

An archaeological watching brief at 18 Cambridge Road, Colchester, Essex

March 2015



Report prepared by
Emma Sanford

On behalf of Mr M. Kerry

CAT project ref.: 15/02b
Colchester & Ipswich Museums accession code: 2015.15
NGR: TL 98529 24488
OASIS ref. colchest3-206830



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CAT Report 828
August 2015

Summary

The Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief during the construction of an extension to the rear of 18 Cambridge 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 Mark Kerry at 18 Cambridge Road, Colchester, Essex (NGR TL 98529 24488) (Fig 1). The site is located on the southern edge of a known Roman cemetery area, west of the town and south of the main Roman road to London. 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 and a new soakaway (application No.145772). The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks.

Cambridge Road is situated in an area of Colchester considered to have high archaeological potential (summarised in *Roman Colchester* by M R Hull and Colchester Archaeological Report 9).. Evidence for Roman activity in the immediate vicinity was found next to 5 Cambridge Road in 1996 (UAD EVT 3488) and Roman remains were recorded in 1875 when the area was first developed (UAD EVT 994). In particular, 68 Roman burials were recorded at the Hanford House site, at the corner of Queen's Road and Beverley Road 300m to the north in 2003-5 (CAT report 323).

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* (ClfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2008b). The guidance contained in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006) and in the documents *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 mornings of 18th and 19th of March 2015. The 600mm wide foundation trenches and the 1000mm² soakaway were dug by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under the supervision of the attendant archaeologist.

A modern top soil layer of greyish brown sandy clay loam, c 150-200mm thick (L1) overlay a 400mm thick layer of greyish brown sandy loam (L2). Below this was a 50mm thick layer of white sandy mortar (L3) part of the backfill for a modern drain, which partially sealed a 100-150mm thick layer of brownish loamy sand (L4), interpreted as disturbed sub soil. Below this at a depth of c 900mm was natural orange sand (L5). The remainder of the foundation trenches were machined through the natural to an overall depth of 1100mm below ground level (Plate 1, Fig 2).

Finds recovered during the excavation of the foundation trenches (not retained) included three small fragments of Roman brick/tile from L2 and two shards of modern glass from L4 (probably intrusive from the drainage pipe).

The excavation of the soakaway showed similar layers to the foundation trenches and contained no archaeological contexts.

Plate 1 Representative section of L1-5, view south-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):18 Cambridge Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NS</i> |
| CAR 9 | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan |
| CAT | 2008 | <i>Policies and procedures</i> |
| CAT | 2010 | <i>Archaeological excavations at 1 Queens Road (Handford House, now 'Handford Place') Colchester, Essex 2003 and 2004-2005</i> CAT Report 323 by Kate Orr |
| 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> |

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
Hull, M. R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> RRCSAL 20
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> (English Heritage)

Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mr Mark Kerry for commissioning and funding the project.

The site work was undertaken by Emma Sanford and Don Shimmin.

The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Jess Tipper.

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 2 x A4 site plan

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Attendance register
- 2.2 Site digital photographic record
- 2.3 Context sheets (L1-5)
- 2.4 Site photographic record on CD

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring report

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Distribution list:

Mr Mark Kerry

Dr Jess Tipper, Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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checked by: CL
date:06/08/15

Following pages:

Appendix 1: WSI

Appendix 2: OASIS summary

Figures

EHER summary sheet

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for archaeological monitoring and recording
(a watching brief)
at 18 Cambridge Road
Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NS

NGR: TL598529 224488

Planning reference: 145772

Client: Mr Mark Kerry

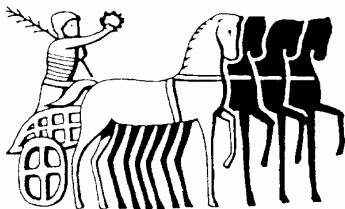
Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2015.15

CAT Project code: 15/02b

CBC Monitor: Howard Brooks

This WSI written: 03 02 2015



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Site Location and Description

The site is located within the grounds of 18 Cambridge Road, a detached property approximately 1km south-west of Colchester's walled town centre. Cambridge Road is south-east of the walled town to the south of the Roman road to London.

Site centre is NGR TL598529 224488.

Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of a rear outhouse and the construction of a single-storey extension.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, *Roman Colchester* by M R Hull and Colchester Archaeological Report 9.

The proposed development is on the southern edge of a known Roman cemetery area, west of the town and south of the main Roman road to London. Evidence for Roman activity in the immediate vicinity was found next to 5 Cambridge Road in 1996 (UAD EVT 3488) and Roman remains were recorded in 1875 (UAD EVT 994) when the area was first developed. In particular, 68 Roman burials were recorded at the Handford House site at the corner of Queen's Road and Beverley Road 300m to the north in 2003-5 (CAT Report 323).

Planning Background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2014 (application No.145772) proposing the construction of a single-storey utility room.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the UAD as having a potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO). 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 will comprise a watching brief on the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new building, a soak-away and the new drainage runs. The watching brief is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

Sufficient time shall be allowed for the recording of any complex archaeological deposits including burials/cremations that may be encountered.

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 2008a, b)
- 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 ECC Historic Environment Officer / CBCAO (CBC/ECC 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 CBCAO one week before start of work.

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, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Watching brief methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground reduction, footings work, service trench digging, and all related works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

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).

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.

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

Policy depends on the age of the burial. 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 CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman
flints: Adam Wightman
or to outside specialists:
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.
animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)
conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum
Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:
Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey
Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAO .

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAO 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 the Historic Environment Officer as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of proposed development, referenced to OS grid.
- A section/s drawing 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 ECCHEO as an appendix to the CAT site report.

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

The requirements for archive storage shall 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 the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAO. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*,. (Brown, 2007).

Monitoring

CBCAO 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 CBCAO one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAO prior to their being carried out.

CBCAO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAO 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>
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CBCAO	2015	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring and recoding (a watching brief) 18 Cambridge Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NS.</i> January 2015
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists	1994 (Revised 2008)	<i>Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i>
ClfA	2008b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
Colchester & Ipswich Museums	2008	<i>Guidelines on Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
Colchester & Ipswich Museums	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
Colchester Archaeological Trust	2010	<i>Archaeological excavations at 1Queens Road (Handford House, now 'Handford Place'), Colchester, Essex 2003 and 2004-2005</i> by Kate Orr
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>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester RRCSAL 20</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)



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Fig 1 18 Cambridge Road



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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-206830

Project details

Project name	18 Cambridge Road, Colchester watching brief 2015
Short description of the project	A watching brief was undertaken on a ground floor extension and soakaway. No archaeological features were observed.
Project dates	Start: 18-03-2015 End: 19-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	15/02b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2015.15 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 18 Cambridge Road
Postcode	CO3 3NS
Study area	6.80 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 598529 224488 51.8771875677 0.322528959017 51 52 37 N 000 19 21 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.80m Max: 0.88m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr M Kerry

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive ID	COLEM 2015.15
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2015.15
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2015.15
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological watching brief at 18 Cambridge Road, Colchester, Essex, March 2015
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sanford, E
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 828
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	Comb-bound A4 report
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
Entered by	Chris Lister (cl@catuk.org)
Entered on	6 August 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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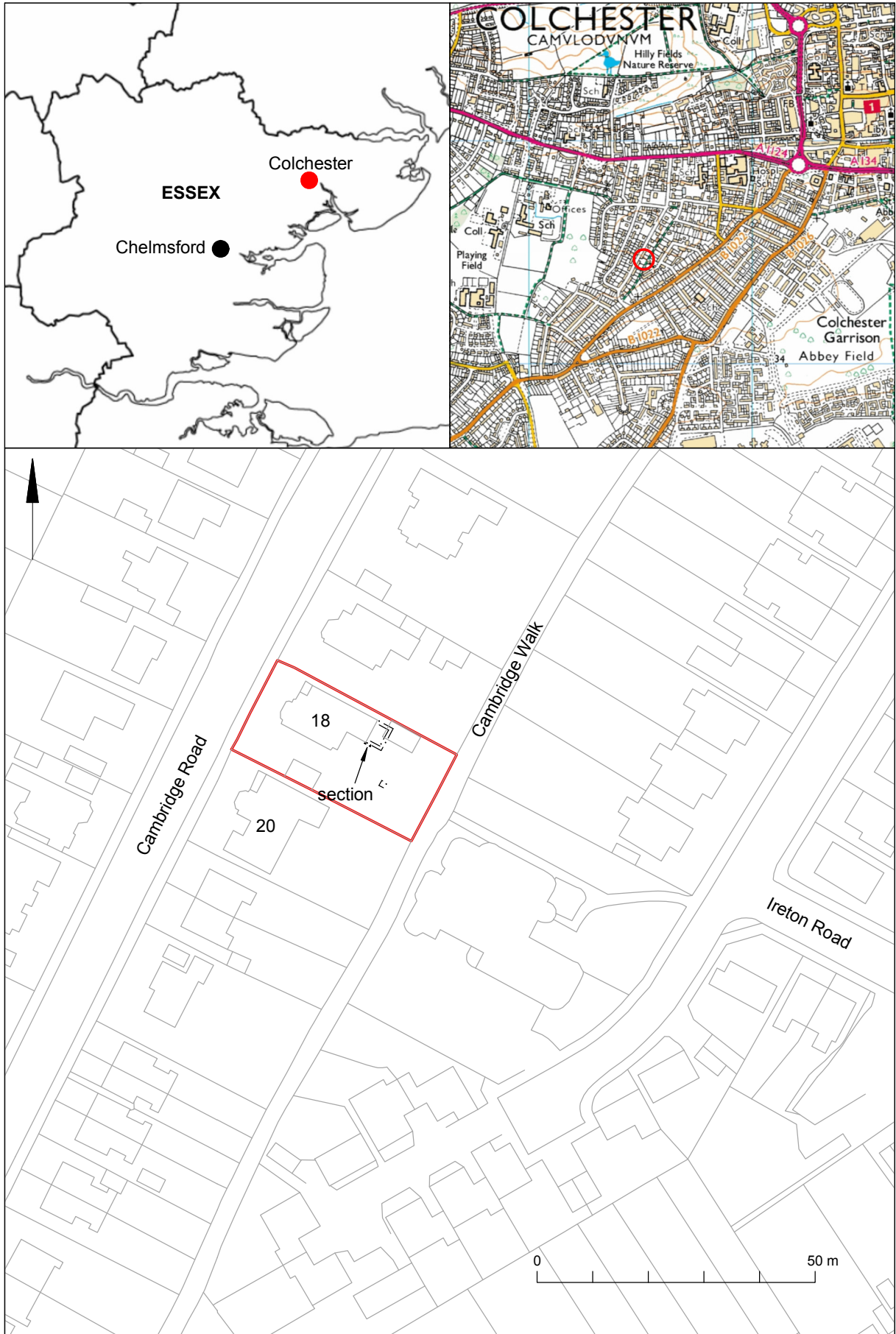


Fig 1 Site location.

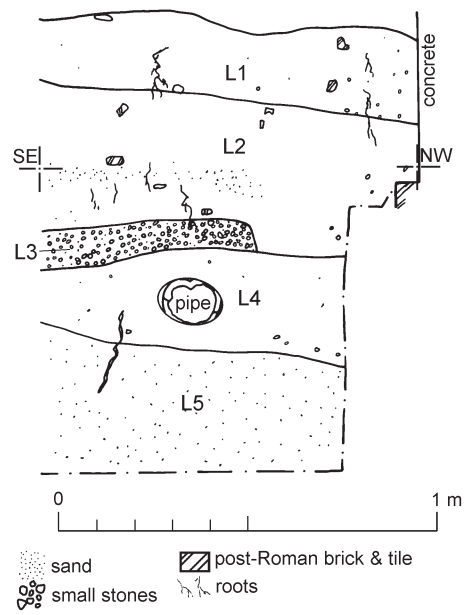


Fig 2 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: 18 Cambridge Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NS	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98529 24488	Site codes: CAT Project –15/02b Museum accession – 2015.15
Type of work: Archaeological watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 18-19th March 2015	Size of area investigated: 6.8m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related UAD/ EHER nos: EVT994, EVT3488
Final report: CAT Report 828	
Periods represented: modern	
<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 18 Cambridge 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: Emma Sanford	Date of summary: August 2015