

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL

November 2015



by **Laura Pooley**

on behalf of **Michael Roberts**

Planning reference: 152144

CAT project ref.: 15/11c

NGR: TL 9850 2431

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM:2015.112

UAD ref: ECC3568

OASIS reference: colchest3-231239



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CAT Report 898

December 2015

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1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of the construction of a double garage at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester. Despite being located in an area of known Roman cemeteries no archaeological features or finds were revealed.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 26th November 2015. The work was commissioned by Michael Roberts in advance of the erection of a double garage, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper 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 Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2015), 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 watching brief* (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 near to an area of Roman cemeteries. To the north, 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. A number of burials have also been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5; *CAR 8*, 43-9). 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). To the north-east 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). To the east, cemetery sites are known from excavations at Abbey Field (EHER 12384) and on the Garrison Alienated Land (Areas J1, C2, H; CAT Reports 412 and forthcoming). A cremation burial was found less than 80m away on the corner of Maldon and Constantine Roads (EHER 13179) with graves also being found at the south end of Constantine Walk (EHER 11860).

To the east of the site some Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age settlement evidence and sparse Neolithic finds were also uncovered during the Colchester Garrison Project (EHER 46187).

4 Results

Prior to the site visit the concrete foundation for the original timber frame outbuildings had been removed. This exposed an area measuring 11m long, 6m wide and c 0.61m deep from ground level. Natural orange sand was exposed at this depth but no archaeological features or finds were identified. Seen in section, the concrete foundation had originally been dug through 0.07m of topsoil (L1) sealing 0.54m of subsoil (L2), which sealed natural sand (L3). The footings for the new garage were then dug through the exposed natural. They were 0.60m wide and were dug around the 11m by 6m area. From ground level the footings measured 1.61m deep.

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were present.

6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological significance no features or finds were identified. If archaeological features existed on the site then they had been removed when the concrete foundation for the old timber frame outbuildings was originally laid.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Michael Roberts for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by E Sanford. Site plans were prepared by C Lister. The project was monitored for 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 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL</i>
CBCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs</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	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (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 898)

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: 2015.112

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Distribution list

Michael Roberts

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

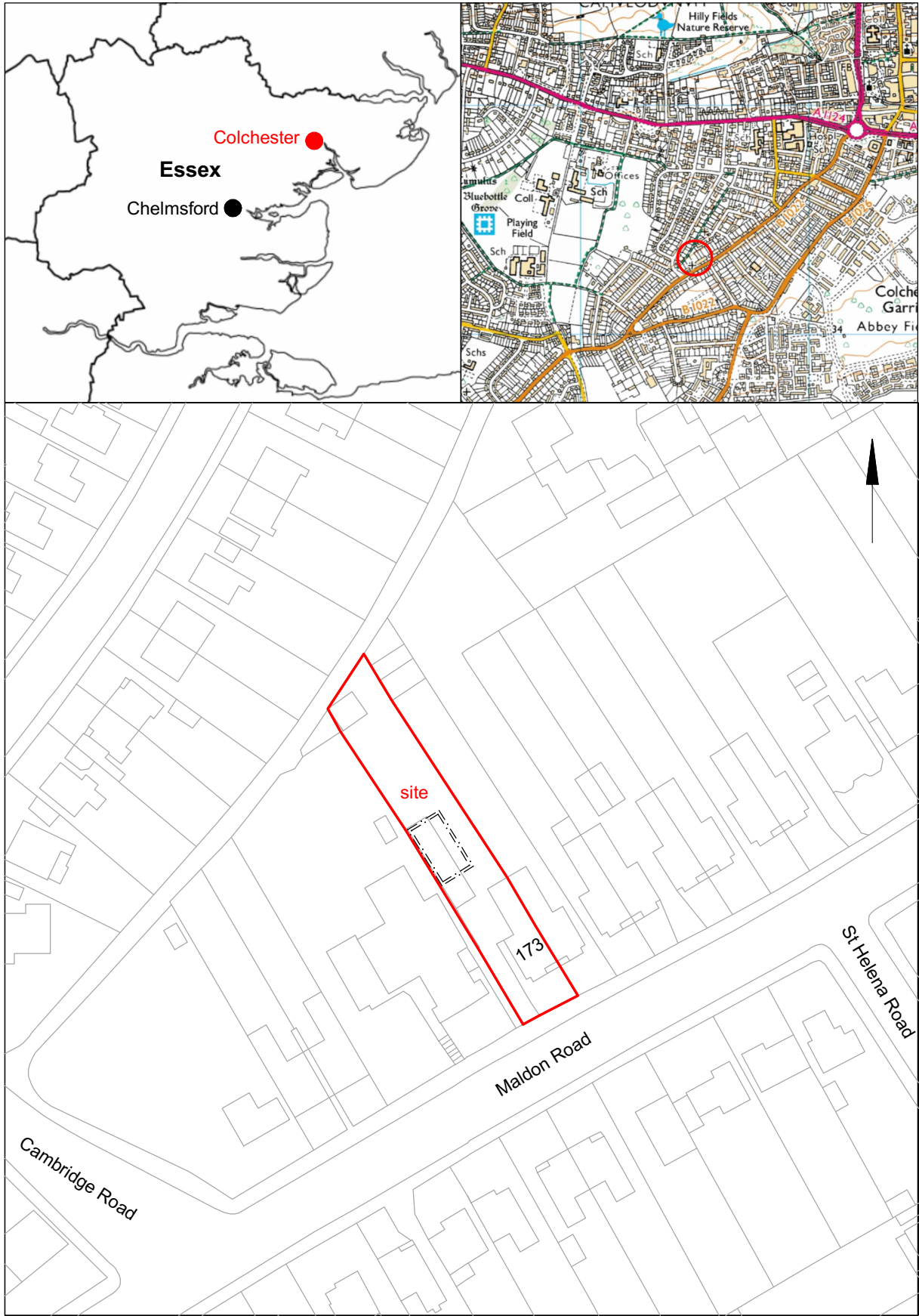
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email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 4.12.2015



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

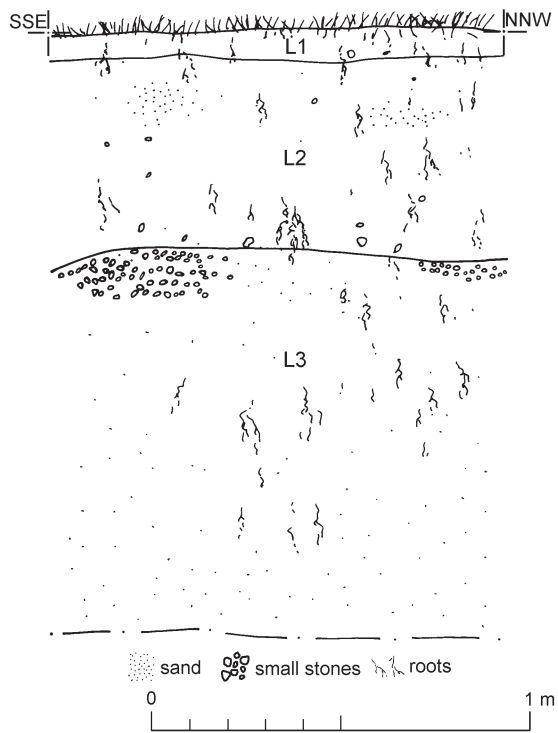


Fig 2 Representative trench section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 173 Maldon Road, Colchester	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9850 2431	Site code: CAT project ref.: 15/11c UAD ref: ECC3568 OASIS ref: colchest3-231239
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 26th November 2015	Size of area investigated: 11m x 6m (66m ²)
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2015.1112	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 12384, EHER 13179, EHER 11860
Final report: CAT Report 898	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of the construction of a double garage at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester. Despite being located in an area of known Roman cemeteries no archaeological features or finds were revealed.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: December 2015

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL

NGR: TL 9850 2431 (centre)

Planning reference: 152144

Client: Michael Roberts

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

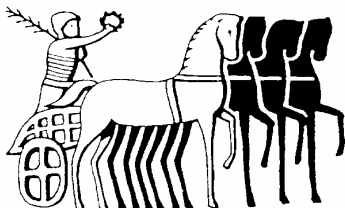
CAT Project code: 15/11c

OASIS project number: colchest3-[tbc](#)

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 11-11-2015



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
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Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies immediately approximately 1 mile to the southeast of Colchester's walled town centre, between the junctions of St Helena Road and Cambridge Road (Fig 1). Site centre is TL 9850 2431.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a double garage (following demolition of the existing timber frame outbuildings), c.11 x 6m in area, to the side of the property.

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 near to an area of Roman cemeteries. To the north, 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. A number of burials have also been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5; *CAR 8*, 43-9). 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). To the north-east 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). To the east cemetery sites are known from excavations at Abbey Field (EHER 12384) and on the Garrison Alienated Land (Areas J1, C2, H; CAT Reports 412 and forthcoming). A cremation burial was found less than 80m away on the corner of Maldon and Constantine Roads (EHER 13179) with graves also being found at the south end of Constantine Walk (EHER 11860).

To the east of the site some Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age settlement evidence and sparse Neolithic finds were also uncovered during the Colchester Garrison Project (EHER 46187).

Planning Background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2015 (application No.152144) proposing the erection of a double garage following demolition of an existing timber frame outbuilding.

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 the 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 continuous watching brief. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (CBC 2015).

Specifically:

The archaeological work will comprise a continuous watching brief on all groundworks. The watching brief is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

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* (ClfA 2014a, 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 the CBCAO (CBC 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 the curating museum. 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 (Ben Holloway).

Watching brief methodology

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

All topsoil removal and ground reduction 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 pro-forma 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

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; 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 license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and 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, the 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

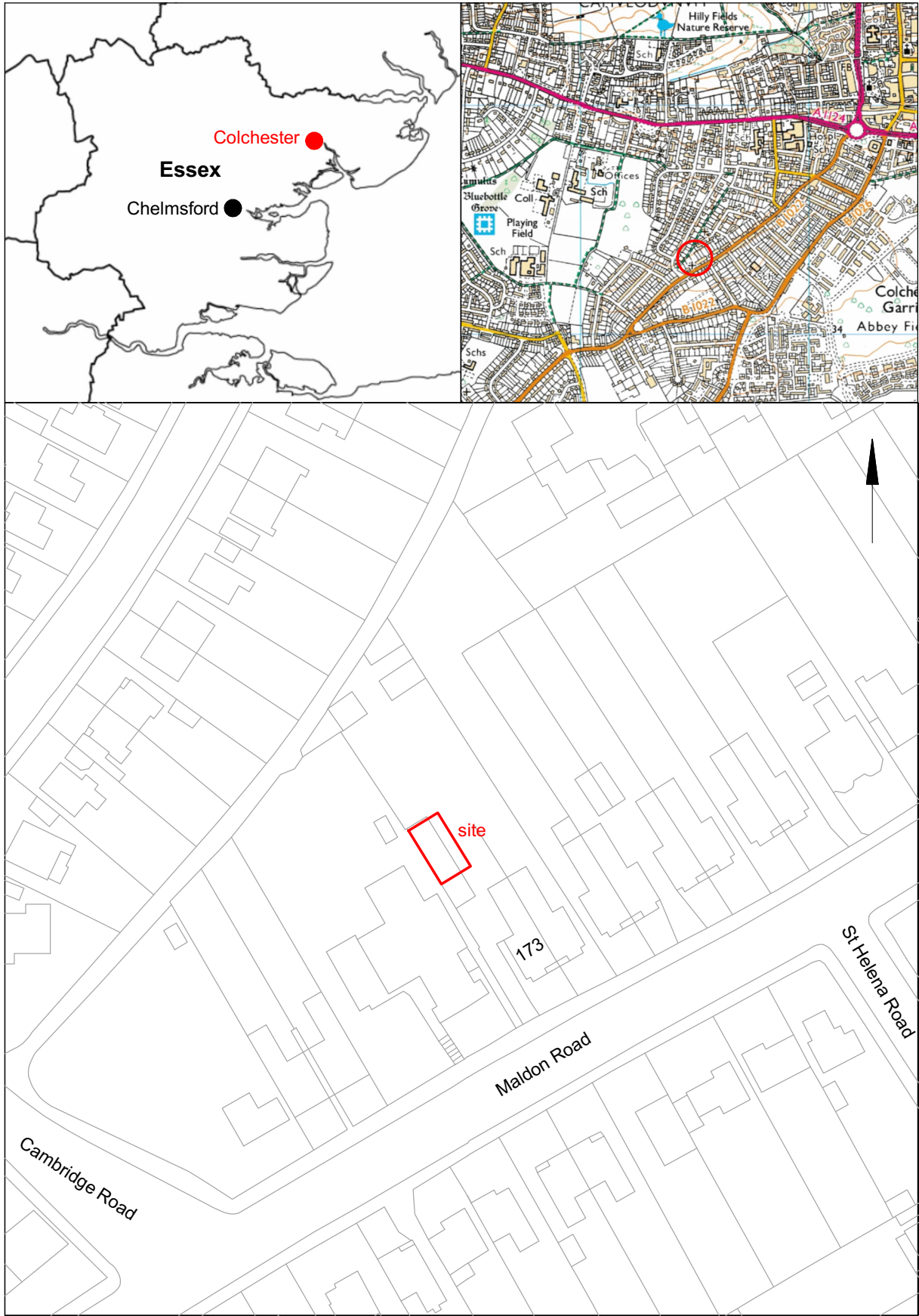
Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 412	2011	<i>Archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.</i>
CAT	forthcoming	<i>Archaeological excavations on Area H of the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex.</i>
CBC	2015	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, CO3 3BL: October 2015</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

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Fig 1 Site location.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-231239

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of the construction of a double garage at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester. Despite being located in an area of known Roman cemeteries no archaeological features or finds were revealed.
Project dates	Start: 26-11-2015 End: 26-11-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	15/11c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	152144 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3568 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM:2015.112 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
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 173 Maldon Road
Postcode	CO3 3BL
Study area	66 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9850 2431 51.881439215713 0.884416742336 51 52 53 N 000 53 03 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mike Roberts

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM:2015.112
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2015.112
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL: November 2015

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