

Archaeological evaluation at 6 Bramley Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RU

April 2016



by **Laura Pooley**

figures by Mark Baister and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Alec Wade

on behalf of Vivienne Short

NGR: TL 9751 2535 (centre)

Planning reference: 160356

CAT project ref.: 16/04c

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.38

UAD ref: ECC3744

OASIS reference: colchest3-247835



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CAT Report 940

April 2016

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Fig 1 Site location

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the garden of 6 Bramley Close, Colchester in advance of the construction of a 'granny' annexe. Despite being located within the area of the Lexden Roman cemetery, no significant archaeological horizons were identified and only one natural feature was recorded.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out in the garden of 6 Bramley Close, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 18th April 2016. The work was commissioned by Vivienne Short in advance of the construction of a detached 'granny' annexe with associated works, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), 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 Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016).

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 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).

Bramley Close is in an area of known archaeological importance, namely within the Lexden cemetery (EHER 11713, 11714), an area of Iron Age and Roman burials on both sides of Lexden Road. This is part of the Iron Age territorial *oppidum* and Romano-British town of Camulodunum. The proposed development site is to the north of the nationally important Lexden Tumulus, a Late Iron Age burial mound at St Clare Road (Scheduled Monument 1019967). Lexden Tumulus is an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of the metalwork of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound is thought to be that of Addedomarus, and it is part of an extensive cemetery which coincides with much of present-day St Clare Road.

To the west of the development site is Moat Farm Dyke, a continuation of the Lexden Dyke (Scheduled Monument 1019966), part of the defensive system of dykes and ditches that surrounded the Iron Age *oppidum*.

Evidence for Bronze Age activity was discovered to the east of the development site in 1937, when a bronze palstave and an amber bead were found during the removal of hedgerows (EHER 11805). These are considered to derive from a Bronze Age funerary feature.

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

A single trial-trench was machine dug, under archaeological supervision, across the footprint of the proposed annexe. It measured 10m long by 1.8m wide (18m²), and was dug to a depth of 550mm below current ground level.

Three layers were identified within the trench. Modern topsoil (L1, c 290mm thick) sealed an accumulation horizon (L2, c 210mm thick), which sealed natural sand (L3).

A single natural tree-throw (F1) was recorded at the west end of the trench but no significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 1 Trench shot, looking W

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were identified during the evaluation.

6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological importance, no significant archaeological horizons were identified during the evaluation. Only one feature was recorded, a natural tree-throw.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Vivienne Short for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway and A Wade. Figures were prepared by M Baister and E Holloway. 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>

CBC	2016	<i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 6 Bramley Close, Colchester, CO3 3RU</i> , by J Tipper
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
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)

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
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
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 940)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

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

Site digital photos and log, 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: COLEM 2016.38.

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Distribution list

Vivienne Short

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

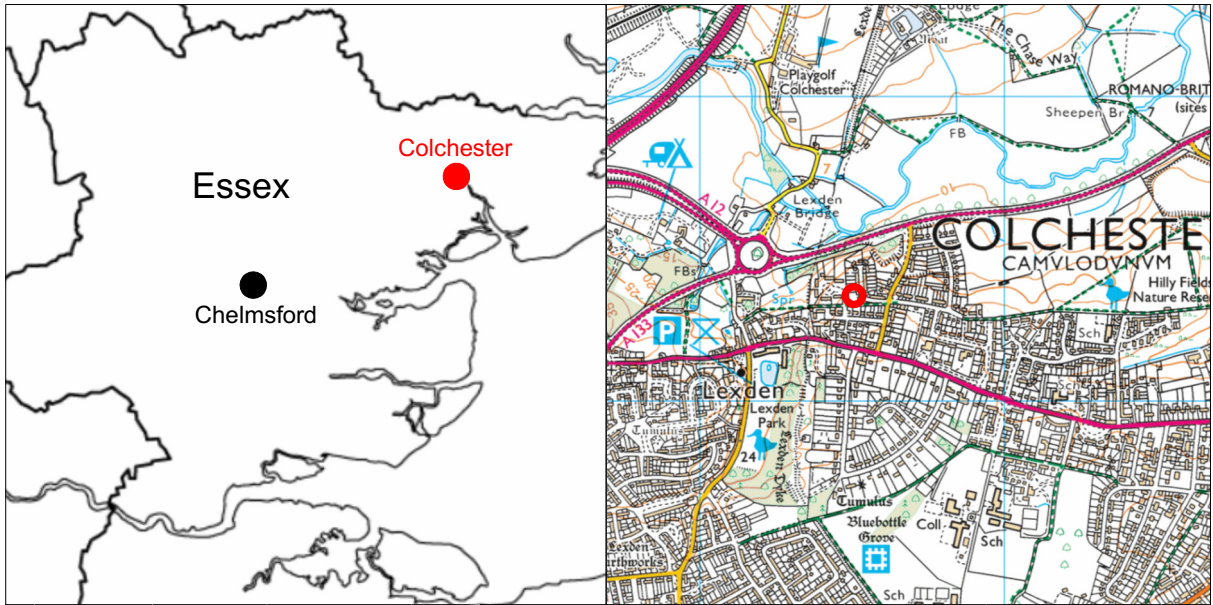
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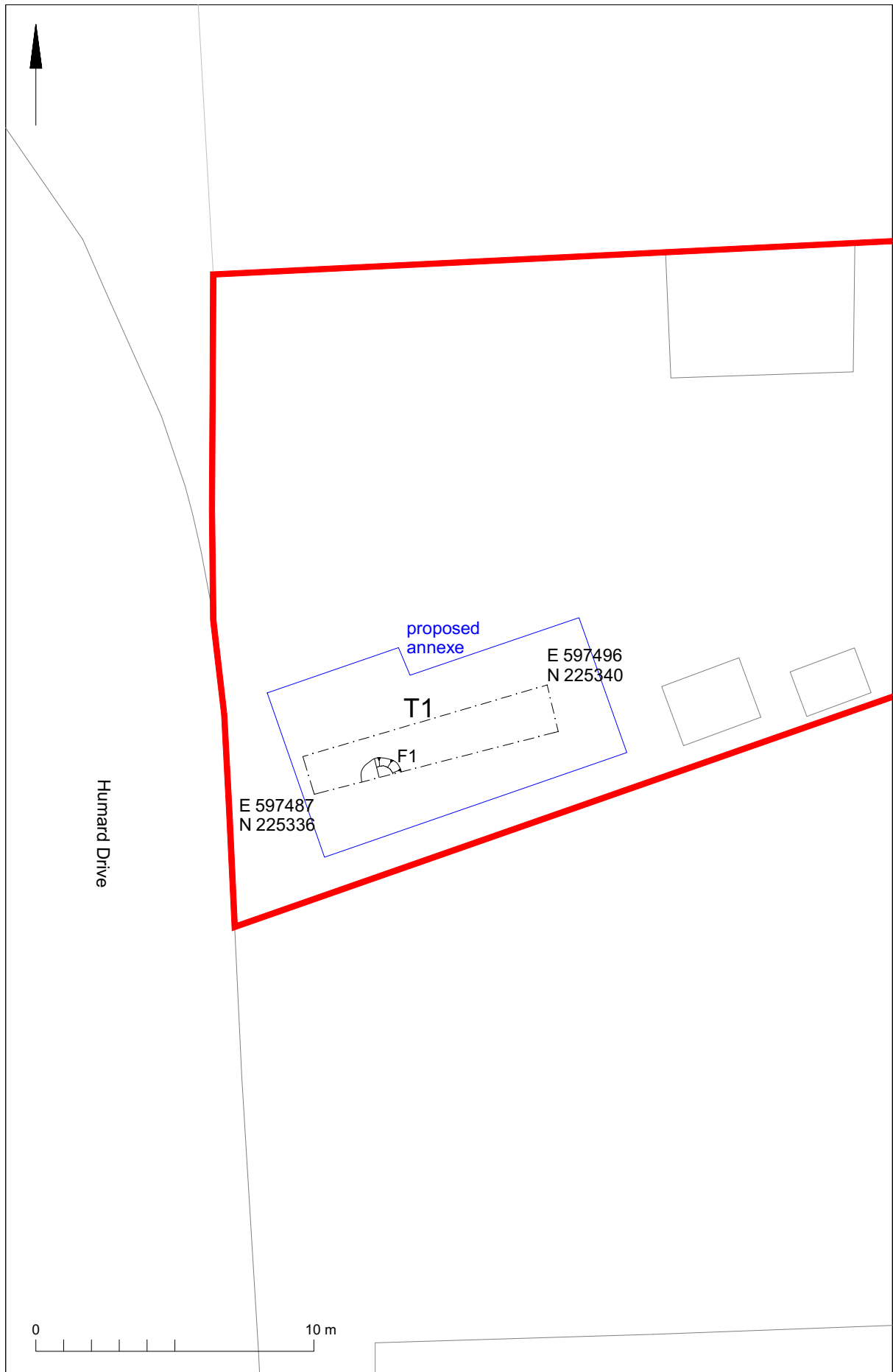
Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 20.04.2016



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Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

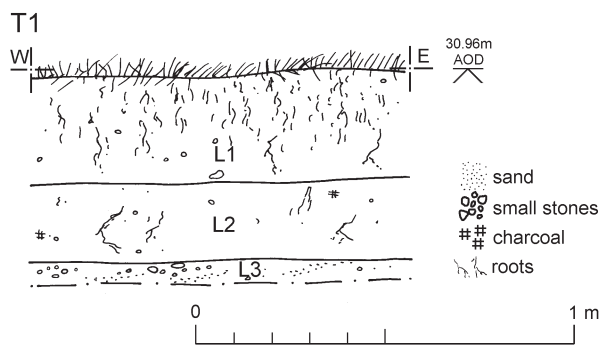
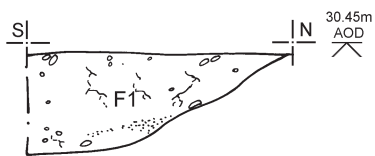


Fig 3 Feature (F1) and representative trench section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 6 Bramley Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RU	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9751 2535 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/04c UAD ref: ECC3744 OASIS ref: colchest3-247835
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 18th April 2016	Size of area investigated: One trench 10m long by 1.8m wide
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.38	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 11713-4, 11805
Final report: CAT Report 940	
Periods represented: -	
SS	Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the garden of 8 Bramley Close, Colchester in advance of the construction of a 'granny' annexe. Despite being located within the area of the Lexden Roman cemetery, no significant archaeological horizons were identified. Only one feature, an undated pit, was recorded.</i>
	Previous summaries/reports: None
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: April 2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at 6 Bramley Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RU

NGR: TL 9751 2535 (centre)

Planning reference: 160356

Client: Vivienne Short

Agent: Mike Bowler

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: TBC

UAD Event number: TBC

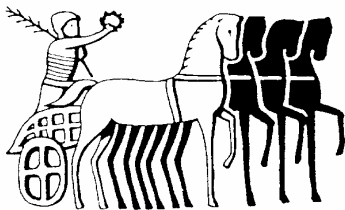
CAT Project code: 16/04c

OASIS Project id: colchest3-247835

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 8.4.2016



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Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies on the west side of Bramley Close, Colchester, approximately 1.7km from the Roman walled town. The site is currently a house and garden set back from the road. The site is centred on NGR TL 9751 2535.

Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the erection of a detached 'Granny annexe' and associated works.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

Bramley Close is in an area of known archaeological importance, namely within the Lexden cemetery (EHER 11713, 11714), an area of Iron Age and Roman cemeteries on both sides of Lexden Road. This is part of the Iron Age territorial *oppidum* and Romano-British town of Camulodunum. To the west of the development site is Moat Farm Dyke, a continuation of the Lexden Dyke (Scheduled Monument 1019966), part of the defensive system of dykes and ditches that surrounded the Iron Age *oppidum*.

There is therefore Potential for encountering Roman burial deposits and other earlier occupation remains.

Planning Background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2016 (application No. 160356) proposing the construction of a 'Granny Annexe'.

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 Advisor (CBCAA). 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 for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically, a trial-trench 10m long by 1.8m wide will be excavated within the area of the proposed 'Granny Annexe'.

The trial-trench will:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

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-c)
- 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 CBCAA (CBC 2016)

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 CBCAA 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.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and 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 supervisor and one site assistant for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

Evaluation methodology

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 the site, 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.

Samples will be taken if palaeo-environmental and/or geoarchaeological remains are encountered (ie waterlogged deposits).

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 CBCAA 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 CBCAA.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA 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 CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- 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 CBCAA.

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 CBCAA.

Monitoring

CBCAA 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 CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out. CBCAO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

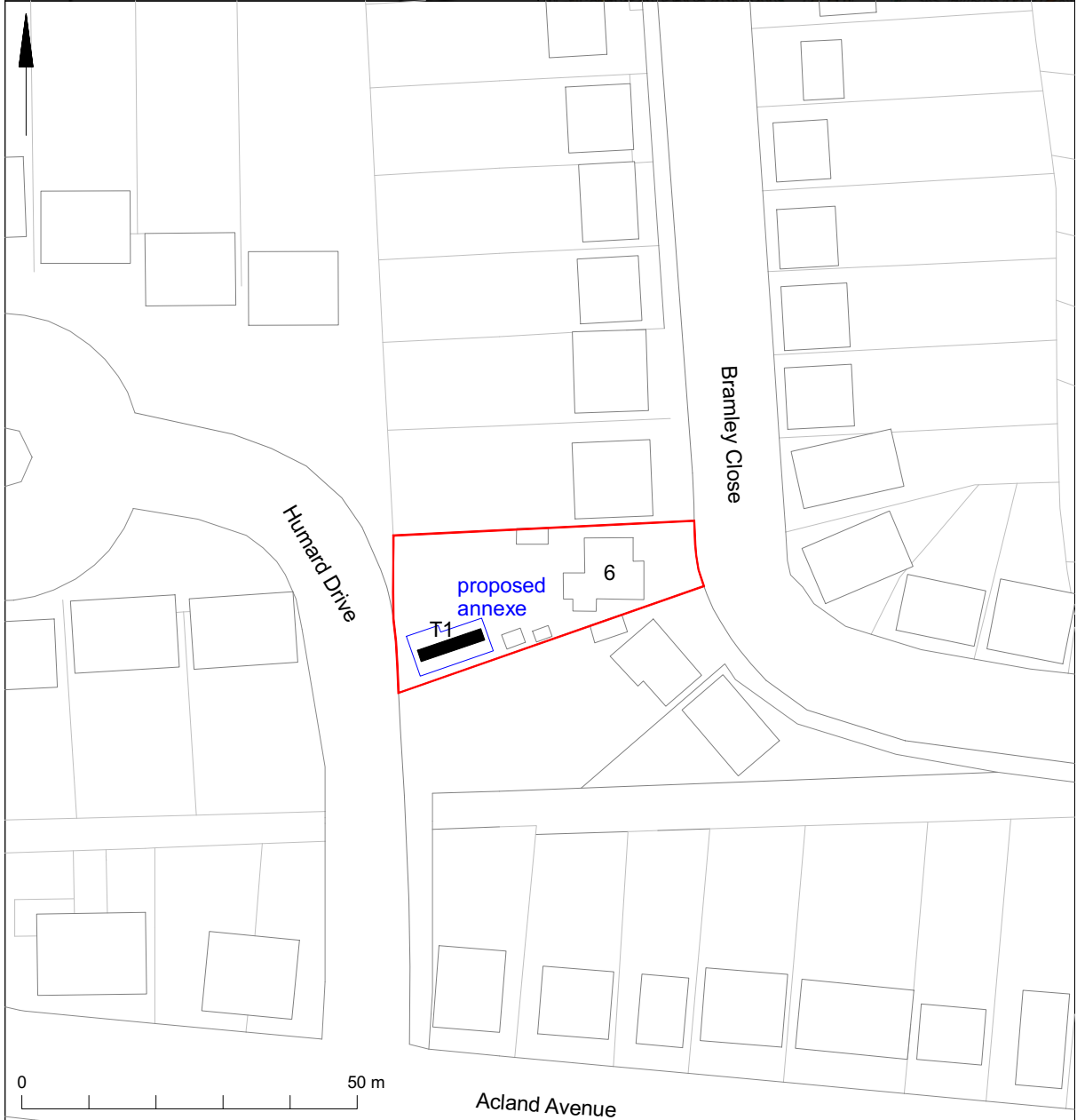
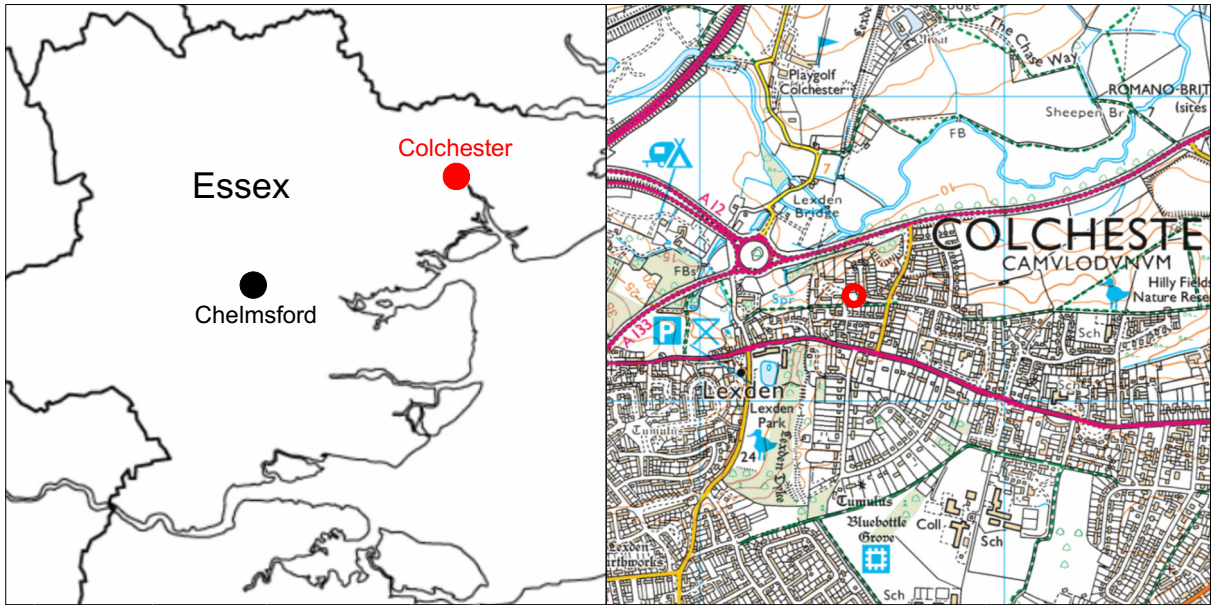
- CBC 2016 *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 6 Bramley Close, Colchester, CO3 3RU*, by J Tipper
- CAR 6 1992 *Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85*, Colchester Archaeological Report, **6**
- CAR 11 1995 *Camulodunum II*, Colchester Archaeological Report, **11**
- CAT 2014 *Health & Safety Policy*
- ClfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation*
- ClfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*
- ClfA 2014c *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
- CM 2008 *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester*
- CM 2008 *Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums*
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
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- Niblett, R 1985 *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum*, CBA Research Report, 57
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Fig 1 Site location.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: colchest3-247835

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at 6 Bramley Close, Colchester, Essex CO3 3RU
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the garden of 6 Bramley Close, Colchester in advance of the construction of a 'granny' annexe. Despite being located within the area of the Lexden Roman cemetery, no significant archaeological horizons were identified and only one natural feature was recorded.
Project dates	Start: 18-04-2016 End: 18-04-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/04c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	160356 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.38 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3744 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	TREE-THROW Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 6 Bramley Close, Colchester
Postcode	CO3 3RU
Study area	18 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9751 2535 51.891132180581 0.870645926909 51 53 28 N 000 52 14 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30.46m Max: 30.46m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Ben Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Vivienne Short

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2016.38
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2016.38
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at 6 Bramley Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RU: April 2016
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 940

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