

An archaeological watching brief at 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex

February 2015



report prepared by
Chris Lister

on behalf of Mr Stapleton

CAT project ref.: 15/02c
Colchester & Ipswich Museums accession code: COLEM 2015.13
NGR: TL 9829 2423



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CAT Report 813
February 2015

Summary

The Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief during the construction of an extension to the rear of 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex.

No archaeological features were recorded during the scope of the watching brief.

Introduction

This is the archive report on the archaeological watching brief carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Mr Russell Stapleton at 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex (NGR TL 598297 224234) (Fig 1). The site is located to the south-west of the historic walled town, on the southern edge of known Roman cemeteries. The site is within a residential area.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the rear of the existing property (application No.146250). The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks (Brooks 2015).

Audley Road is situated in an area of Colchester considered to have high archaeological potential, situated to the south of known Roman cemeteries that cluster around the former Roman roads radiating out of Colchester. One of these roads, linking the town to Gosbecks, is projected to run through the gardens between Audley Road and Maldon Road. It is likely that Roman burials or buildings will be aligned to the orientation of this road and may be encountered in the footings for the proposed extension. Finds recovered in the immediate vicinity include Roman coins, from the rear gardens of 12 and 22 Audley Road (UAD EVT 924 & 932).

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a), *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008b), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2008b). The guidance contained in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006) and in the documents *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24) was also followed.

Results

The archaeological monitoring took place on the morning of 10th February 2015 and consisted of one site visit. A significant amount of the foundation trench (500mm wide) had already been hand-dug by the workmen on site prior to the archaeologist being informed. The remainder of the trench was excavated under archaeological supervision.

Modern concrete (L1) sealed the trench, overlaying a dark brown topsoil (L2), which in turn overlay a medium brown loam (L3). Below this, at a depth of c 430mm below ground level, was the natural sand and gravel (L4) (Fig 2). L2 contained modern slate and peg tile fragments (not retained). These are probably associated with the construction of the house and subsequent lean-to extensions. No finds or inclusions were observed in L2. The foundation trench was excavated to approximately 600mm below ground level.

No archaeological remains were recorded during the watching brief.

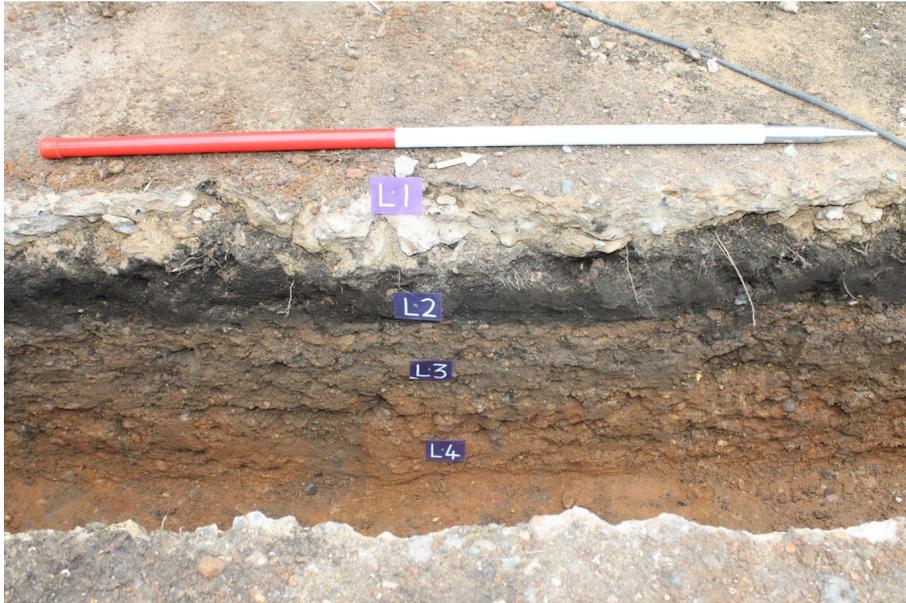


Plate 1 Representative section of L1-4, view north-west

References

Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|--|
| Brooks, H | 2015 | <i>Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief): 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TY</i> |
| CAT | 2008 | <i>Policies and procedures</i> |
| CIfA | 2008a | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> |
| CIfA | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| CIMS | 2008a | <i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i> |
| CIMS | 2008b | <i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums</i> |
| EAA3 | 1997 | <i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 3 , ed by J Glazebrook |
| EAA 8 | 2000 | <i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 8 , ed by N Brown & J Glazebrook |
| EAA 14 | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney |
| EAA 24 | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the Eastern Counties. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 24 , ed by M Medlycott |
| MoRPHE | 2006 | <i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> (English Heritage) |

Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mr Russell Stapleton for commissioning and funding the project and Mr Terry Eagle for his assistance on site. The site work was undertaken by Chris Lister. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Howard Brooks (CBCAO).

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Distribution list:

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Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Risk assessment
- 1.2 Copy of the brief issued by CBC
- 1.3 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.4 1 x A4 site plan

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Attendance register
- 2.2 Site digital photographic record
- 2.3 Context sheets (L1-4)
- 2.4 Site photographic record on CD

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report

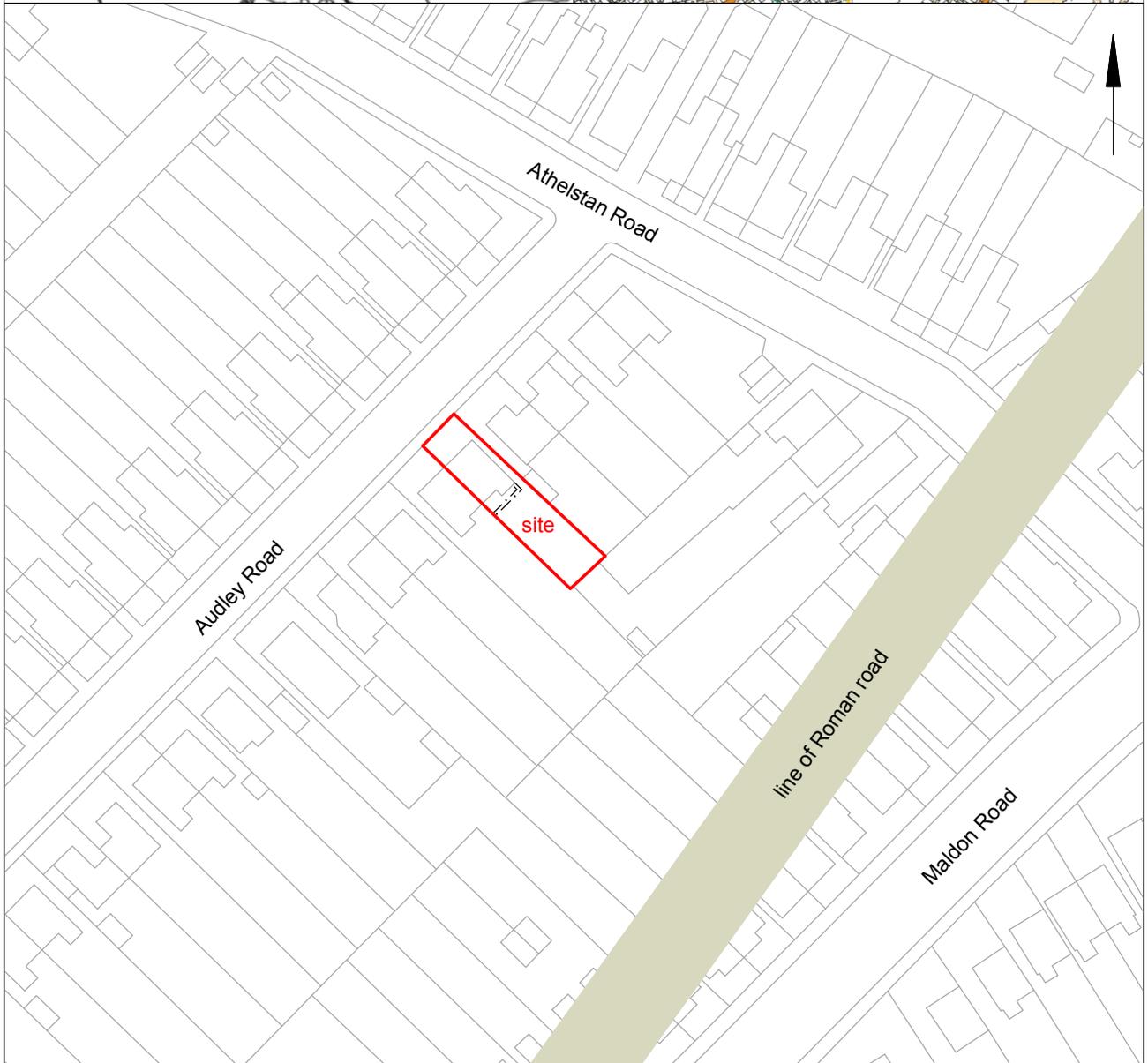
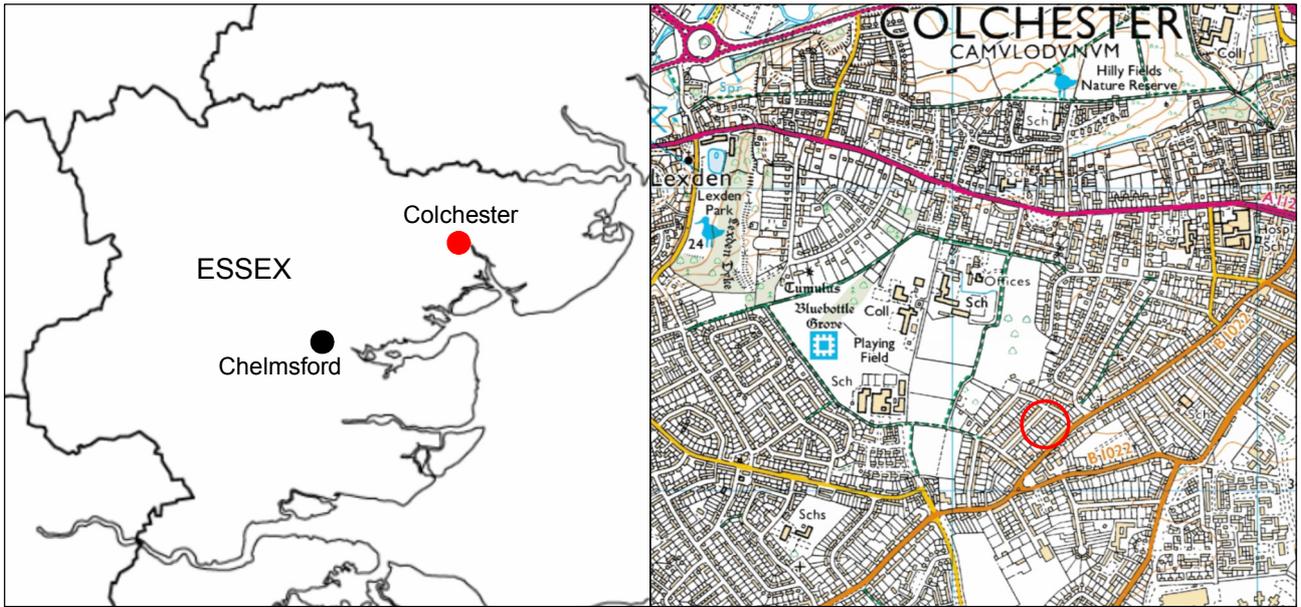


Fig 1 Site location in relation to projected Roman road.

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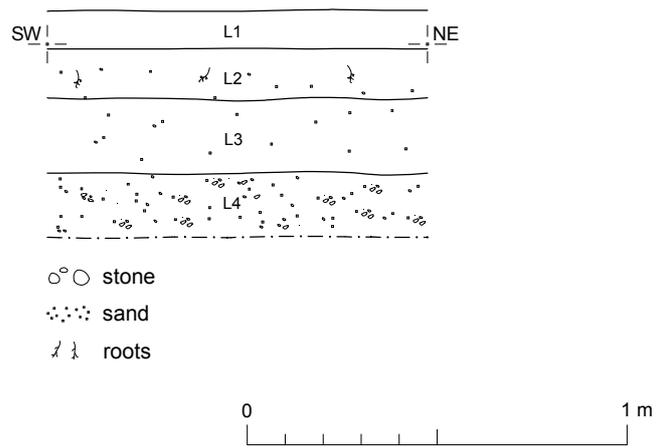


Fig 2 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Lexden	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 598297 224234	Site codes: CAT Project – 15/02c Museum accession - COLEM 2015.13
Type of work: Archaeological watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 10th February 2015	Size of area investigated: 11 sq m
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related UAD/ EHER nos: UAD 924, 932
Final report: CAT Report 813	
Periods represented: n/a	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief during the construction of an extension to the rear of 10 Audley Road, Colchester, Essex.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features were recorded during the scope of the watching brief.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Chris Lister	Date of summary: February 2015