

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 54 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF

October 2015



by **Laura Pooley**

on behalf of **Mr Wright**

Planning reference: 145409

CAT project ref.: 14/12d

NGR: TL 99036 24708

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM:2015.14

UAD ref: ECC3066

OASIS reference: colchest3-227577



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CAT Report 876

October 2015

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1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief undertaken in advance of the construction of a single detached garage and cycle storage building at 54 Wellesley Road revealed no archaeological features or finds.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at 54 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 20th October 2015. The work was commissioned by Mr Derek Wright in advance of the construction of a single detached garage and cycle storage building, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Chris Lister advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (a watching brief)*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Chris Lister (CBCPS 2014), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2015)

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 evaluation* (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 major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically within an area of Roman cemeteries. To the north-west, several Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (CAR 9, 258) along with the famous 'Colchester Sphinx', and many others have been found since. Over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Police station on Butt Road (CAR 9, 4-202). Eighteen Roman inhumation burials were excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (CAR 9, 261). There are also a number of burials recorded along Wellesley Road itself (Hull 1958, 203-5): a single Roman burial at 23 Wellesley Road (just to the south of the Colchester County High School); a Roman lead coffin from the west side of Wellesley Road (just north of the school); and a group of five Roman burials from the north-west corner of Wellesley Road. This last is also the reported find spot of the glass Colchester circus cup (CAR 8, 43-9). A find such as a glass cup would normally come from a cremation burial, so it would seem that the burials in and around Wellesley Road may include both early Roman cremations (1st-2nd century) and also later Roman inhumations (3rd-4th century). In particular a cremation burial was recorded 20m south-east of the proposed development at the junction of Maldon Road and Beaconsfield Avenue. In 1979 a

human tibia was recovered from a pipe trench 20m south of the site. In addition to human remains, Roman pits, ditches and a metalled surface, possibly a trackway, were also observed in this trench. A Roman stone-lined well was excavated opposite the Maldon Road garage in 1923, 50m south-west of the site.

4 Results

The footprint of the new garage and storage building (29.05m²) was reduced by c 450mm through modern topsoil (L1). No archaeological features or layers were reached.

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were present.

6 Discussion

As the ground reduction did not go beyond modern topsoil no archaeological features or layers were disturbed.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr Derek Wright for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed and carried out by C Lister. Site plans were prepared by C Lister. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

8 References

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

CAR 8	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by J Price
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 & C Crossan
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) at 54 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex</i>
CBCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (a watching brief): 54 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14. Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 876)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: 2015.14.

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Mr Derek Wright
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 23.10.2105



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Fig 1 Site location.



Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 54 Wellesley Road, Colchester	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99036 24708	Site code: CAT project ref.: 14/12d UAD ref: ECC3066 OASIS ref: colchest3-227577
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 20th October 2015	Size of area investigated: 29.05m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2015.14	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 876	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological watching brief undertaken in advance of the construction of a single detached garage and cycle storage building at 54 Wellesley Road revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: October 2015

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for archaeological monitoring and recording (a
watching brief)
at 54 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex

NGR: TL 99036 24708 (centre)

Planning reference: 145409

Client: Mr Derek Wright

Curating Museum: Colchester

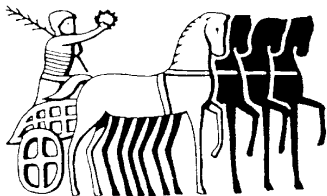
Museum accession code: to be applied for if contract won

CAT Project code: to be assigned if contract won

Site Manager: TBC

CBC Monitor: Chris Lister

This WSI written: 02 01 2015



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Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies 0.5km south-west of Colchester's walled town centre, at the junction between Maldon Road and Wellesley Road. Site centre is TL 99036 24708.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a detached garage and cycle store.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically within an area of Roman cemeteries. To the north-west, several Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (*CAR 9*, 258) along with the famous 'Colchester Sphinx', and many others have been found since. Over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Police station on Butt Road (*CAR 9*, 4-202). Eighteen Roman inhumation burials were excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (*CAR 9*, 261). There are a number of burials recorded along Wellesley Road itself (Hull 1958, 203-5): a single Roman burial at 23 Wellesley Road (just to the south of the Colchester County High School); a Roman lead coffin from the west side of Wellesley Road (just north of the school); and a group of five Roman burials from the north-west corner of Wellesley Road. This last is also the reported find spot of the glass Colchester circus cup (*CAR 8*, 43-9). A find such as a glass cup would normally come from a cremation burial, so it would seem that the burials in and around Wellesley Road may include both early Roman cremations (1st-2nd century) and also later Roman inhumations (3rd-4th century). In particular a cremation burial was recorded 20m south-east of the proposed development at the junction of Maldon Road and Beaconsfield Avenue. In 1979 a human tibia was recovered from a pipe trench 20m south of the site. In addition to human remains, Roman pits, ditches and a metalled surface, possibly a trackway, were also observed in this trench. A Roman stone-lined well was excavated opposite the Maldon Road garage in 1923, 50m south-west of the site.

Planning Background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in July 2014 (application No.145409) proposing the construction of a single detached garage and cycle storage building.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / UAD as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work is a watching brief / monitor and excavate. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (CBC 2015).

Specifically:

The archaeological work will comprise a watching brief on the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new building. The watching brief is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

Sufficient time shall be allowed for the recording of any complex archaeological deposits including burials/cremations that may be encountered.

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 2008a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Officer / CBCAO (CBC/ECC 2015)

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 CBCAO 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 work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEO and or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer (Don Shimmin, Ben Holloway, Adam Wightman, Mark Baister, AN Other, TBC).

Strip and map / watching brief methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground reduction, footings work, service trench digging, and all related works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction, which 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) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Site surveying

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 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

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

Human remains

Policy depends on the age of the burial. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the licence will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and ECCHEO / CBCAO 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.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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 CBCAO.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAO 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* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAO as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of site in relation to Colchester street grid.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- 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 CBCAO.

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

Archive Deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough 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. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that 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).

By accepting this WSI, 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.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAO.

Monitoring

CBCAO 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 CBCAO one week in advance of its commencement.

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

CBCAO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 8	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by J Price
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 & C Crossan
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CBC	2014	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief): 54 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF.</i> Colchester Borough Council, Planning Dept, December 2014.
CIfA	2008a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief
CIfA	2008b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i> (Colchester & Ipswich Museums)
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i> (Colchester & Ipswich Museums)
David Gurney	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> RRCSAL 20
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

H Brooks



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Fig 1 54 Wellesley Road site location



Centre = 599036 E 224708 N Scale 1/500

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OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-227577

Project details

Project name	54 Wellesley Road Watching Brief: October 2015
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief undertaken in advance of the construction of a single detached garage and cycle storage building at 54 Wellesley Road revealed no archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 20-10-2015 End: 20-10-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM:2015.14 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3066 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	14/12d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	145409 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 54 Wellesley Road
 Postcode CO3 3HF
 Study area 29.05 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 99036 24708 51.884821434906 0.892424281823 51 53 05 N 000 53 32 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer
 Project design originator Chris Lister
 Project director/manager Chris Lister
 Project supervisor Chris Lister
 Type of sponsor/funding body Owner
 Name of sponsor/funding body Mr Derek Wright

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID COLEM:2015.14
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Archive ID COLEM:2015.14
 Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at 54 Wellesley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3HF: October 2015
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.

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Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:lp@catuk.org) for OASIS help and advice

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