

# Archaeological excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ

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**Commissioned by Ian Mosley  
on behalf of Mr C Tripp**

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## 1 Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out in the garden of 19 St Clare Road in advance of the construction of a new dwelling, garage and access. The development site is located close to Lexden Tumulus (Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1019967) and on the northern edge of the 'Lexden cemetery'. Two Late Iron Age to early Roman ditches and two early Roman ditches were excavated, revealing an area of agricultural or settlement activity. Other features included a modern pit, two undated pits and three tree-throws.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation in the garden of 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out between 13th-15th July 2016. The work was commissioned by Ian Mosley, on behalf of Mr C Tripp, in advance of the construction of a detached dwelling, garage and access, 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 Archaeological Excavation*, 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 excavation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) (previously known as the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD)) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, one of the defensive earthworks of which is the Lexden Dyke (120m west of Clare Road) (CAR 11, 29-33). It is also situated within the Lexden cemetery area (CAR 6, 281; CAR 11, 164-169). The core of the cemetery, measuring around 75m across with at least 27 cremation burials, is of a Late Iron Age date (*ibid*). Later Roman burials, 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD, were then more widely scattered throughout the cemetery area (*ibid*). Outlying burials of the cemetery have been found elsewhere on St Clare Road (CAR 11, 164-9).

Approximately 150m to the south lies the Lexden Tumulus, an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains 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 (a cremation) to just before the Roman

conquest. The burial mound has variably thought to be that of *Addedomarus* (CAR 11, 85-94, Foster 1986) or *Tasciovanus* (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

CAT has undertaken a number of other fieldwork projects in St Clare Road in recent years, most of them revealed no significant archaeological horizons (CAT Report 99, 136, 195, 225, 250, 455, 568). However, two Roman urned cremation burials were identified during a watching brief at 12 St Clare Road (CAT Report 582). Excavation at 20 St Clare Road revealed a post-medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval/modern pits (CAT Report 832), and a watching brief at 1 St Clare Road earlier this year revealed two early Roman pits, a post-medieval pit and a modern pit (CAT Report 959). CAT has just finished excavations at 'High Trees', St Clare Drive (off St Clare Road). Pits and ditches dating to the Roman period have been identified (CAT Report 1008).

An evaluation on the development site in May 2016 (CAT Report 958) revealed four Roman features, three of which contained pottery dating from the Roman period (late 1st to the mid 2nd/2nd century). Two ditches were defined, one aligned N to S (F1) and another aligned NW to SE (F4), and a pit F3. Small quantities of Roman pottery, imported lava quernstone and ceramic building material were recovered. One grave-shaped feature F5, aligned NW to SE, containing a small fragment of degraded bone may possibly represent the remains of a Roman inhumation burial within the Lexden cemetery area. These features were identified at between 35.04-35.30m AOD (approximately 530-600mm below current ground level).

#### **4 Results** (Figs 2-3)

The footprint of the new dwelling and garage were mechanically stripped under archaeological supervision. This covered an area of approximately 152.8m<sup>2</sup> (dwelling) and 22.5m<sup>2</sup> (garage).

Three layers were identified. Modern topsoil (L1, c 150-200mm thick) sealed accumulated subsoil (L2, c 250-300mm thick), which sealed natural sands and gravels (L3, identified at a depth of approximately 400-500mm bcgl).

The ditches (F1 and F4), pit (F3) and possible inhumation burial (F5) excavated during the evaluation (see CAT Report 958) were exposed again within the excavation area. Ditch F1 continued to the south of the excavation area and ditch F4 to the southeast where it joined F1.

In addition to the evaluation features, another two Roman ditches (F6 and F11), a modern pit, two undated pits, and three tree-throws were excavated. Ditch F6, aligned northwest to southeast, was U-shaped and measured 2.8m wide and 0.38m deep. Ditch F11, at a right-angle to F6, was aligned northeast to southwest. It measured over 2.3m wide and was a shallow 0.21m deep. Ditch F11 was cut by two modern tree-throws (both numbered F12) and ditch F6 by a modern pit (F9). A third tree-throw (F8) was identified inside the corner of the two ditches and contained a single fragment of Roman pottery in the upper fill. Two undated pits were excavated to the west (F10) and east (F7) of ditch F6.



**Photograph 1** Ditch F6, looking southeast



**Photograph 2** Ditch F11, looking southwest



**Photograph 3** General shot of strip within footprint of new dwelling, looking west

## 5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

### Introduction and finds listing

Small quantities of finds, primarily pottery and salt briquetage pieces dating to the Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman period, were recovered from six features (F1, F4, F6, F8, F9 & F11). A few small pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) of probable post-medieval or modern date were also recovered from F9. The Roman pottery fabrics recorded refer to *CAR 10* and the Essex Roman pottery fabric series (Going 1987). The pottery fabrics are listed in Table 1. The Roman pottery forms to the *Camulodunum* (Colchester) type-series (Hawkes & Hull 1947 & Hull 1958). All of the finds are listed and described in Table 2 where a spot date for the finds by context is also provided.

Fabric code	Fabric name
<i>Prehistoric:</i>	
HMFS	Hand-made flint and sand-tempered (sherds individually described)
<i>LIA &amp; Roman:</i>	
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares
GTW	Grog-tempered ware (LIA-type)
GTW/RW	Grog-tempered ware/Romanising ware
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares
HZ	Large storage vessels in heavily-tempered coarseware fabrics
ESH	Early shell-tempered ware
RCW	Romanising coarsewares
UR	<i>Terra nigra</i> -type wares

**Table 1** Pottery fabrics

Ctxt	Find no	Form/ description	spot date
F1	21	<b>Roman pottery:</b> Fabric GX (1, 2g) very abraded sandy sherd	<b>Roman/ E</b>

Ctxt	Find no	Form/ description	spot date
(sx2)		with double groove, appears to be Roman rather than earlier (dated Rom/E Rom)	Roman?
F4 (sx2)	19	<b>LIA-Roman pottery:</b> (VSQ) Fabric GTW/RW (2, 14g) one sherd possibly large storage jar, slightly abraded (dated E-M1C); Fabric GX (1, 14 g) sandy, dark greyware, slightly abraded (dated Rom)	Roman/ E Roman?
F6	11	<b>LIA-Roman pottery:</b> (SQ) Fabric UR (1, 26g) platter base (abraded) (dated E-M1C); Fabric GTW/RW (2, 14g) (dated E-M/L1C); Fabric GTW (1, 36g) combed surface large storage jar (dated E-M1C); Fabric ESH (1, 2 g) (dated 1C AD). <b>Roman glass:</b> (1, 2g) Blue-green glass, moderately thick, curving, from a bottle/flask (dated Rom, M1-2C?). <b>Roman CBM:</b> (1, 348g) Roman tegula (RT) tile, base 22 mm thick, (dated Rom). <b>LIA-Roman briquetage:</b> (4, 26g) fine sand/silt orange-red fabric with some vegetable temper, small parts of flat slab pieces presumably from vessels (dated LIA-E Rom).	Early Roman-Claudio-Neronian/Early Flavian(?)
F8	12	<b>Roman pottery:</b> Fabric GX (1, 12g) rim sherd from a Cam 243-244/246 bowl (dated M1-E2C)	Early Roman (M1-E2C)
F9	14	<b>Roman pottery:</b> Fabric HZ (1, 14g) abraded (dated M1-2/3C). <b>CBM:</b> (2, 18g) red fabric, small, irregular, angular hard lumps, friable sandy-feel, one with flat, tile/brick-like surface (dated probably post-Rom – post-med/mod?)	Roman with probably post-medieval/modern
F11	16	<b>LIA-Roman pottery:</b> (SQ) Fabric UR (1, 48g) platter Cam 21B, abraded with traces of original, dark burnished surface (dated E-M1C); Fabric HZ (1, 228g); Fabric GTW (1, 6g) (dated E-M1C); Fabric GX (3, 22g) (dated Rom) <b>Roman CBM:</b> (1, 36g) red fabric, irregular, angular hard lump, but just possibly well fired clay rather than brick/tile (dated Rom)	E Roman (M-L1C)
F11	17	<b>Quernstone</b> (2, 50g) abraded, rounded lava quernstone, small lumps, this stone is imported from Mayen in the Rhineland, post conquest and without doubt (on this site) Roman rather than latter	Roman
F11	18	<b>Pottery counter (SF 1)</b> Small pottery counter made from a sherd from a Roman greyware pot (Fabric GX), sub-circular with slightly faceted, smoothed edges, slightly abraded surfaces but this appears to be more probably an effect of soil conditions rather than use wear (diameter 24-27 mm, weight 6g) (dated Roman)	Roman
F11	20	<b>Roman pottery:</b> (SQ) Fabric GX (3, 64 g) includes greyware sherd and sherd from a jar decorated with burnished lines (dated Rom Probably L1/2-M3C); Fabric HZ (1, 22 g) (dated M1-2/3C). <b>Flint:</b> (1) core piece, cortex on one face, one other face patinated, one face is a pot-lid/frost flake, other small flakes (mostly small) removed in irregular, unsystematic working from core facet edges (dated later prehistoric – Bronze Age/Early iron Age)	Rom/ E-M Rom (residual prehistoric)
F11 (sx2)	22	<b>Prehistoric pottery:</b> (1, 6g) Fabric HMFS (small-medium flint and sand-temper), shoulder sherd from a carinated jar, top of rim missing, part of small hole in rim appears to be original hole made through rim rather than recent damage (dated EIA). <b>LIA-Roman pottery:</b> (SQ) Fabric GTW (2, 20g) (dated E-M1C); Fabric GX (4, 20g) (some pieces abraded) (dated Rom); Fabric DJ (1, 2g) orange-red sandy fabric, quite abraded (dated Rom M1-E2/2C?). <b>Briquetage</b> (2, 16g) fine sand/silt orange-red fabric with common vegetable temper, parts of flat slab pieces presumably from vessels (dated LIA-E Rom).	Roman/Early Roman (residual prehistoric)
F11 (sx2)	24	<b>Briquetage</b> (1, 100g) fine sand/silt orange-red fabric with common small fragments of vegetable temper, rim top with broad, shallow groove below rim on internal face, flat slab piece	LIA-E Rom

Ctxt	Find no	Form/ description	spot date
		(15 mm thick) from salt vessel (dated LIA-E Rom).	
F11 (sx2)	25	<b>Briquetage</b> (1, 12g) fine sand/silt orange-red fabric with some small fragments of vegetable temper, small abraded piece, probably a flake from a thicker piece, part of a flat slab piece from a vessel (dated LIA-E Rom).	<b>LIA-E Rom</b>

**Table 2** Finds by context**Finds discussion***Prehistoric*

The earliest closely dated find is a small sherd of prehistoric pottery that is flint and sand-tempered (F11 Sx2 (22)). The sherd is from the upper part of a carinated jar, although the rim top is missing. There is part of a small post-firing hole in the pot neck which is probably an original modification rather than later damage. A flint core was also recovered from the same feature (F11(20)). Finds dated to the Late Bronze Age are known from the Sheepen site to the northwest (*CAR 11*, Catalogue of excavation and observations 66d); although the nature of the pottery sherd here, having sand and flint-temper together a well defined shoulder carination, would indicate an Early Iron Age date (c 700-350 BC). The nature of the flint core, although not closely dated, suggests a broad, but similar dating as later prehistoric (Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age). Both of these finds are residual from later dated features.

*Late Iron Age and Roman*

The closely dated finds associated with the majority of the features are of Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman date. Two features on the site (F1 and F3) only have finds associated with them that were recovered during the archaeological evaluation (CAT Report 958). The evaluation itself produced a small pottery assemblage (31 sherds weighing 602g) consisting of coarsewares of Roman (post-conquest) date. Of itself, none of this pottery could be closely dated. While two of the sherds might possibly represent the 2nd-3rd century jar form Cam 268, the absence of any fabrics or other forms typical of the 2nd century or later suggested that the majority of the pottery was broadly of mid/late 1st-early/mid 2nd century date.

The pottery assemblage from the excavation is quite modest (28 sherds weighing 566g) but (in contrast to the pottery from the evaluation) includes a significant proportion of sherds (10 sherds weighing 164g) in grog-tempered fabrics (GTW, GTW/RW & UR) typical of the LIA and immediate conquest period (c late 1st century BC/early-mid 1st century AD). These include sherds from a heavily combed storage jar and platters copying imported Gallo-Belgic forms, one of form Cam 21B; although no actual imported vessels, relatively common on the Sheepen site, a little over 1km to the northwest (Hawkes & Hull 1947, Niblett 1985) are represented here. Roman pottery that can be dated to the post-conquest period was associated with all of the features. The pottery consists entirely of coarsewares, among which one closely identified vessel, a bowl of form Cam 243-244/246 is current during the period of the mid 1st-early 2nd century. Like the pottery from the evaluation, there is an absence of any clearly identified pottery forms of fabrics typical of the 2nd century or later.

Of the other finds recovered during the excavation, there are a number of pieces from fired clay briquetage vessels. Almost all of these, including a rim piece, come from the ditch F11(Sx2), with another small piece from the (presumably associated) ditch F6 (11). These vessels are associated with the distillation and transport of salt from coastal salterns, the majority of which in Essex can be dated to the LIA and early-mid Roman period (c 50/25 BC-150/200 AD) (Fawn *et al* 1990, 37-39). Of certain post-conquest date are two small, abraded pieces of lava quernstone from ditch F11 (17). Pieces of lava quern were also recovered from F1 during the evaluation (CAT Report 958). These types of querns, almost certainly originating in the Mayen quarries in the Rhineland, begin to appear in Britain with the Roman conquest (*CAR 2*, 75). A small sherd from a Roman glass vessel can also be fairly confidently dated to the post conquest period.



This comes from the ditch F6 (11) and is a moderately thick, strongly curving piece in blue-green glass and, given that it probably dates to the early Roman period, is likely to be part of a jar or flask. A single, small pottery counter (SF1) in a greyware fabric of Roman date was also recovered from the fill of ditch F11 (18).

While the evaluation did not produce any finds that could date to the pre-conquest period, the presence of a number of sherds in grog-tempered fabrics indicates a LIA background to the occupation here. Although grog-tempered pottery appears to persist on some sites during the pre-Flavian period, its general lack of any significant presence in the Roman fortress and *Colonia* at Colchester would indicate that it had very little relevance to the army or early settlers there. However, given the relatively small number of grog-tempered sherds and the absence of any finewares or imports at all among the whole assemblage, it is difficult to closely date the grog-tempered pottery within the period of its general currency (c 25 BC-50 AD); although that most is relatively thin walled and Romanising in aspect a later date within that period rather than an earlier one would appear to be appropriate, that is in the early-mid 1st century. Also, sherds of post-conquest date were present in features alongside the grog-tempered pottery apart from the section excavated in ditch F6, although a small piece of Roman glass came from this feature. Most of the grog-tempered pottery is associated with the ditch F11 and the ditch F6 which is probably associated with it. It is relatively much less common in the features that were mostly explored during the evaluation stage suggesting that these ditches (F11 & F6) represent the earliest phase of activity which probably begins in the early 1st century or at the latest in the conquest (Claudio-Neronian) period and that originally the people using the site have a native background. While some of the pottery can only be broadly dated as Roman, the absence of pottery fabrics or forms that can be certainly dated to after the early-mid 2nd century suggests that the activity here had essentially stopped or significantly diminished by some point in the 2nd century and possibly earlier. However this assessment is qualified by the small assemblage and the lack of any fineware element.

Although the small size of the finds assemblage should be stressed, the absence of imported pottery or probable non-local pottery, other than a small sherd in south Essex shell-tempered ware (F6 (11)) and also the absence of significant Roman cultural indicators, for example specialised vessels such as mortaria or any metal small finds (apart from one small sherd from a glass vessel) the status of the people associated with the site or the activities taking place here appears to be quite low. This could also suggest a native background to the site as mentioned above. That the site had a domestic aspect could be indicated by the fragments of quernstones and by the fragments of briquetage salt container, but given the small size of the assemblage this is unclear and the LIA Lexden tumulus burial and an area of LIA burials (Lexden cemetery) are very close by (CAR 11 164-169 & fig 7.1).

#### *Post-Roman*

The only finds that appear to be clearly of post-Roman date are a few pieces of CBM from the fill of pit F9 which are not closely dated but which are probably relatively modern.

## **6 Environmental Analysis**

### **An assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains from the evaluation and excavation at 19 St Clare Road** *by Val Fryer*

#### **Introduction and method statement**

An evaluation and excavation at 19 St Clare Road recorded a limited number of features of probable Roman date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from a possible inhumation pit (F5 sample 1), from ditch fills

(F4 sample 2, F1 sample 4, F6 sample 5 and F11 sample 7), from pit F3 (sample 9) and from a possible tree throw containing Roman pottery in the upper fill (F8 sample 6).

The samples were bulk floated by CAT and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were abundant within all seven assemblages.

## Results

Charcoal/charred wood fragments, many of which are highly comminuted and heavily abraded, are present at varying densities within all seven assemblages. However, other plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce and all are very poorly preserved. Individual wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with a single possible specimen of oat (*Avena* sp.), and the only two seeds noted are of nettle (*Urtica* sp.) type and sedge (*Carex* sp.).

All seven assemblages contain black cokey and tarry residues, all of which appear to be bi-products of the combustion of coal. Small pieces of coal (coal 'dust') are also present. However, it is currently unclear whether any of the latter are contemporary with the features from which the samples were taken, or if they are later contaminants. Small globules and 'dribbles' of vitreous material are present within the assemblage from ditch F4.

## Conclusions

In summary, all seven assemblages are small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition. In addition, it would appear that the recorded features have all suffered a significant degree of post-depositional bioturbation. It is suggested that the few remains which are recorded are derived from a very low density of scattered refuse (some possibly post-dating the features), all of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended.

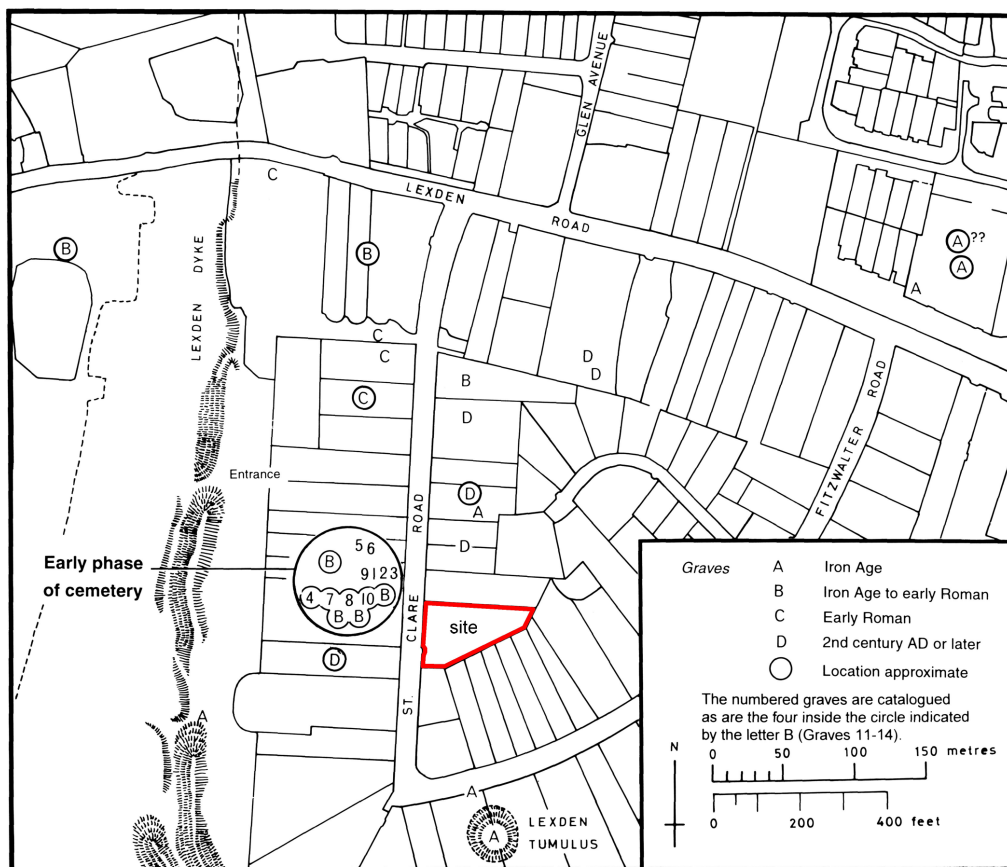
Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Feature No.	F5	F4	F3	F1	F6	F8	F11
Finds No.	7	8	9	10	15	13	23
Feature Type	?Inhum	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	?TT	Ditch
<b>Cereals</b>							
Avena sp. (grain)				xcfg			
Triticum sp. (grains)			x				xcfg
<b>Herbs/Wetland plants</b>							
Carex sp.							x
Urtica sp.		x					
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>							
Charcoal <2mm	x	xx	xx	xxx	xxx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	xx	xx	x	xxx	
Charcoal >5mm		x	x	x			x
Charred root/stem						x	

Other remains							
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x		x	x	x	x
Black tarry material	x	xx	x	x	x	x	x
Small coal frags.		xx	x	x	xx	x	x
Vitreous material		x					
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3** Charred plant macrofossils and other remains (key to table: x = 1 – 10 specimens; xx = 11 – 50 specimens; xxx = 51 – 100 specimens; xxxx = 100+ specimens; cf = compare; fg = fragment; Inhum = inhumation; TT = tree throw)

## 7 Discussion

Despite being located adjacent to the Lexden cemetery area (Map 1) no burials were identified during the excavation and it appears that the possible inhumation burial recorded in the evaluation is actually an elongated pit. The ditches are probably either field boundary ditches or relate to a nearby settlement, revealing that features other than the Roman cemetery existed in this area of Colchester. Similar ditches have recently been found during excavations 250m north at High Trees, off St Clare Drive (CAT Report 1008), showing that this agricultural or settlement activity continues northwards. The finds themselves indicate that activity was perhaps representative of a native population.



**Map 1** 19 St Clare Road (in red) in relation to the Lexden cemetery (CAR 11, Fig 7.1)

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Ian Mosley and Mr C Tripp for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by R Mathieson, N Rayner and A Wade. Figures were prepared by CL, P Parmenter, L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at

<http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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| Medlycott, M                               | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> ) |
| Niblett, R                                 | 1985  | <i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum</i> , CBA Research Report <b>57</b>  |
| Stace, C                                   | 2010  | <i>New Flora of the British Isles</i> . 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press  |

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile

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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
later Iron Age	period from c 350 BC to early 1st century AD
Late Iron Age	(LIA) period from c 100-50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
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
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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 sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** one box

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1009)

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

## 12 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 2016.47.

**Distribution list**

Ian Mosley

Mr C Tripp

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

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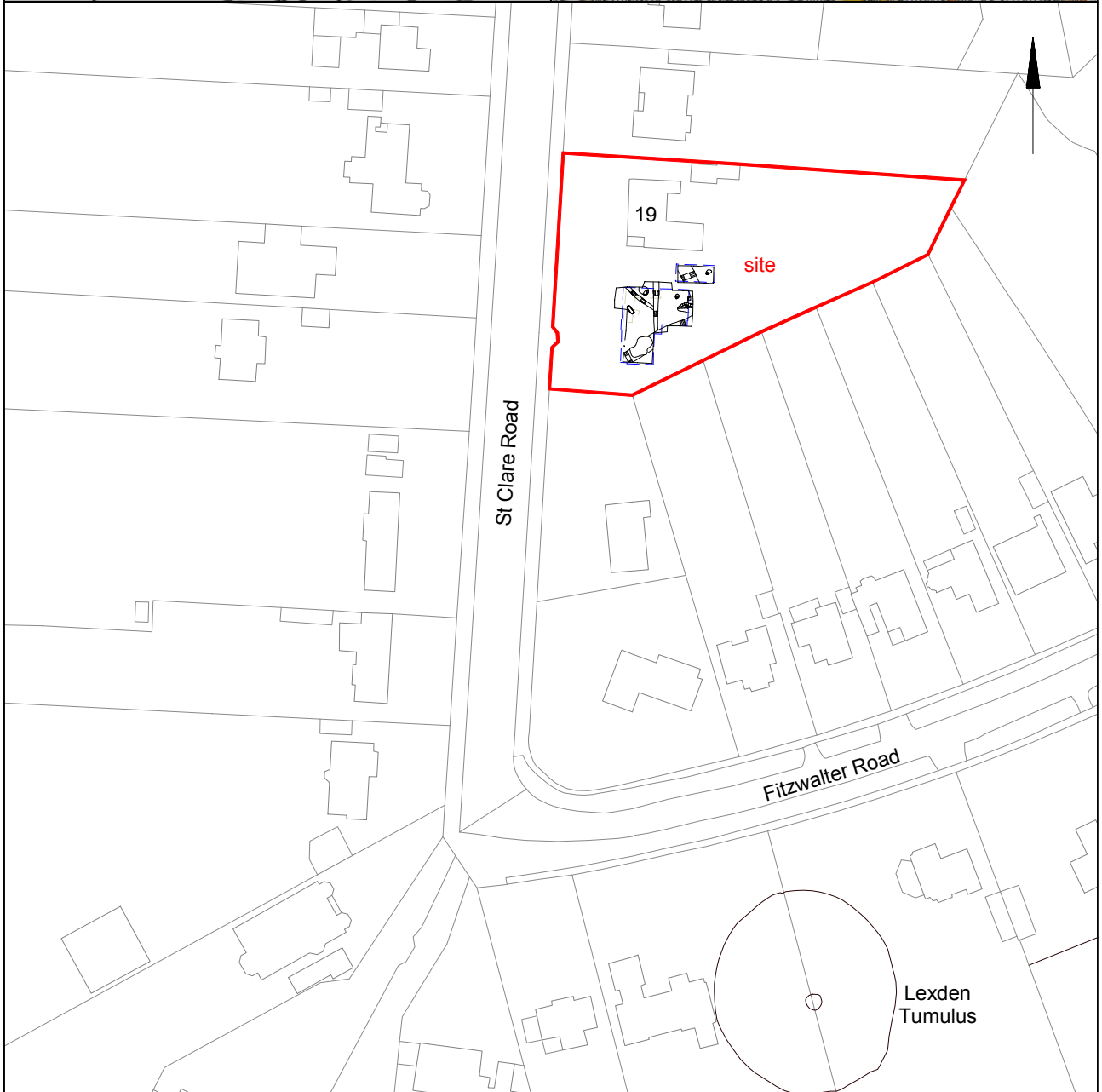
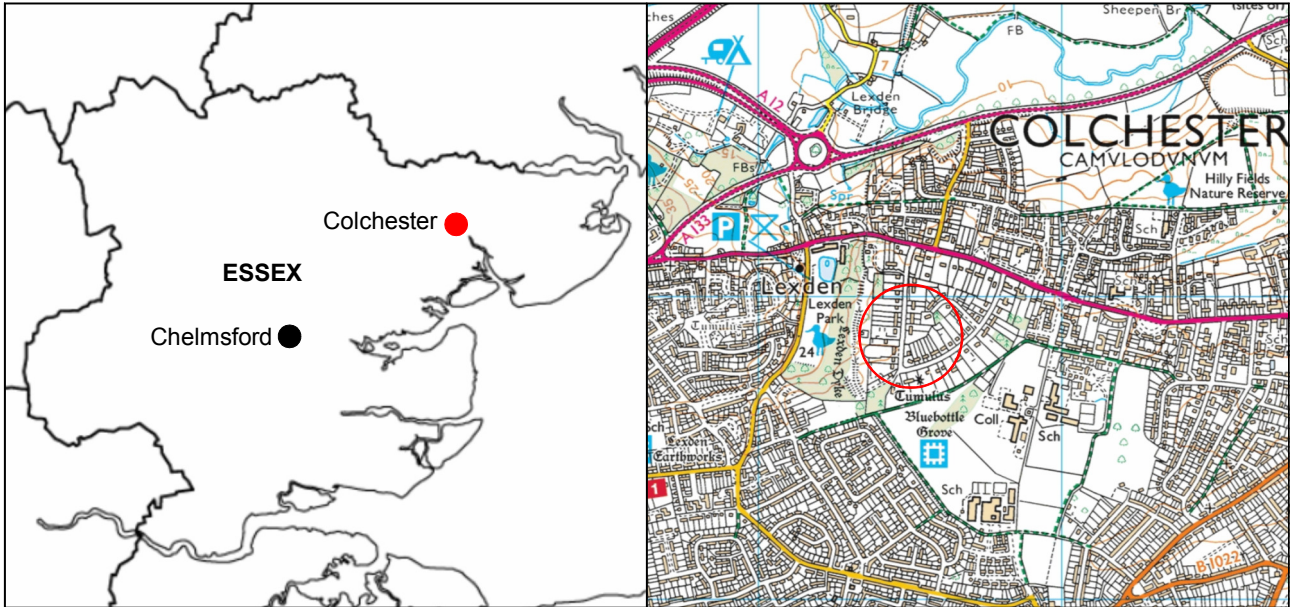
*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

*Checked by:* Philip Crummy

*Date:* 22.09.2016

**Appendix 1****Context List**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
F1	Ditch	N-S aligned, c 0.9m wide by 0.2-0.45m deep, firm moist medium-orange/grey/brown sandy-silt	early Roman
F2	Natural	Firm, dry, light-grey silty-clay	natural
F3	Pit	2m by 1.55m by 0.42m deep, soft medium/dark-grey/brown sandy-silt	early Roman
F4	Ditch	NW-SE, 0.6m by c 0.21m deep, firm moist medium-grey/brown sandy-silt	early Roman
F5	Inhumation/elongated pit	1.8m long by 0.7m wide by 0.28m deep, firm moist medium grey/brown silty	Roman(?)
F6	Ditch	NW-SE aligned, 2.9m wide by 0.30m deep, friable moist medium-brown silty-sand	LIA-early Roman
F7	Pit	0.6m wide, 0.2m deep, friable dry medium-brown silty-sand	undated
F8	Tree-throw	Soft, moist light/medium-yellow/brown sandy-silt.	natural
F9	Pit	Squared 1.3m by 1.3m by 0.35m deep, loose, soft, moist, dark yellow/orange-grey/brown sandy-loam	Modern
F10	Pit	0.55m wide by 0.2m deep, friable moist medium-brown silty-sand	undated
F11	Ditch	NE-SW aligned, 2.3m wide by 0.21m deep, friable moist medium-brown silty-sand	LIA-early Roman
F12	Tree-throw	Two tree-throws, soft moist medium/dark-grey/brown sandy-loam	natural



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Fig 1 Site location.





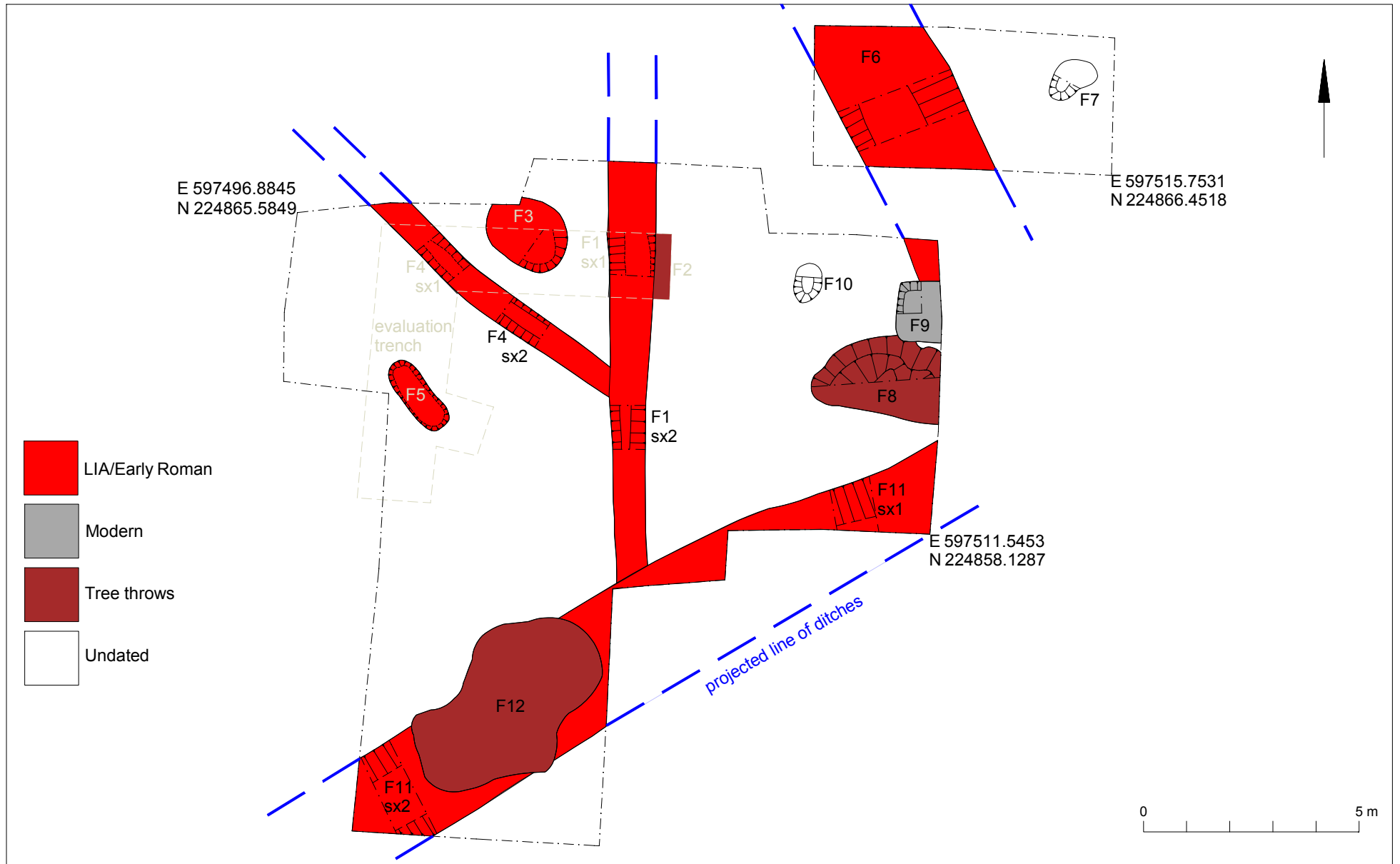


Fig 2 Results.

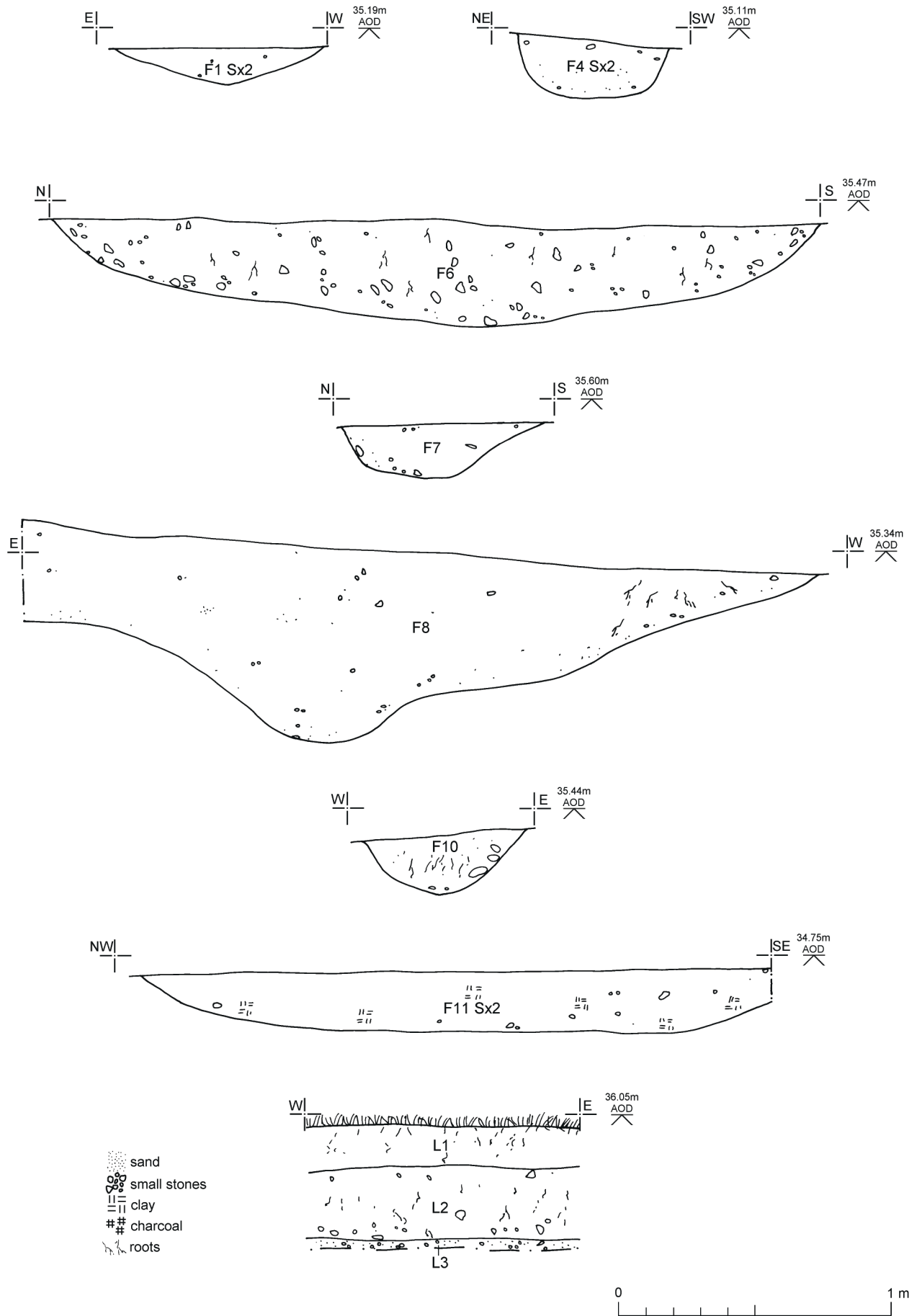


Fig 3 Feature sections and garage plot representative section.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9750 2486 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 16/07d UAD ref: ECC3812 OASIS ref: colchest3-256734
<b>Type of work:</b> Excavation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 13th-15th July 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Two excavation areas = 175.3m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.47	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related UAD/SMR number:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1009	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Late Iron Age, Roman, modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological excavation was carried out in the garden of 19 St Clare Road in advance of the construction of a new dwelling, garage and access. The development site is located close to Lexden Tumulus (Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1019967) and on the northern edge of the 'Lexden cemetery'. Two Late Iron Age to early Roman ditches and two early Roman ditches were excavated, revealing an area of agricultural or settlement activity. Other features included a modern pit, two undated pits and three tree-throws.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 958	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> September 2016

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ

**NGR:** TL 9750 2486 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 160235

**Client:** Mr C Tripp

**Agent:** Ian Mosley

**Curating Museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** COLEM 2016.47

**UAD Event number:** ECC3812

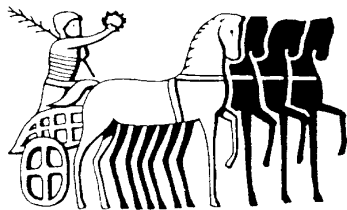
**CAT Project code:** 16/07d

**OASIS Project id:** colchest3-256734

**Site Manager:** Ben Holloway

**CBC Monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 6.7.2016



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1 mile to the west of Colchester's walled town centre on the eastern side of St. Clare Road (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 9750 2486.

## Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the erection of a new detached dwelling, garage and access.

## 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:

The site is in an area rich in archaeological remains, being situated towards the northern edge of the 'Lexden cemetery' (UAD no. ELM1148). This cemetery was in use from the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD. The core of the cemetery, with at least 27 cremation burials, lies approximately 300m south of the current site (UAD MCC1788). Outliers of the cemetery are found elsewhere on St Clare Road, the nearest to the present site being the Roman burial found in 1922 at number 18 (CAR 11, 164-9).

Approximately 400m to the south lies the Lexden Tumulus, 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 (a cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound is thought to be that of *Addedomarus* (Foster 1986).

The site lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, one of the defensive earthworks of which is the Lexden Dyke (120m west of Clare Road) (CAR 11, 29-33).

In 2003 (CAT Report 225) CAT excavated a trench within a proposed extension to the southern side of the house, on land previously part of the garden. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

In 2008 (CAT Report 455) CAT undertook a watching brief during the construction of a 2.5m by 4.5m extension on the north-east corner of the existing house. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

In 2015 (CAT Report 832) CAT undertook a strip map and recording at 20 St. Clare Road. This revealed a probable post-medieval boundary ditch and six post-medieval/modern pits, but no Roman burials or other features.

In May 2016 (CAT Report 959) CAT undertook a watching brief at 1 St Clare Road. This revealed two early Roman pits, a post-medieval pit and a modern pit.

CAT is currently undertaking archaeological work at 'High Trees' which is also just off of St Clare Road. Pits and linear features dating to the Roman period have been identified (report forthcoming).

An evaluation on the development site in May 2016 (CAT Report 958; EHER event no ECC3755) revealed four Roman features, three of which contained pottery dating from the Roman period (late 1st to the mid 2nd/2nd century). Two ditches were defined, one aligned N to S (F1) and another aligned NW to SE (F4), and a pit F3. Small quantities of Roman pottery, imported lava quernstone and ceramic building material were recovered from three features (F1, F3 & F4). One grave-shaped feature F5, aligned NW to SE, containing a small fragment of degraded bone may possibly represent the remains of a Roman inhumation burial within the Lexden cemetery area. These features were identified at between 35.04-35.30m AOD (approximately 530-600mm below current ground level).

## **Planning background**

The application was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2016 (application No 160235) proposing the erection of a detached dwelling, garage and new access.

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 excavation and continuous archaeological monitoring. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically, the footprint of the new dwelling and garage will be stripped (under archaeological supervision) and all archaeological features will be excavated and recorded. This covers an area of approximately 157m<sup>2</sup> (dwelling) and 21m<sup>2</sup> (garage).

In addition, all other groundworks relating to the development (eg topsoil stripping for the access and services) will be continuously monitored.

## **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 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 has been 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 sufficient assistants for the duration of the excavation.

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

## **Excavation methodology**

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% sample of structural features and burials.

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 (see below).

**Monitoring and recording methodology (in addition to the above):**

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.

If any complex features are encountered in service trenches, such as burials, these will be fully investigated, i.e. it may be necessary to extend beyond the limits of the trenches to obtain the full extent of any burials.

**Site surveying**

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. 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**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the

advice of VF and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

## **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 evaluation, 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 Advisor 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 the excavation site, at least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section drawings of significant features including at least one which shows 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**

- |        |      |  |
|--------|------|--|
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Camulodunum II</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report, 11 |
| CAT    | 2014 | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>                            |

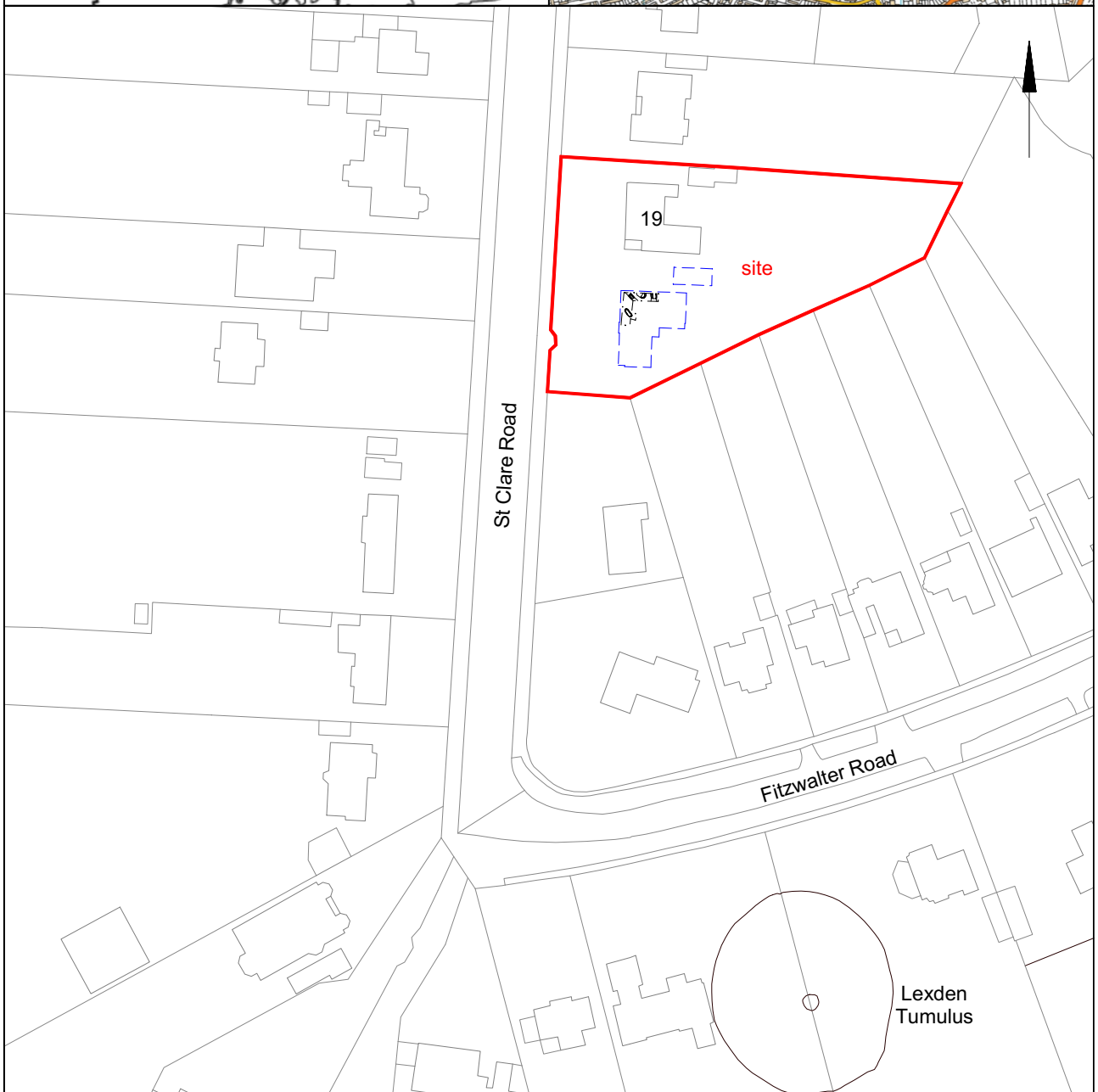
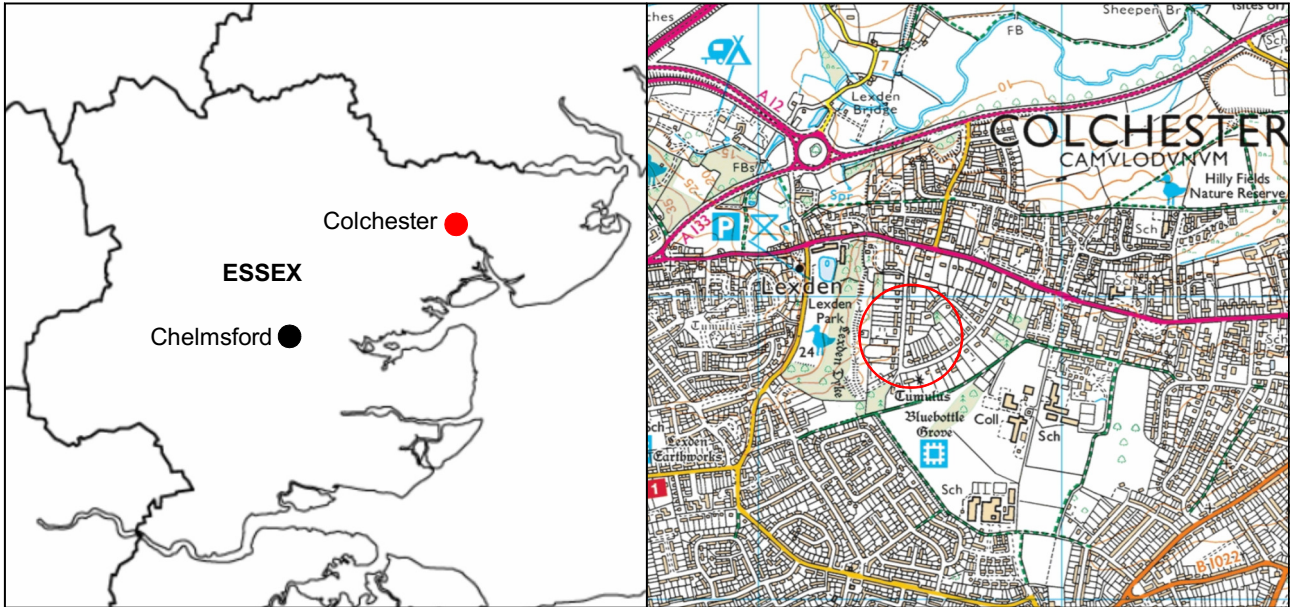
CAT Report 225	2003	<i>An archaeological excavation at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2003. By M McDonald. Unpublished grey literature</i>
CAT Report 455	2008	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: January 2008. By H Brooks. Unpublished grey literature</i>
CAT Report 832	2015	<i>Archaeological strip, map and recording on land adjacent to 20 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2015. By P Parmenter and A Wightman. Unpublished grey literature</i>
CAT Report 958	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>
CAT Report 959	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>
CBC	2016	<i>Brief for Archaeological Excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, CO3 3SZ, by J Tipper</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</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>
Foster, J	1986	'The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex', <i>BAR, British Series, 156</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</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



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Fig 1 Site location.



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-256734**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ
Short description of the project	An archaeological excavation was carried out in the garden of 19 St Clare Road in advance of the construction of a new dwelling, garage and access. The development site is located close to Lexden Tumulus (Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1019967) and on the northern edge of the 'Lexden cemetery'. Two Late Iron Age to early Roman ditches and two early Roman ditches were excavated, revealing an area of agricultural or settlement activity. Other features included a modern pit, two undated pits and three tree-throws.
Project dates	Start: 13-07-2016 End: 15-07-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/07d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	160235 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.47 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3812 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	BRIQUETAGE Roman
Significant Finds	QUERNSTONE Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval

Significant Finds GLASS Roman  
 Investigation type "Open-area excavation"  
 Prompt Planning condition

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 19 St Clare Road  
 Postcode CO3 3SZ  
 Study area 175.3 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TL 9750 2486 51.886735276215 0.870220220065 51 53 12 N 000 52 12 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 35.79m Max: 35.79m

### 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 Owner

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2016.47  
 Physical Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Worked stone/lithics"  
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.47  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"  
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.47  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: July 2016  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.  
 Other CAT Report 1009

bibliographic  
details

Date 2016

Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust

Place of issue or publication Colchester

Description A4 ringbound loose leaf

URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)

Entered on 22 September 2016

## OASIS:

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

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