

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RS

June 2016



by **Laura Pooley**

figures by Robin Mathieson, Mark Baister and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Robin Mathieson and Max Chittenden

on behalf of Mark Fage, Mark Gentle Builders

NGR: TL 9747 2525 (centre)

Planning reference: 160693

CAT project ref.: 16/05g

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.50

UAD ref: ECC3760

OASIS reference: colchest3-251624



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 968

June 2016

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1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester in advance of the construction of a two-storey rear extension. Despite being located close to a number of Roman cemeteries no significant archaeological horizons were identified, although a number of residual Roman pottery sherds from the subsoil (L2) do indicate Roman activity in the area.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 6th June 2016. The work was commissioned by Mark Fage (Mark Gentle Builders) in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension, 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 Continuous Archaeological Recording (a watching brief)*, 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 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).

Acland Avenue 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. 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 about 150m NE 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)

All groundworks were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision. Ground level rose away from the house, so the area of the new extension (8m x 4.4m) was stripped of approximately 500-700mm of topsoil/subsoil and then the foundation trenches were excavated. The trenches measured 10m long in total, by 0.5m wide and 1m deep.

Four layers were identified. Away from the house, modern topsoil (L1, c 310mm thick) sealed a layer of subsoil (L2, c 460mm) which sealed natural sands (L3, identified at a depth of 770mm below current ground level). Nearest the house, modern concrete (L4, 90mm thick) sealed subsoil (L2, c 250mm thick), which sealed natural (L3). No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 1 Extension stripped of topsoil/subsoil and foundation trenches dug, looking E

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from Layer 2 (L2) and this is described below. The Roman pottery fabrics referred to follow the Colchester Roman fabric type series (*CAR 10*) with the addition of the fabric Black surface wares (Fabric BSW). The vessel forms refer to the Colchester (*Camulodunum*) Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958).

In total there are eleven pottery sherds. The nature of the pieces and the fabrics suggest that these come from two or three pots. Seven sherds are probably all from one jar that has a broad shoulder cordon decorated with a burnished lattice pattern and with a burnished neck above this. The relatively upright nature of the shoulder and the

relatively flat cordon could indicate the jar form Cam 219, although the neck burnishing above this could indicate the closely related form Cam 218. The fabric is partly oxidised but is clearly classifiable as a local greyware (Fabric GX) of Roman (post-conquest) date. Given this (although both these forms originate in the Late Iron Age period) the pot can be dated to the period of the mid 1st-late 1st/early 2nd century. With this are two joining sherds from a jar with a protruding foot in a black surfaced (fumed) fabric (Fabric BSW) of post-conquest (Roman) date, probably also dating to the Early Roman period (c mid 1st-early 2nd century) or slightly later. Two other sherds (not joining) are probably from the same pot. Overall the relatively large size of almost all of the sherds (average sherd weight 32 g), with some joining pieces and light abrasion, suggests that they have not been much disturbed since close to the time of breakage – at some point in or after the Early-Mid Roman period. This suggests either that the soil here has seen relatively limited disturbance since the time they were deposited/broken, or that the sherds have been disturbed from a Roman context in the relatively recent past.

6 Discussion

Despite being located close to several Roman cemetery areas no significant archaeological horizons were identified, although fragments of residual Roman pottery from L2 do indicate Roman activity in the area.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mark Fage (Mark Gentle Builders) for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by R Mathieson and M Chittenden. Figures were prepared by RM, 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>

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds and S Wade
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RS</i>
CBC	2015	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester, CO3 3RS</i> , by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Crummy, P	2001	<i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester - Britain's first Roman town</i>
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>
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)
Hawkes, C.F.C., and Hull, M.R.	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , RRCSAL, 14
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, 20

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
ClfA	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: small bag

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 968)

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: COLEM 2016.50.

Distribution list

Mark Fage, Mark Gentle Builders
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

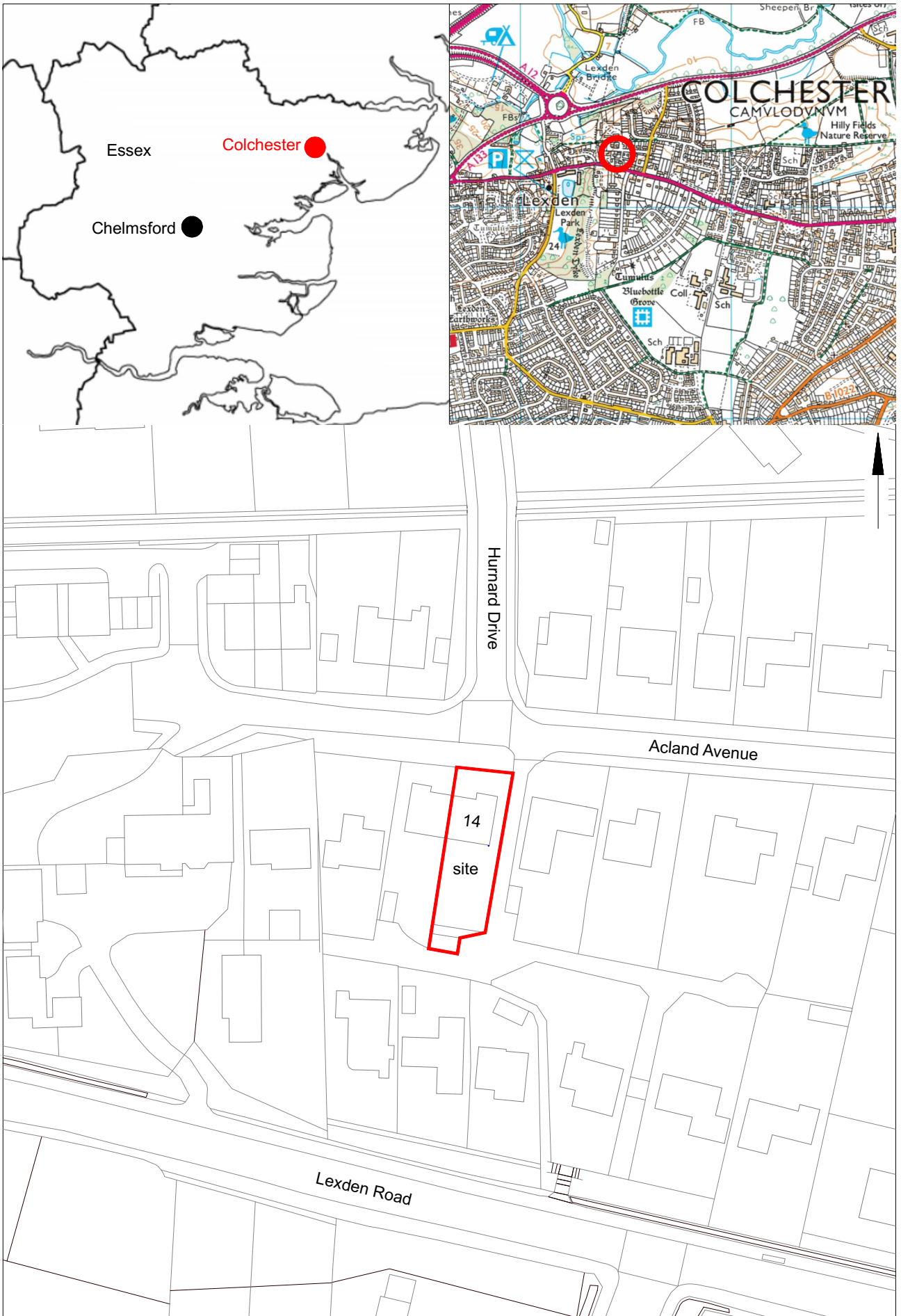
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 21.06.2016



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Fig 1 Site location.

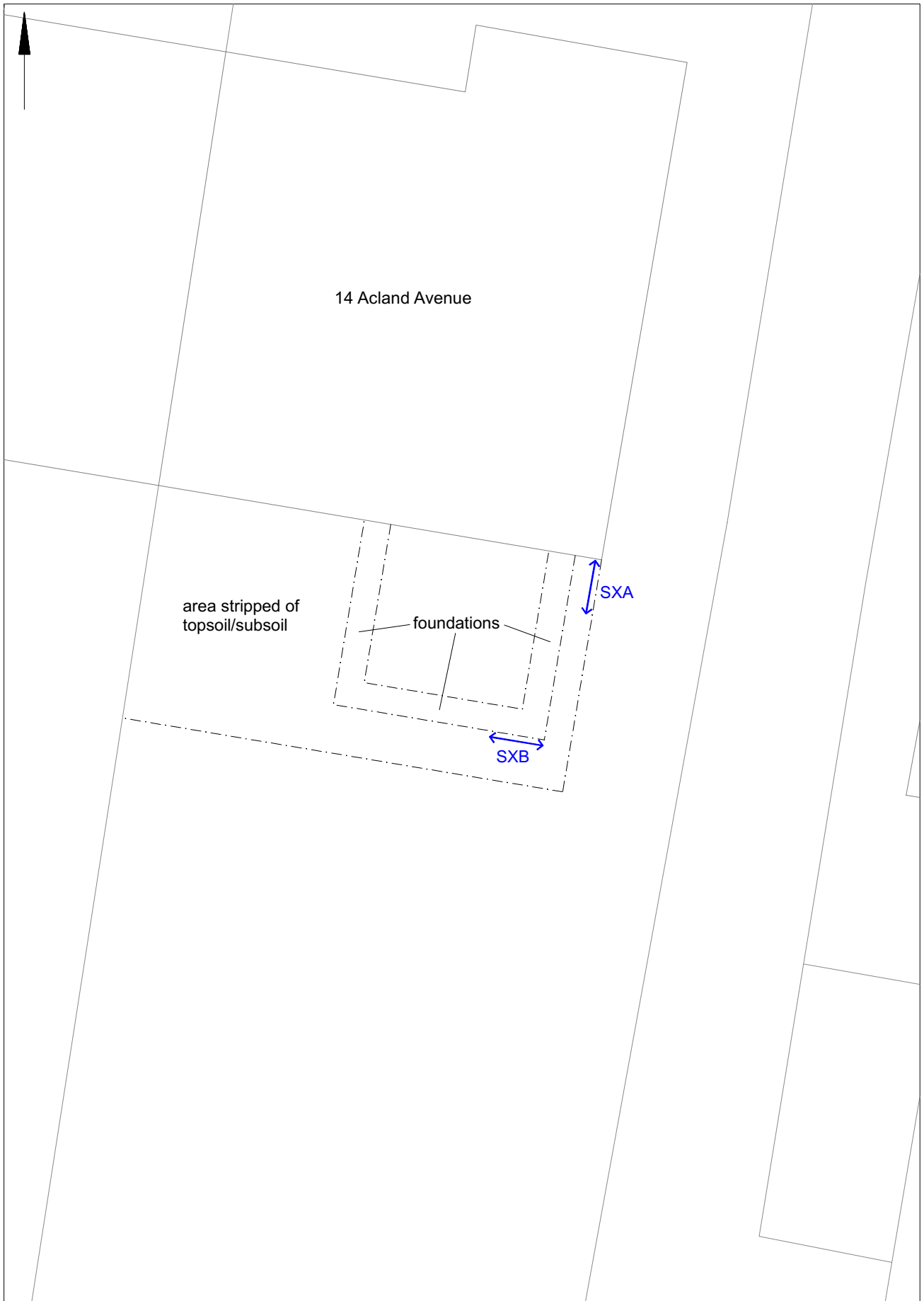


Fig 2 Results, with drawn sections labelled.

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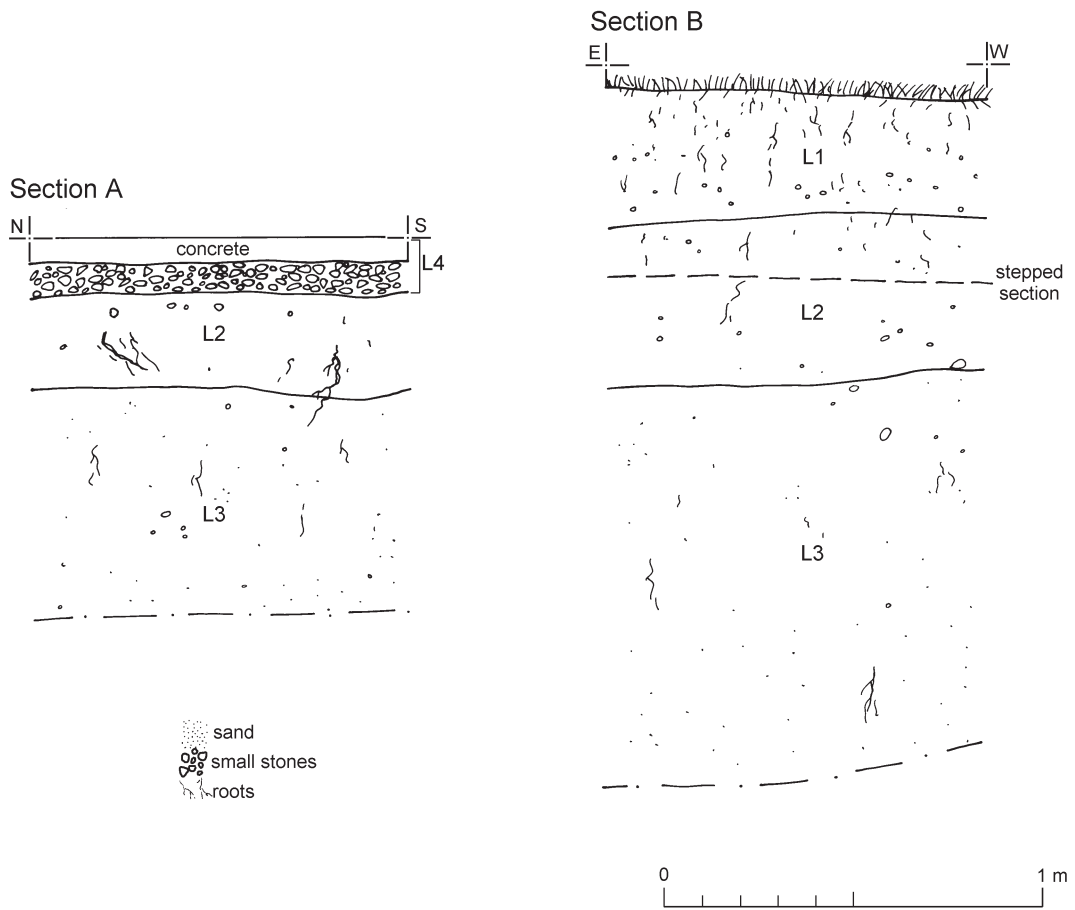


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RS	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9747 2525 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/05g UAD ref: ECC3760 OASIS ref: colchest3-251624
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 6th June 2016	Size of area investigated: 35.2m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.50	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 11713-4, 11805
Final report: CAT Report 968	
Periods represented: modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester in advance of the construction of a two-storey rear extension. Despite being located close to a number of Roman cemeteries no significant archaeological horizons were identified, although a number of residual Roman pottery sherds from the subsoil (L2) do indicate Roman activity in the area.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: June 2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RS

NGR: TL 9747 2525 (centre)

Planning reference: 160693

Client: Mark Fage, Mark Gentle Builders

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

ECC Project code: ECC3760

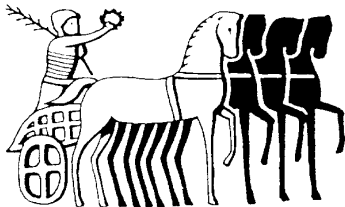
CAT Project code: 16/05g

OASIS ref.: colchest3-251624

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 16.05.2016



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, C02 7GZ
tel: 01206 501785
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Site location and description

The development site lies approximately 1.5 miles east of Colchester town centre at 14 Acland Avenue (Fig 1). Site centre is TL 9747 2525 (centre).

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a single storey rear extension.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background derives from the CBCAA brief with data from the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

Acland Avenue 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. 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 about 150m NE 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.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2016 (application No.160693) proposing the erection of a single storey rear extension.

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 continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording 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)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Briefs issued by the CBCAA (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 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.

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 for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring 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 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): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

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:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- 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. CBCAA 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

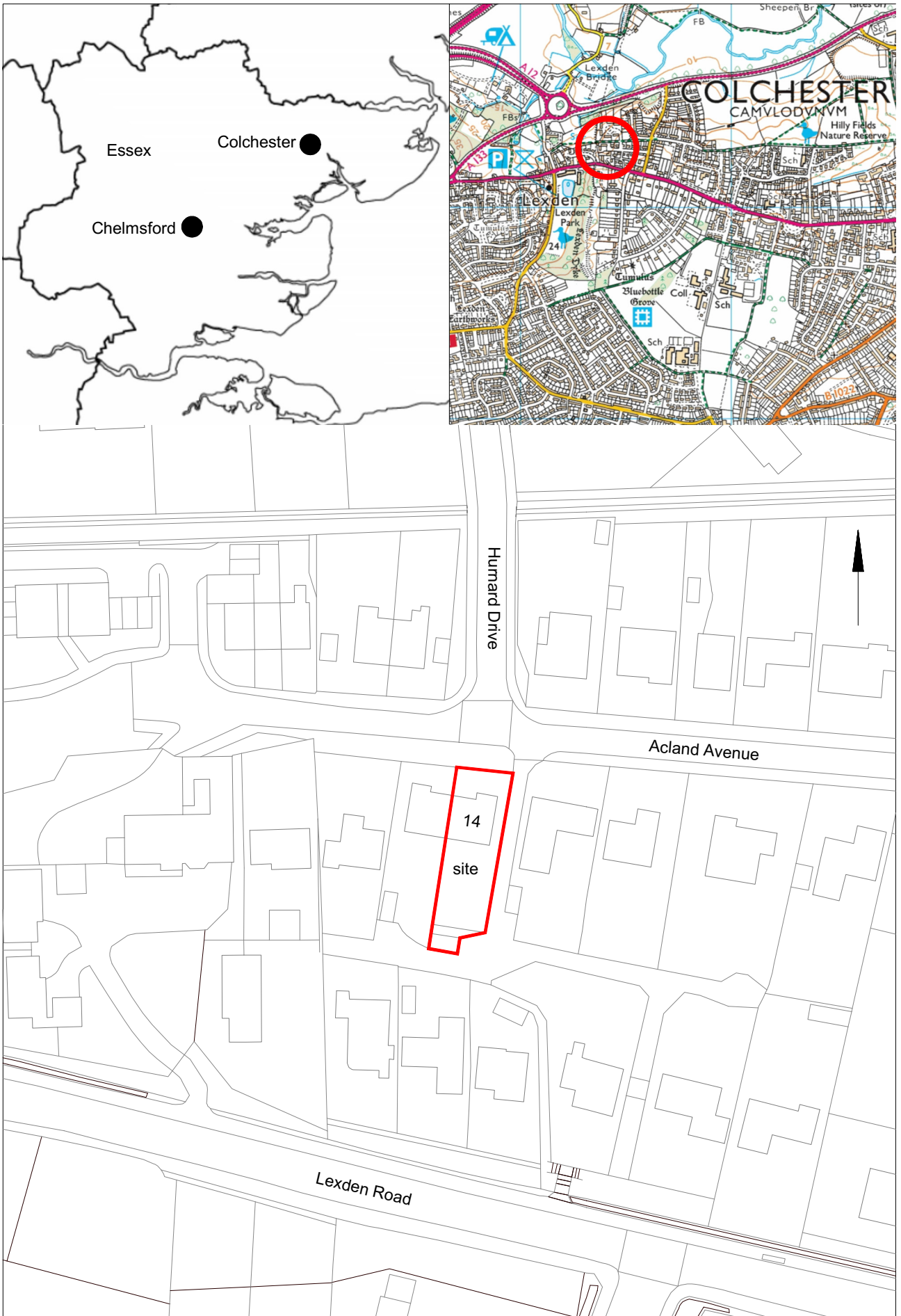
- | | | |
|------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, D | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CBC | 2016 | <i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester, CO3 3RS, by Jess Tipper</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> |
| 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> |

L Pooley



Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester
Essex
C02 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org



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0 100 m

Fig 1 Site location.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-251624

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RS
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester in advance of the construction of a two-storey rear extension. Despite being located close to a number of Roman cemeteries no significant archaeological horizons were identified, although a number of residual Roman pottery sherds from the subsoil (L2) do indicate Roman activity in the area.
Project dates	Start: 06-06-2016 End: 06-06-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/05g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	160693 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3760 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.50 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 14 Acland Avenue
Postcode	CO3 3RS
Study area	35.2 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9747 2525 51.890248364836 0.870008091985 51 53 24 N 000 52 12 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 Robin Mathieson

Type of sponsor/funding body Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2016.50

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.50

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.50

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at 14 Acland Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RS: June 2016

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