded on the western side of the town with the temple to Silvanus mentioned above sited within what was already a complex and managed landscape with monuments of both pre and post Roman date.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the foundation trenches, which were excavated using a mid-sized 360 machine, was carried out over a single day under dry weather conditions and the upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work

progressed. The foundation 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 Prior to ground works starting the hard patio type surface was cut and removed. In total 17m of 700mm wide and 1000mm deep foundation trench was excavated. Where the patio had been present adjacent to the rear of the house 460mm of mid brown sandy subsoil was revealed while further to the rear 200mm of topsoil still existed above the subsoil deposit. Below the subsoil the natural glaciofluvial deposit was orange with flints.

3.2 Close inspection of the foundation trenches did not reveal any archaeological features or finds and the few stray finds in the upcast spoil were brick and tile fragments of recent date and contemporary with the house which is of mid-20th century date.

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 temple and burials close to Victoria Road gives the area a high degree of archaeological potential. Therefore continued observation and investigation during future ground works in the area would be of potential archaeological value in a landscape close to a major Roman period town and an associated road.

Ref:

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

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



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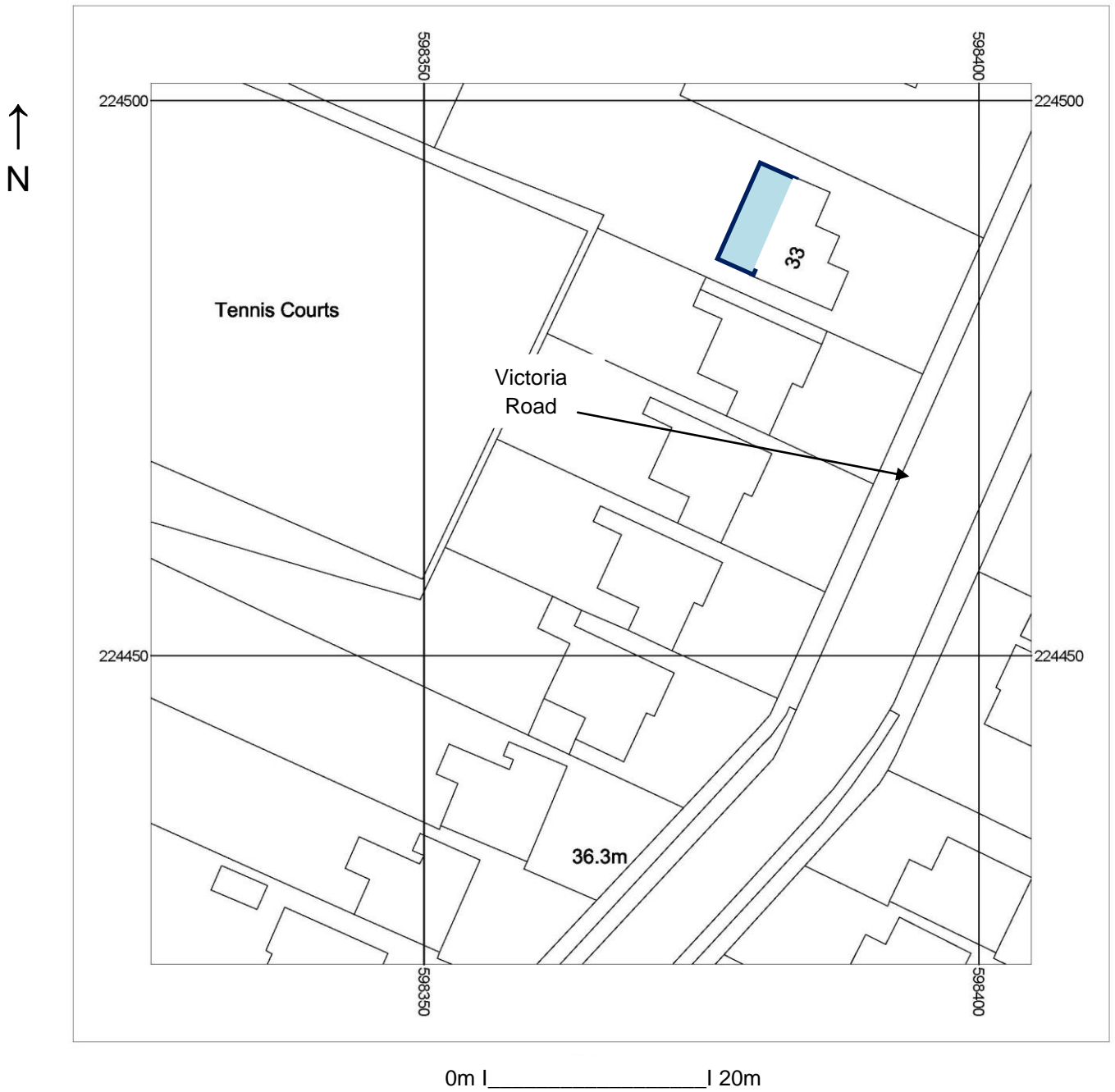


Fig. 2: Location of monitored extension
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2020 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



General view from west



Northern foundation from west



Southern trench from west



Western trench from north

**No 33 Victoria Road, Colchester,
Essex**

Planning application: 192835

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Monitoring**

Site details

Name: No 33 Victoria Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NU

Client: Mr & Mrs Rose

Local planning authority: Colchester BC

Planning application ref: 192835

Proposed development: Erection of rear extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TL 98384 24485

Current land use: Garden

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Proposed extension plan

Selection strategy

1. Introduction

1.1 CPS Architecture on behalf of their clients Mr & Mrs Rose have 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 192835. 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 proposed development concerns the erection of a rear and side extensions at 33 Victoria Road, Colchester.

1.2 The monitoring will comply with the detailed standards, information and advice to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003 and The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised 2014) will be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

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 33 Victoria Road being located some 1100m south-west of the Roman town and c200m west of the Roman road that linked the town with areas to the south-west in an area of relatively recent development. Natural glaciofluvial deposits in the area are likely to be sands and gravels in an area of gentle topography at c35m OD.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the Brief 'The proposed development is located within an area of archaeological interest recorded in the Colchester Historic Environment Record, within 100m of the site of a Roman temple (HER Monument no. MCC1959). There is high potential for encountering belowground archaeological remains, and possibly Roman burials, at this location.' The temple in question was initially recorded on aerial photographs in 1938 and then investigated by staff and pupils of the Royal Grammar School just after World War II and dedications on two plaques recovered from the site indicate that the temple was erected in honour of Silvanus, god of woodland and hunting (Crummy, 1997, 107).

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 ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above 33 Victoria Road is located within 100m of a Roman temple and it is also in the area of a Roman cemetery which often lie along roads running into the major towns of Roman Britain with burial inside such towns being banned. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details to the exposed overburden and depth of deposit as revealed within the ground works and evidence for the character and date of any past activity that is revealed.

5. Methodology

5.1 Once superficial clearance work at the site have been completed ground works for 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 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 33 Victoria 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 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 land

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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 is assessed as being medium given previous findings in the local area though the works will be on a small scale).

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

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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 EHER 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 with related photographic images, 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 including provision for COVID requirements. 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, hand wash/wipes and a face mask will 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 Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

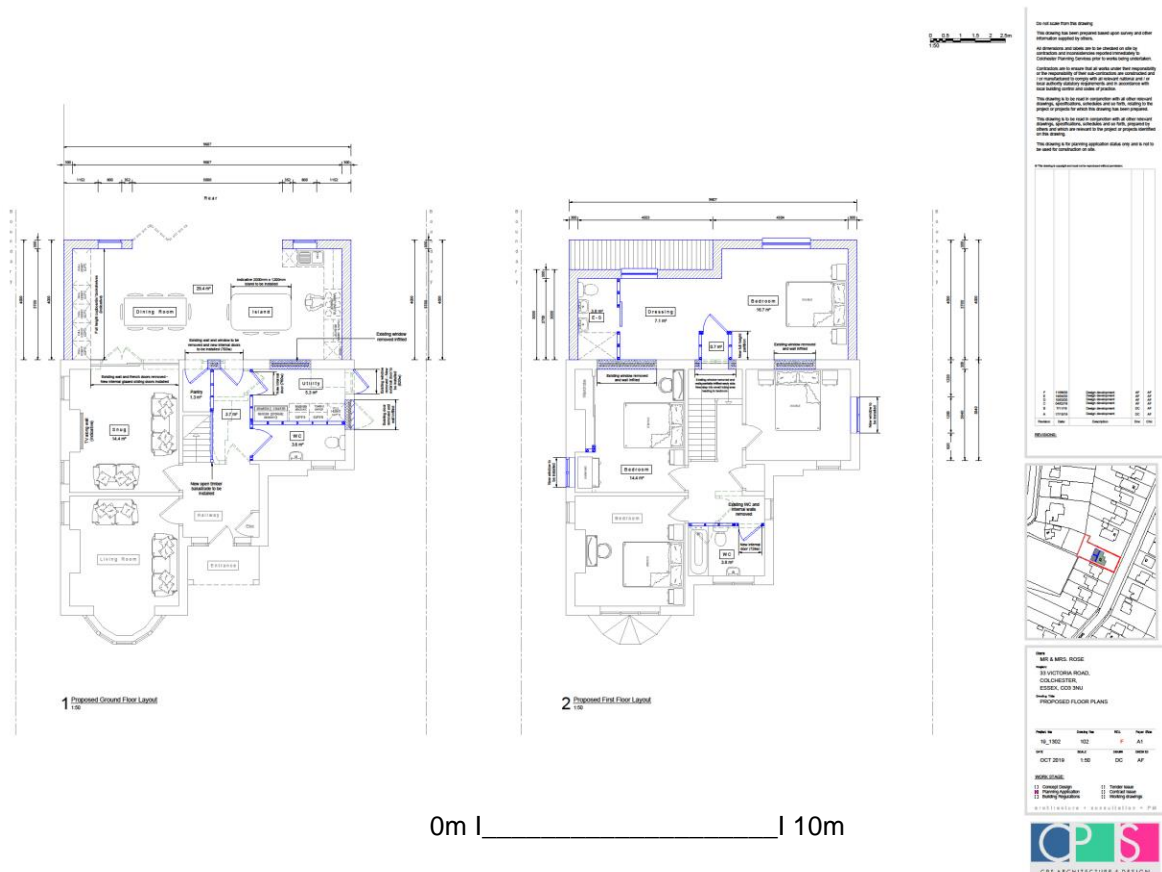
7. Specialists

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

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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

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



Planned extension works (north to right, ground floor to left)

Monitoring at Radley, 33 Victoria Road, Colchester

06/10/2020 v1

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management

Project Manager	John Newman
Archaeological Archive Manager	John Newman
Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services

Stakeholders

		Date Contacted
Collecting Institution(s)	Colchester and Ipswich Museums	tbc
Project Lead / Project Assurance	John Newman	
Landowner / Developer	Mr & Mrs Rose	
Other		

Resources

Resources required

Describe the resources required to implement this Selection Strategy, particularly if unusual resources are required.

The aim of the monitoring is to investigate an area close to the recorded site of a Roman period temple and in an area where burials have also been recorded on the western side of Colchester as outlined in the WSI. Material of modern date will be discarded, it is intended that any other material will be deposited with the paper and digital archive at the Colchester and Ipswich Museums under their guidelines in the context of the relevant Brief and WSI.

Context

Name: No 33 Victoria Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NU
 Client: Mr & Mrs Rose
 Local planning authority: Colchester BC
 Planning application refs: 192835
 Proposed development: Erection of rear extension
 Proposed date for evaluation: tbc
 Brief ref: 2020-17-09_192835 _Archaeology monitoring brief

Grid ref: TL 98384 24485

Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003) and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014)*.

Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post Excavation (English Heritage, 2011, second edition)

Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE

Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums (2008)

Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011).

For burials the application to the M of J will follow details as outlined by The Secretary of State, in exercise of the power vested in him/her by section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 (20 & 21 Vic., cap.81).

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

John Newman

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

Digital data will be selected in line with local museum guidelines and ADS guidelines to include data generated by JNAS both on site and during reporting, data from any specialists involved and a vector plan in dxf format if appropriate with regard to results from the site.

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be chosen in consultation with the Archaeological Officer at CBC and will be kept on an external hard drive by JNAS.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

John Newman and Dr J Tipper of CBC

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for the Documents elements of the archaeological archive. To do this you must:

As outlined above following local museum, Treasure Act and ADS guidelines in consultation with Dr J Tipper of CBC and the M of J licence if required regarding any potential human remains.

De-Selected Documents

Describe the procedure for dealing with De-selected material and what specialist advice has informed this procedure.

In consultation with Dr J Tipper with regard to the date, context and significance of any material considered

for de-selection.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type

Section 3.

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

John Newman, Dr J Tipper and the relevant local museum accession officer and Colchester and Ipswich Museums guidelines

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 3.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 3.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 3.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 3.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

As noted above modern material to be recorded and discarded, other materials to be decided in consultation with CBC regarding selection

Uncollected Material

If you are practicing selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

Modern material to be recorded on site using relevant personal experience then to be discarded with spoil unless identified as possibly contaminant material where special advice will be taken in liaison with the relevant contractor

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

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Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Materials Selection Template

This table may be inserted into Section 3 of the main [Selection Strategy Template](#) to help present differing selection strategies for different material types

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-411454

Project details

Project name	No 33 Victoria Road, Colchester, Essex- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Colchester, 33 Victoria Road (ECC 4567, TL 98384 24485) monitoring of ground works for a new rear extension close to the site of a Roman period temple erected in honour of the god Silvanus did not reveal any archaeological features and the only stray finds were of recent date.
Project dates	Start: 26-10-2020 End: 26-10-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECC 4567 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	192835 - 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 33 VICTORIA ROAD
Postcode	CO3 3NU
Study area	20 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 98384 24485 51.883052271438 0.882834050595 51 52 58 N 000 52 58 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 31m Max: 32m
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"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	No 33 Victoria 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	6 January 2021