

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HE

April 2017



by **Laura Pooley**

fieldwork by Sarah Carter

on behalf of Martin Patterson

NGR: TL 9957 2539 (centre)

Planning reference: 170265

CAT project ref.: 17/04c

Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2017.49

CHER ref: ECC3981

OASIS reference: colchest3-281373



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CAT Report 1091
April 2017

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex during the conversion of an external store into a garden room.

Despite being located within the Roman town and to the rear of a 15th century listed building, there were no significant archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex which was carried out 11th-13th April 2017. The work was commissioned by Martin Patterson, took place during groundworks for the conversion of an external store into a garden room, 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 Monitoring and Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

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, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site lies within the north edge of the Roman legionary fortress and on the eastern edge of *insula* 11 in the later Roman town. A Roman tessellated pavement (Hull 1958, plate XLI, find no 23) and wall foundation (CAR 6, fig 2.9, p15) have been recorded close to the site.

A watching brief to the rear of the site at 7 Walters Yard in 1980 (CAR 6, p390, ref 8/80a) revealed a Roman mortar floor, and pit and foundation of uncertain date (EHER 13306). Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard in 2009 (CAT Report 512) revealed Roman horizons at a depth of 1-1.4m below current ground level, overlaid by a considerable depth of post-medieval and modern strata. A robber trench marked the position of a Roman building (robbed out in the medieval period) which stood in the north-eastern quarter of the *insula*, and an adjacent fragment of compacted clay represented the floor of a Roman building probably pre-dating the robbed wall.

The development site is also located within the Dutch Quarter (Maidenburgh Street, West Stockwell Street, East Stockwell Street, Stockwell Street, St Helen's Lane, Northgate Street and Nunn's Road). It was the 16th century home to Flemish Protestant refugees fleeing religious persecution having been defeated in a rebellion

against Catholic Spain. Many of the houses pre-date the Dutch arrival and were formerly inhabited by the Jewish community and other immigrants. Earlier medieval houses may still exist beneath these buildings.

There are 10 separate listed building entries on West Stockwell Street, both Grade II and Grade II*, dating from the 15th to the 18th centuries. In particular, 53-55 West Stockwell Street is Grade II listed (NHLE no. 1110932):

C15 origin with cross wings north and south. The north cross wing was rebuilt in the C17, the south wing altered in C18-C19 and the gable removed. 2 storeys, the roofs tiled. The upper storey projects on the east front of the wings on shaped brackets (No 53) and curved brackets (Nos 54, 55). Small oriel shop window with glazing bars on the ground floor each wing.

Historic maps further indicate that the rear of the development site is located within an area of yards and gardens associated with the properties fronting onto West Stockwell Street. Ancillary structures and pits associated with these buildings may survive.

4 Results (Fig 2-3)

All groundworks were carried out by the contractors under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Foundation trenches

Two small sections of foundation trench were excavated. Each measured approximately 0.7m long by 0.4-0.5m wide and 0.8m deep. They were excavated through modern concrete (L2, c 0.1-0.15m thick) and a layer of post-medieval/modern topsoil (L1, c 0.2-0.6m+ thick, dark grey/brown silt). In the western foundation a layer of light-medium, yellow/brown/grey silty-clay was sealed beneath L1 (L3, c 0.45m+ thick). Probably of a post-medieval date this layer is likely associated with an earlier phase of garden/yard activity.

Sewage trenches

Approximately 12m of sewage trench, measuring approximately 0.3m wide by 0.3m deep, was excavated through L2 and onto L1.



Photograph 1 Eastern foundation trench, looking N



Photograph 2 Sewage trench, looking SSW

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of finds were recovered from L1 (1). There are two small-medium size sherds of post-medieval pottery. One is the rim from a Surrey/Hampshire border white ware bowl (Fabric 42) dated late 16th-17th century. The other is a handle from a glazed red earthenware pot (Fabric 40) which appears to be of relatively late date and probably c 18th-19th century. With this is a small collection of tobacco clay pipe bowls and stems. There are three complete bowls all of which can be dated to the 17th century. These have flat, pedestal feet, a swollen bowl and a rouletted band just below the mouth; the two measurable stem bores are c 3mm in diameter. Two of the bowls can be closely compared to Crummy Type 6, dated c 1660-1680 (CAR 5, 49). The other is slightly smaller with a more rounded bowl and with the foot trimmed at the back so that it is close to the line of the stem. This can be closely compared to Crummy Type 4, dated c 1640-1660 (*ibid* 49). There are eleven plain stem pieces with stem bores of between 2.5mm-3mm. Post-medieval brick fragments were also noted from L1 and L3.

6 Discussion

Despite being located within the Roman town and to the rear of a 15th century listed building, no significant archaeological remains were disturbed as a result of the groundworks. There were approximately 0.37-0.80m of post-medieval/modern layers (L1 and L2) beneath which, in one trench, was a probable post-medieval layer that was most likely associated with the use of the rear of the development site as gardens/yards for the historic buildings.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Martin Patterson for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by S Carter. Figures were prepared by LP and E Holloway. 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>

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 5	1988	Colchester Archaeological Report 5: The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85, by N Crummy
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy
CAT Report 512	2009	<i>An archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 9 Walter's Yard, Colchester, Essex: April 2009</i>
CBCPS	2017	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, CO1 1HE</i> , by Jess Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
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</i> , RRCSAL, 20
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)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
wsi	written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: not retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1091)

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

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 COLEM: 2017.49.

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Distribution list

Martin Patterson

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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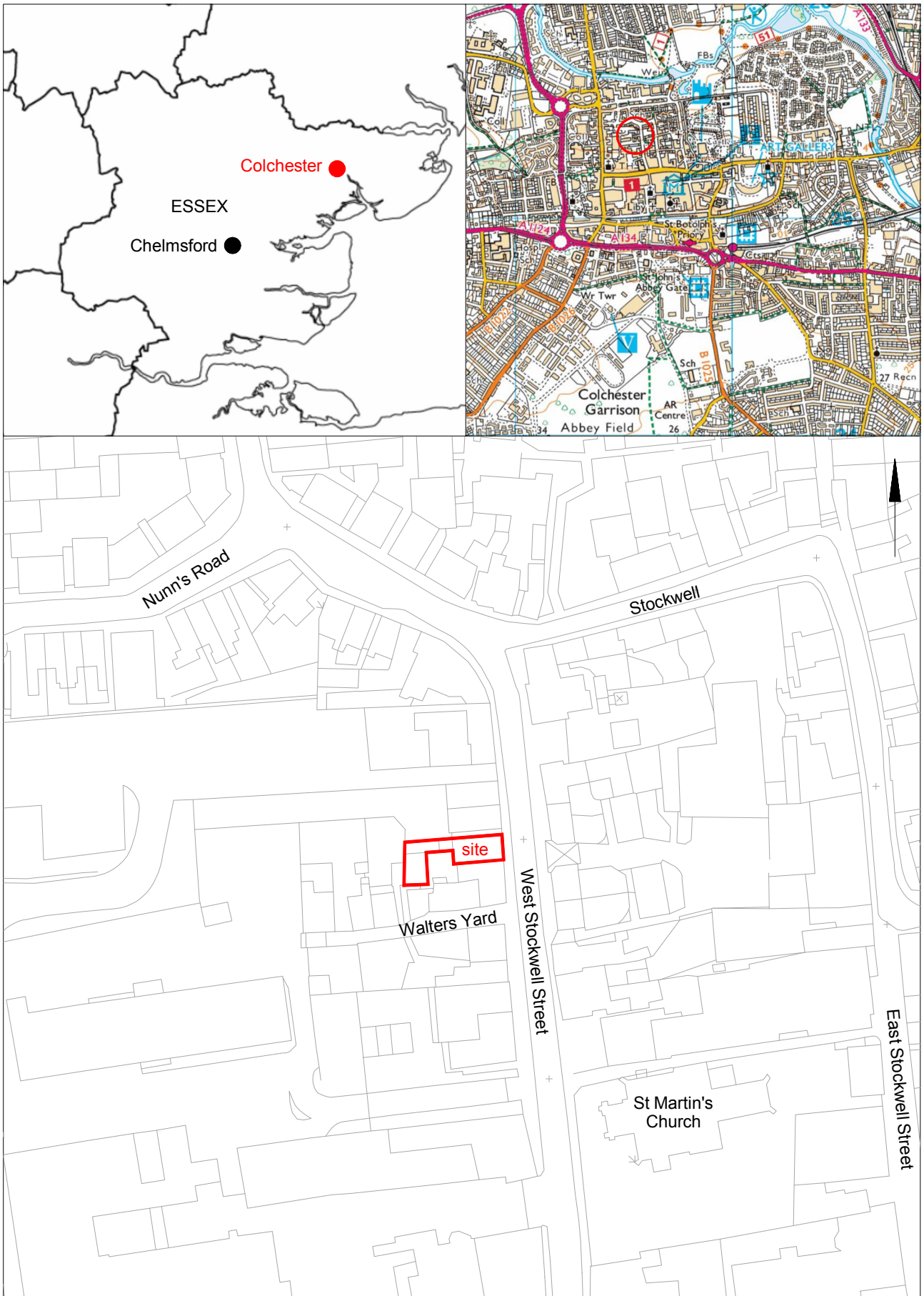


Fig 1 Site location.

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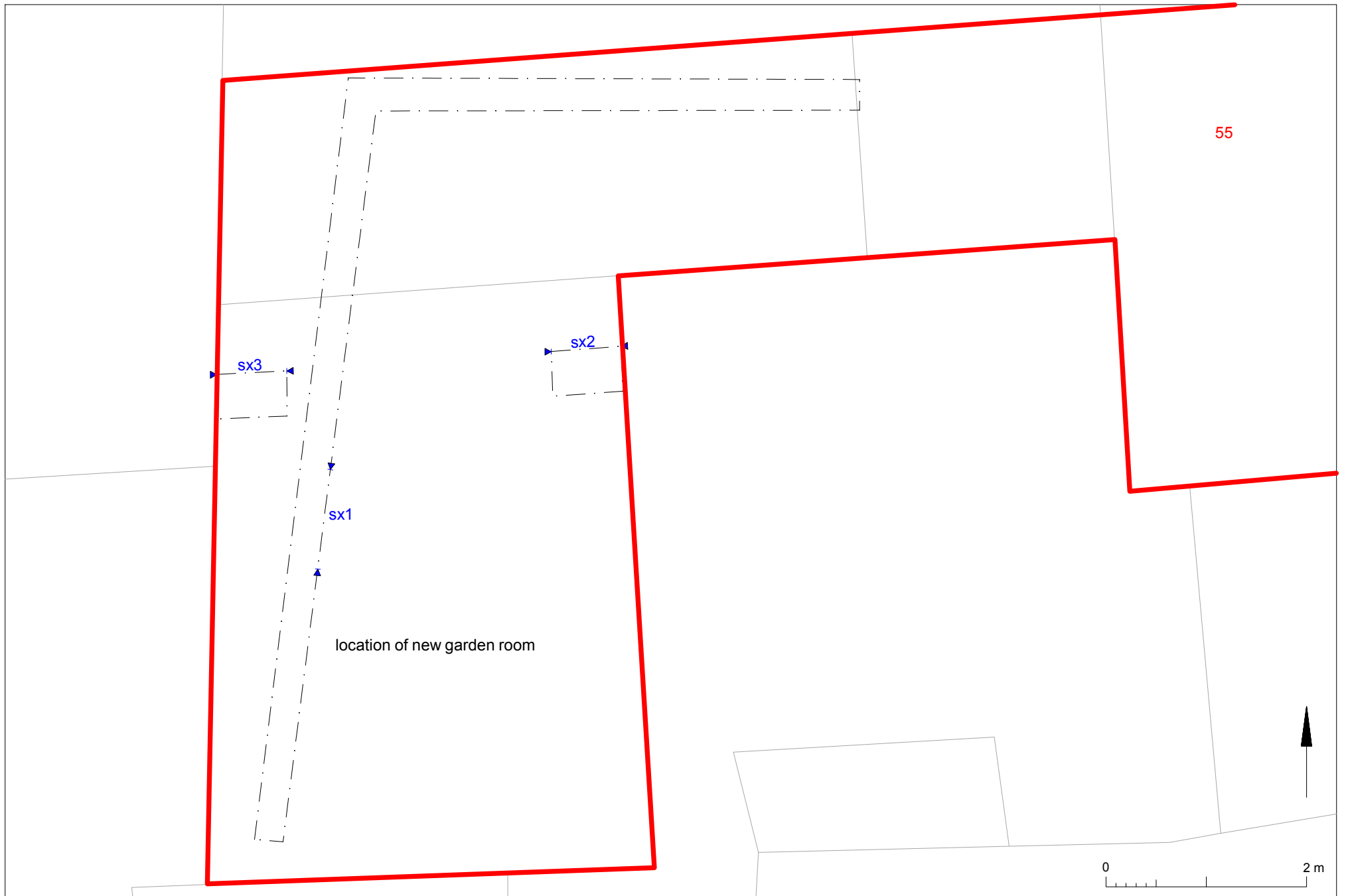


Fig 2 Results

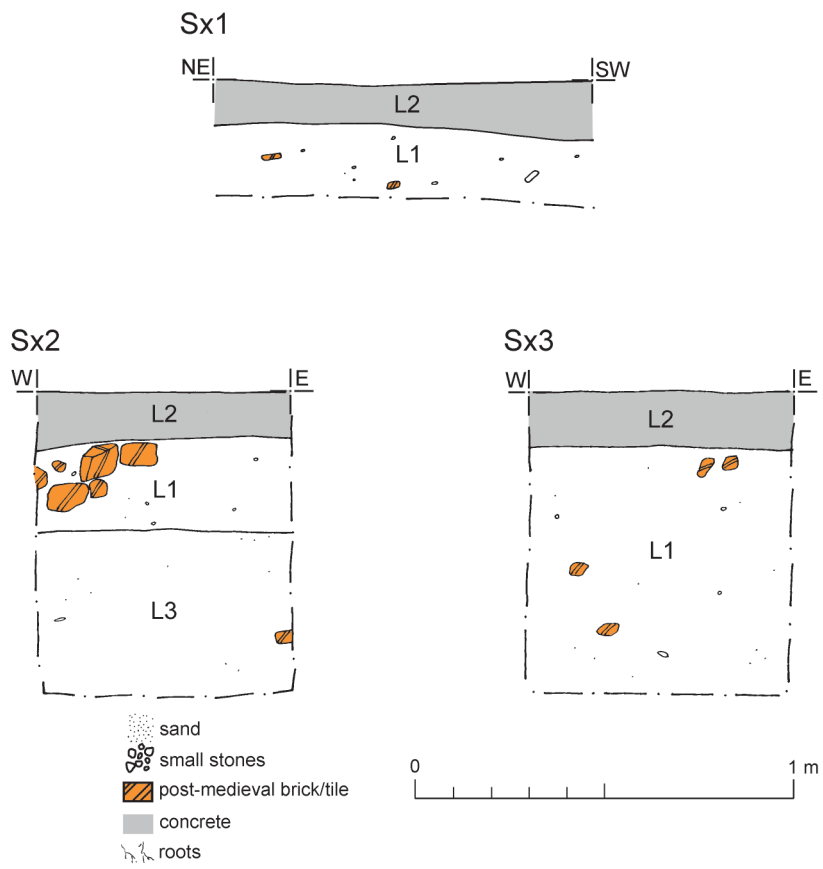


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HE	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9957 2539 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/04c CHER ref: ECC3981 OASIS ref: colchest3-281373
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 11th-13th April 2017	Size of area investigated: 88m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.49	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related CHER/SMR number: EHER 13306
Final report: CAT Report 1091	
Periods represented: modern, post-medieval/modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex during the conversion of an external store into a garden room. Despite being located within the Roman town and to the rear of a 15th century listed building, there were no significant archaeological remains.	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: –	Significance: none
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: April 2017

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HE

NGR: TL 9957 2539 (centre)

Planning reference: 170265

Client: Martin Patterson

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

CHER project code: [tbc](#)

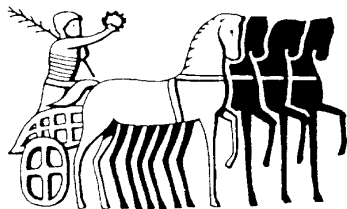
CAT project code: 17/04c

OASIS ref.: colchest3-281373

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 4.4.2017



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Site location and description

The development site lies within the historic 'Dutch Quarter' in Colchester town centre at 55 West Stockwell Street (Fig 1). Site centre is TL 9957 2539 (centre).

Proposed work

The development comprises the conversion of an existing external store into a garden room.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The development site lies within the north edge of the Roman legionary fortress and on the eastern edge of *insula* 11 in the later Roman town. A Roman tessellated pavement (Hull 1958, plate XLI, find no 23) and wall foundation (*CAR 6*, fig 2.9, p15) have been recorded close to the site.

A watching brief to the rear of the site at 7 Walters Yard in 1980 (*CAR 6*, p390, ref 8/80a) revealed a Roman mortar floor, and pit and foundation of uncertain date (EHER 13306). Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 9 Walters Yard in 2009 (CAT Report 512) revealed Roman horizons at a depth of 1-1.4m below current ground level, overlaid by a considerable depth of post-medieval and modern strata. A robber trench marked the position of a Roman building (robbed out in the medieval period) which stood in the north-eastern quarter of the *insula*, and an adjacent fragment of compacted clay represented the floor of a Roman building probably pre-dating the robbed wall.

Historic maps indicate that this was an area of gardens in the post-medieval period, particularly associated with 56 West Stockwell Street and 2 Walter's Yard (16th century listed buildings). Ancillary structures and pits associated with these buildings may also survive on the development site.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2017 (application No.170265) proposing the conversion of an existing external store into a garden room.

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 continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2017).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

Groundworks on this site consist solely of a single service trench.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and amendments to the brief and wsi may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would be otherwise damaged or destroyed.

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)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Briefs issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2017).

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.

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 for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring 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/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Processing will be carried out by trained CAT staff with analysis and reporting done by VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG 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 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:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

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 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:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings 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 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.

CBCAA 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

- Brown, D 2007 *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*
- CAR 6 1992 *Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85*, by P Crummy
- CAT 2014 *Health & Safety Policy*
- CAT Report 2009 *An archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 9 Walter's Yard, Colchester, Essex: April 2009*
- 512
- CBC 2016 *Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, CO1 1HE*, by Jess Tipper
- CIfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*
- CIfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
- Gurney, D 2003 *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
- Hull, M R 1958 *Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20*
- Medlycott, M 2011 *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

L Pooley



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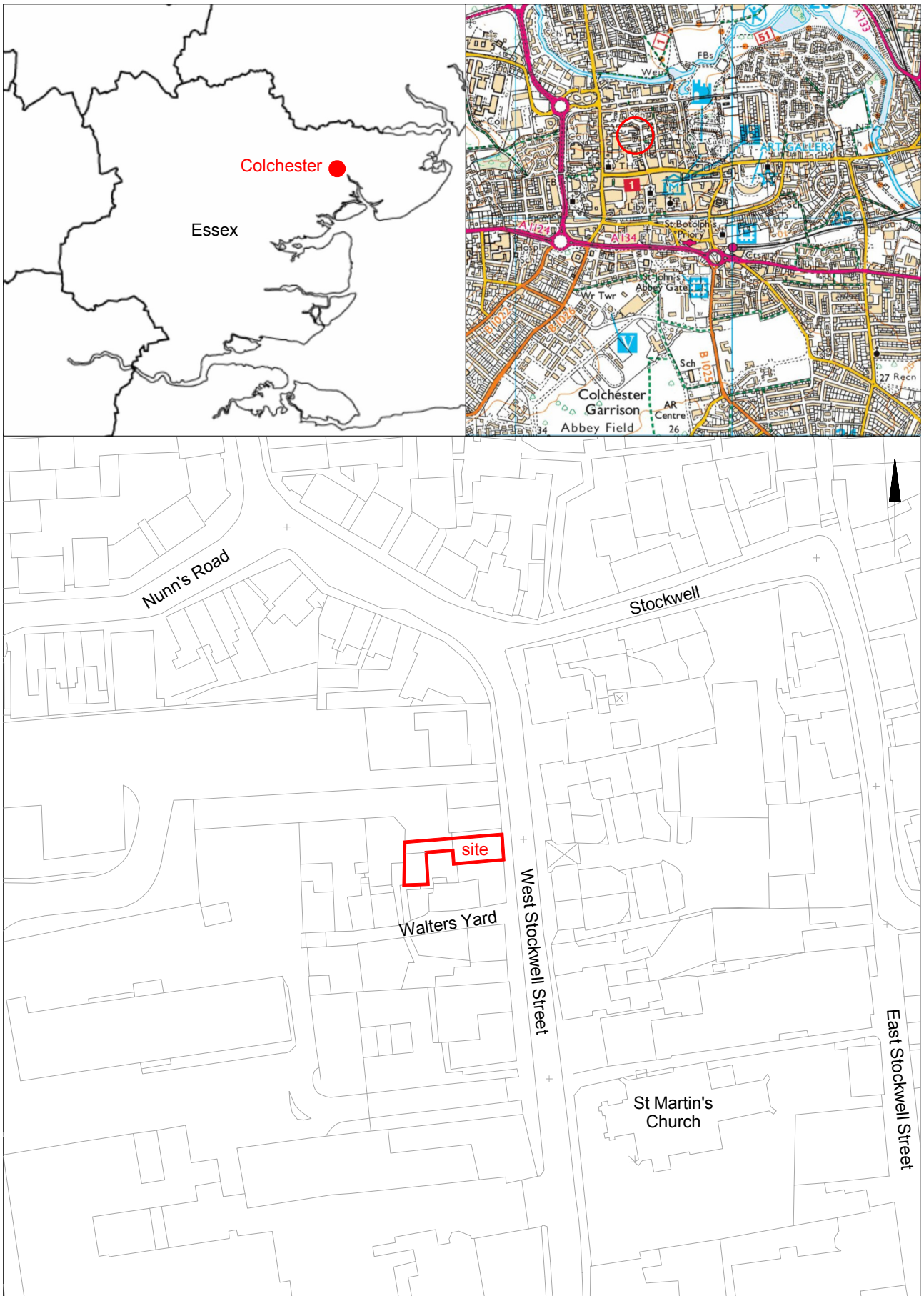


Fig 1 Site location.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-281373

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HE
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex during the conversion of an external store into a garden room. Despite being located within the Roman town and to the rear of a 15th century listed building, there were no significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 11-04-2017 End: 13-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/04c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	170265 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3981 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.49 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 55 West Stockwell Street
Postcode	CO1 1HE
Study area	88 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9957 2539 51.890754204318 0.900568306789 51 53 26 N 000 54 02 E Point

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	Sarah Carter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.49
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.49
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 55 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HE: April 2017
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Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1091
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Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	28 April 2017

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