

**Archaeological attendance and recording  
(watching brief) at The Toll House,  
217 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex**

November 2014



**report prepared by Ben Holloway**

**on behalf of Mr and Mrs Atkins**

CAT project ref.: 14/11j

NGR: TL 96877 25146

Colchester & Ipswich Museum accession code: 2014.109



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roma Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436 273 304

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

**CAT Report 797**

December 2014

*Essex Historic Environment Record/Essex Archaeology and History  
Summary sheet*

**Archaeological attendance and recording (watching brief) at The  
Toll House, 217 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex**

<b>Address:</b> The Toll House, 217 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 96877 25146	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code – 14/11j
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 12th November 2014	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 6x5m footprint
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester & Ipswich Museum accession code – 2014.109	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b> 31286
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 797	
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> The Toll House is a Grade II listed building (EHER 31286) dating to the end of the 18th century. It is located on the north side of Lexden Road, and is bounded on three sides by Spring Lane Park. It is in an area of high archaeological potential - within the nationally important Iron Age <i>oppidum</i> of Camulodunum, which was protected by a network of earthworks known as dykes. The site lies between two of these, the Lexden Dyke to the east and the later Roman Triple Dyke to the west. It lies north of the Roman road from London to Colchester, and close to the western edge of the extensive Roman cemetery that clustered around this road.</p> <p>On behalf of Mr and Mrs Atkins, a watching brief was carried out in November 2014 during contractors' excavations for the construction of a new garage east of Toll House. These dug through modern hard-standing and topsoil (L1), an accumulation horizon (L2), and into natural deposits of hill wash or colluvium to a formation depth of 900mm-1.1m.</p> <p>No archaeological features or horizons were identified, nor were any finds recovered. There was no evidence of burials, or of Late Iron Age or Roman occupation or industrial activity. This is probably due to the site's location to the west of the main Roman cemetery and to the east of the industrial area at Sheepen.</p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> --	
<b>Keywords:</b> modern	<b>Significance:</b> neg
<b>Author of summary:</b> Ben Holloway	<b>Date of summary:</b> December 2014
<b>CBC Monitor:</b> Chris Lister	