Archaeological monitoring and recording
at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester,
Essex, CO3 3BL

November 2015

by Laura Pooley

on behalf of Michael Roberts

Planning reference: 152144
CAT project ref.: 15/11c
NGR: TL 9850 2431
Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM:2015.112
UAD ref: ECC3568
OASIS reference: colchest3-231239
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1 Summary
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of the construction of a double garage at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester. Despite being located in an area of known Roman cemeteries no archaeological features or finds were revealed.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)
This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 26th November 2015. The work was commissioned by Michael Roberts in advance of the erection of a double garage, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the 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, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2015), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2015).

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 (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), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically near to an area of Roman cemeteries. To the north, several Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (CAR 9, 258) along with the famous 'Colchester Sphinx', and many others have been found since. A number of burials have also been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5; CAR 8, 43-9). Eighteen Roman inhumation burials were excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (CAR 9, 261). To the north-east over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Police station on Butt Road (CAR 9, 4-202). To the east, cemetery sites are known from excavations at Abbey Field (EHER 12384) and on the Garrison Alienated Land (Areas J1, C2, H; CAT Reports 412 and forthcoming). A cremation burial was found less than 80m away on the corner of Maldon and Constantine Roads (EHER 13179) with graves also being found at the south end of Constantine Walk (EHER 11860).

To the east of the site some Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age settlement evidence and sparse Neolithic finds were also uncovered during the Colchester Garrison Project (EHER 46187).
4 Results
Prior to the site visit the concrete foundation for the original timber frame outbuildings had been removed. This exposed an area measuring 11m long, 6m wide and 0.61m deep from ground level. Natural orange sand was exposed at this depth but no archaeological features or finds were identified. Seen in section, the concrete foundation had originally been dug through 0.07m of topsoil (L1) sealing 0.54m of subsoil (L2), which sealed natural sand (L3). The footings for the new garage were then dug through the exposed natural. They were 0.60m wide and were dug around the 11m by 6m area. From ground level the footings measured 1.61m deep.

5 Finds
No archaeological finds were present.

6 Discussion
Despite being located in an area of archaeological significance no features or finds were identified. If archaeological features existed on the site then they had been removed when the concrete foundation for the old timber frame outbuildings was originally laid.

7 Acknowledgements
CAT thanks Michael Roberts for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by E Sanford. Site plans were prepared by C Lister. The project was monitored for 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

- CAR 8 1995 Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85 by J Price
- CAT 2015 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL
- CBCPS 2015 Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL
- CIfA 2014a Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs
- CIfA 2014b Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
- English Heritage 2006 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage)
9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT  Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS  Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM  brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CIfA  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
modern  period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural  geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
UAD  Urban Archaeological Database
WSI  Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record
One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 898)
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: 2015.112

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Distribution list
Michael Roberts
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
e-mail:  archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by:  Howard Brooks
Date:  4.12.2015
Fig 1  Site location.
Fig 2  Representative trench section.
**Address:** 173 Maldon Road, Colchester

<table>
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<tr>
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<th><strong>District:</strong></th>
<th>Colchester</th>
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| **NGR:**   | TL 9850 2431 | **Site code:** | CAT project ref.: 15/11c
|            |            |              | UAD ref: ECC3568 |
|            |            |              | OASIS ref: colchest3-231239 |

**Type of work:** Watching brief

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<td><strong>Size of area investigated:</strong></td>
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**Periods represented:** -

**Summary of fieldwork results:**
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of the construction of a double garage at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester. Despite being located in an area of known Roman cemeteries no archaeological features or finds were revealed.

**Previous summaries/reports:** None

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<th><strong>CBC monitor:</strong></th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Author of summary:</strong></th>
<th>Laura Pooley</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Date of summary:</strong></td>
<td>December 2015</td>
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</table>
Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL

NGR: TL 9850 2431 (centre)
Planning reference: 152144
Client: Michael Roberts
Curating Museum: Colchester
Museum accession code: tbc
CAT Project code: 15/11c
OASIS project number: colchest3-tbc

Site Manager: Ben Holloway
CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 11-11-2015
Site Location and Description
The proposed development site lies immediately approximately 1 mile to the southeast of Colchester’s walled town centre, between the junctions of St Helena Road and Cambridge Road (Fig 1). Site centre is TL 9850 2431.

Proposed work
The development comprises the erection of a double garage (following demolition of the existing timber frame outbuildings), c.11 x 6m in area, to the side of the property.

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).

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically near to an area of Roman cemeteries. To the north, several Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (CAR 9, 258) along with the famous ‘Colchester Sphinx’, and many others have been found since. A number of burials have also been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5; CAR 8, 43-9). Eighteen Roman inhumation burials were excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (CAR 9, 261). To the north-east over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Police station on Butt Road (CAR 9, 4-202). To the east cemetery sites are known from excavations at Abbey Field (EHER 12384) and on the Garrison Alienated Land (Areas J1, C2, H; CAT Reports 412 and forthcoming). A cremation burial was found less than 80m away on the corner of Maldon and Constantine Roads (EHER 13179) with graves also being found at the south end of Constantine Walk (EHER 11860).

To the east of the site some Bronze Age/Middle Iron Age settlement evidence and sparse Neolithic finds were also uncovered during the Colchester Garrison Project (EHER 46187).

Planning Background
A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2015 (application No.152144) proposing the erection of a double garage following demolition of an existing timber frame outbuilding.

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 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 is a continuous watching brief. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (CBC 2015).

Specifically:
The archaeological work will comprise a continuous watching brief on all groundworks. The watching brief 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 (CIfA 2014a, 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 the CBCAO (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 CBCAO 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 (Ben Holloway).

**Watching brief 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 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 CBCAO as a PDF.

The report will contain:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of site in relation to Colchester street grid.
- A section drawing showing 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 CBCAO.

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 CBCAO.

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 them 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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown, D</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</td>
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<td>CAT</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Health &amp; Safety Policy</td>
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<td>CBC</td>
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<td>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, CO3 3BL: October 2015</td>
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<td>CIfA</td>
<td>2014a</td>
<td>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</td>
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<td>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</td>
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<td>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester (Colchester &amp; Ipswich Museums)</td>
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<td>CM</td>
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<td>DCLG</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>National Planning Policy Framework</td>
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<td>English Heritage</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

L Pooley

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

tel: 07436 273 304
email: lp@catuk.org
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: colchest3-231239

Project details

Project name: Archaeological monitoring and recording at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL

Short description of the project: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of the construction of a double garage at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester. Despite being located in an area of known Roman cemeteries no archaeological features or finds were revealed.


Previous/future work: No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes: 15/11c - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes: 152144 - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference codes: ECC3568 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes: COLEM:2015.112 - Museum accession ID

Type of project: Recording project

Site status: Conservation Area

Current Land use: Other 5 - Garden

Monument type: N/A None

Significant Finds: N/A None

Investigation type: "Watching Brief"

Prompt: Planning condition

Project location
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<td>Study area</td>
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**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**: Developer
- **Name of sponsor/funding body**: Mike Roberts

**Project archives**

- **Physical Archive Exists?**: No
- **Digital Archive recipient**: Colchester Museum
- **Digital Archive ID**: COLEM:2015.112
- **Digital Media available**: "Images raster / digital photography"
- **Paper Archive recipient**: Colchester Museum
- **Paper Archive ID**: COLEM: 2015.112
- **Paper Media available**: "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

- **Publication type**: Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
- **Title**: Archaeological monitoring and recording at 173 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BL: November 2015