



Colchester  
Archaeological  
Trust

<b>CAT Report 1440</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Colchester
<b>Archaeological monitoring at 9 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XP: June 2019</b>	<b>Planning reference:</b> 182411
	<b>CHER Event no.:</b> ECC4342
	<b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-352269
	<b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 9950 2600
	<b>Number of site visits:</b> 1
	<b>Dates of visits:</b> 24th June 2019

**Nature of the work:** Observation of groundworks for a two-storey extension to the rear of the property.

**Reason for condition:** The site lies within a known area of Roman burials and probable area of Roman kilns

**% of total seen:** 100% of the groundworks.

**Results:** The excavation of foundation trenching totalling 22.7m in length, 0.6m wide and 1-1.1m deep, was archaeologically monitored in response to a brief set by Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

The trenching was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.37-0.41m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown silt with frequent modern debris), and subsoil (L2, c 0.26-0.33m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown silt) into natural (L3, firm, moist medium yellow/grey sandy-silt, encountered at a depth of c 0.66-0.71m below current ground level).

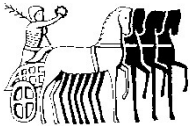


**Photograph 1** Site shot

Modern services were observed, but otherwise no significant archaeological deposits were encountered. Three sherds of Roman ceramic building material and one sherd of Roman grey ware pottery were recovered from the spoil.

**Recorded by:** Dr Elliott Hicks

**Date:** 26th June 2019



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

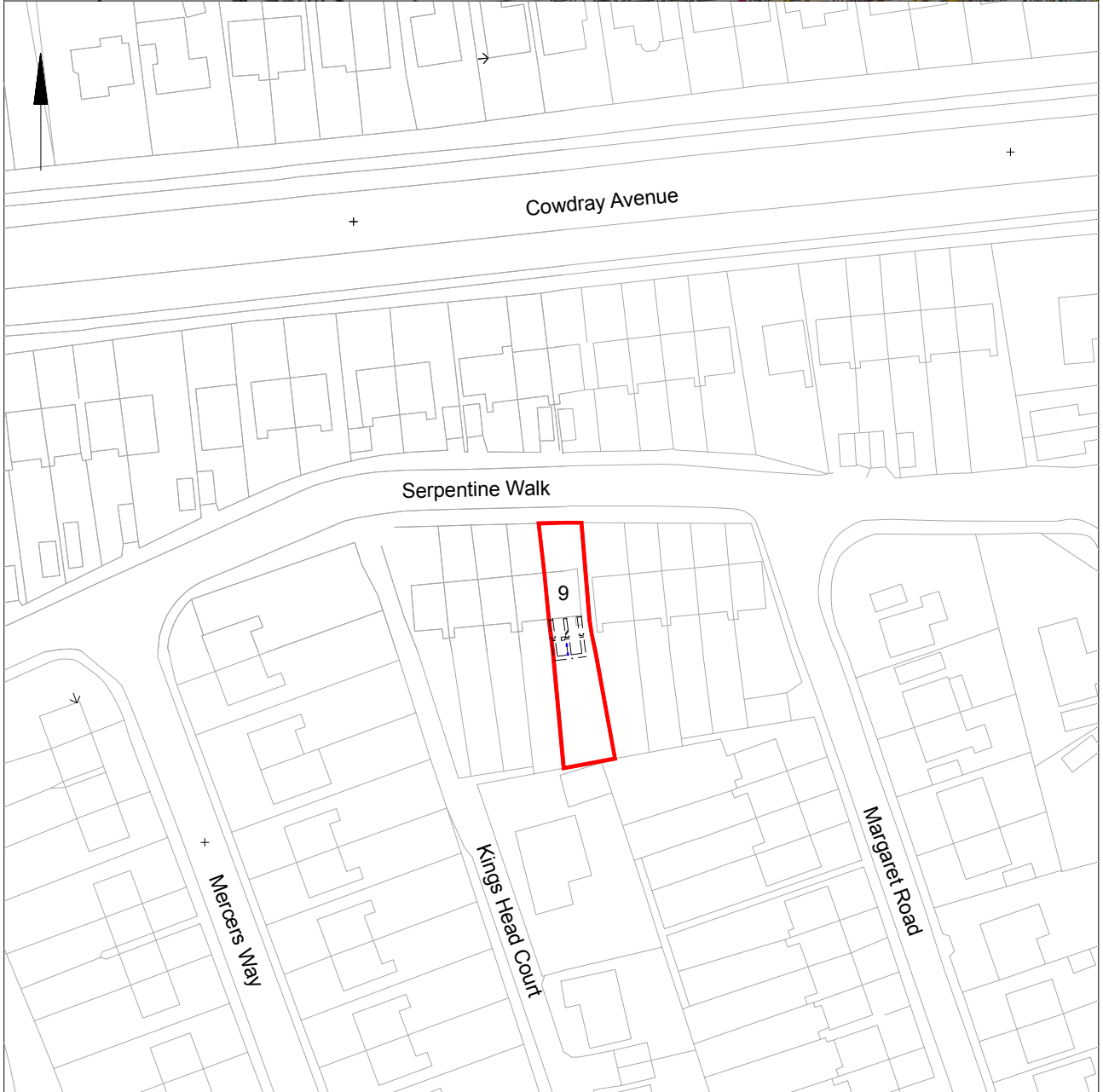
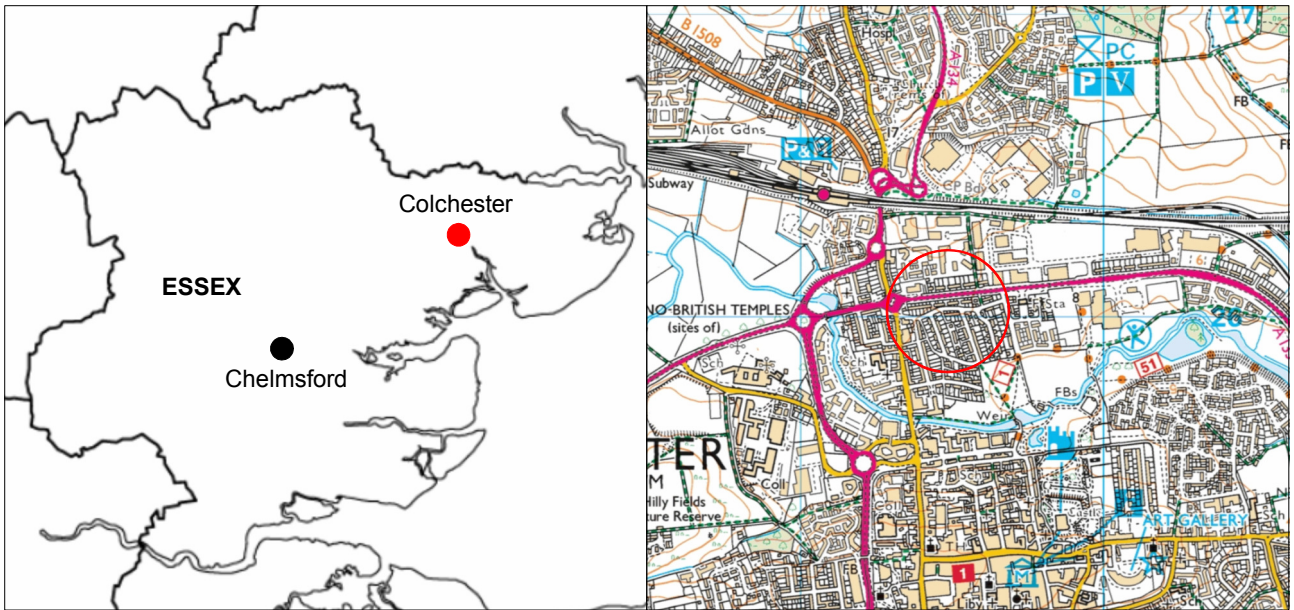
Roman Circus House,  
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*Checked by:* Philip Crummy

*Date:* 02.07.2019



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Fig 1 Site location.



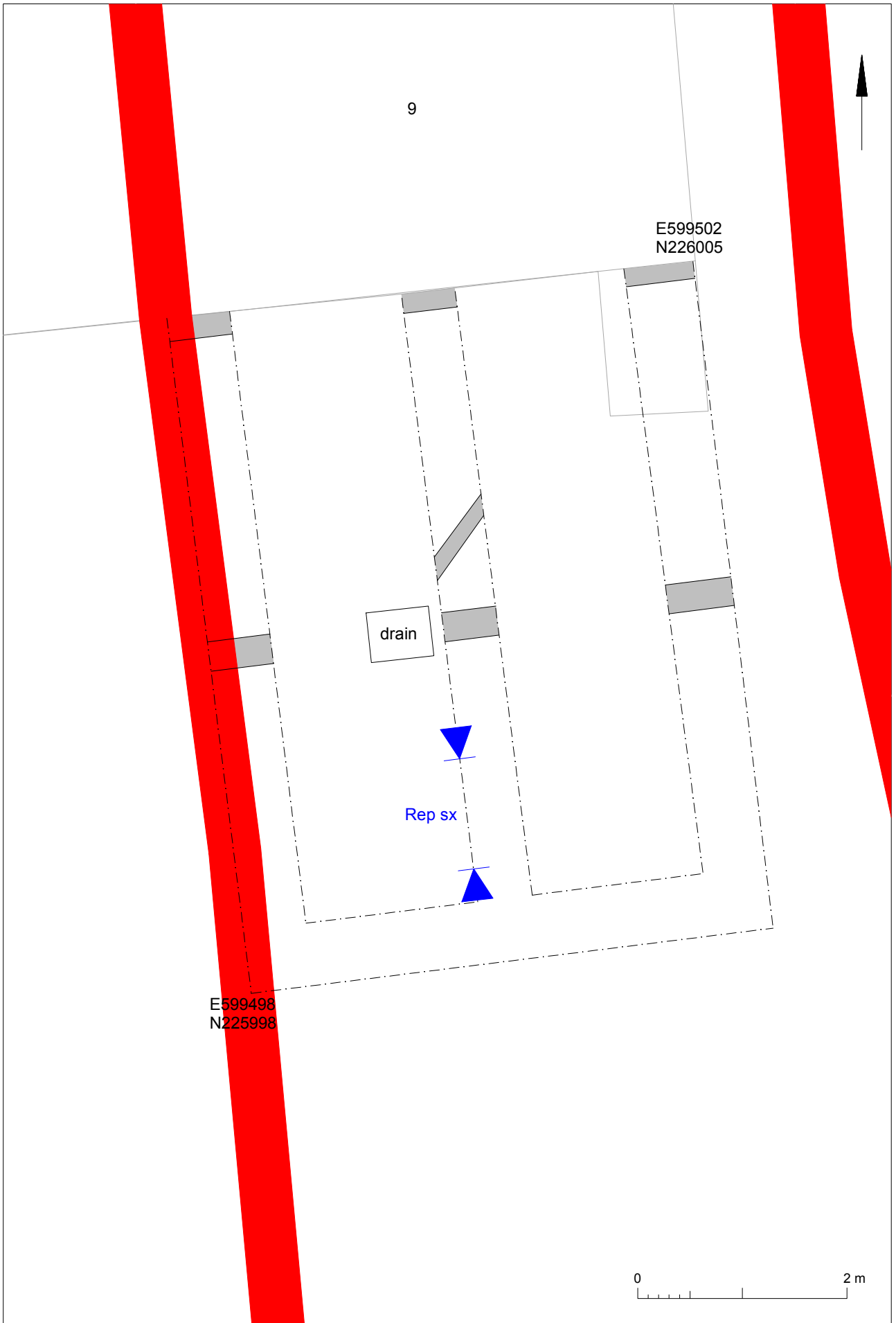


Fig 2 Monitoring results.

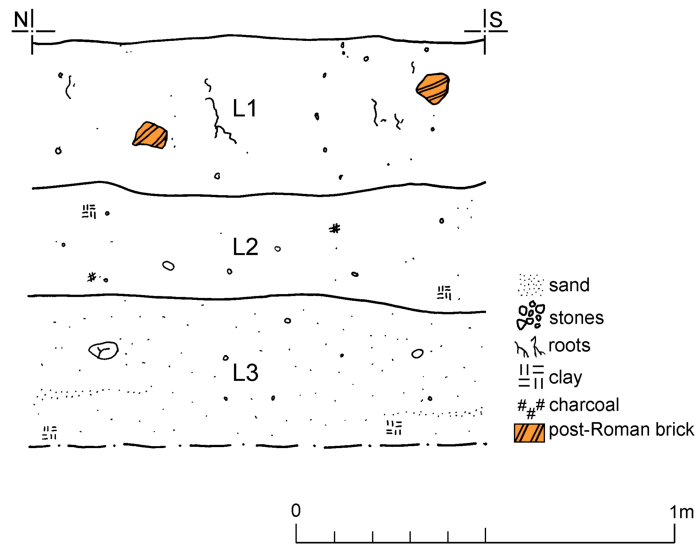


Fig 3 Representative section.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for continuous archaeological monitoring and  
recording at 9 Serpentine Walk, Colchester,  
Essex, CO1 1XP.**

**NGR:** TL 9950 2600 (centre)

**Parish:** Colchester

**Planning references:** 182411

**Commissioned by:** Brian Griffiths (BG Design)

**On behalf of:** Ms V Humm & Mr T Webb

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** ECC4342

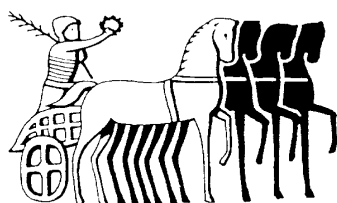
**CAT project code:** 2019/05I

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-352269

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 22/05/2019



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 890m northeast of the centre of the historic core in Colchester Town Centre at 9 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XP (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9950 2600.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a two storey extension to the rear of the dwelling and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site is close to the location of a number of Roman burials including; a grave group found at 22 Mercers Way in 1939 during the construction of an air-raid shelter; at the junction of Serpentine Road and Margaret Road there are three recorded burials on the HER, including an urned cremation (MCC2516), tile tomb (MCC2515) and a burial with 11 beads (MCC2517); A scatter of Roman urned cremations is recorded between Kings Meadow and the railway (MCC7690).

Work carried out by CAT nearby include an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in the car-park of the Globe Hotel on North Station Road in 2003 (CAT Report 248). Two phases of Roman building were recorded. The later Roman phase featured a large building, the evidence for which was four robbed-out walls running on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment, which appear to match up with other Roman buildings excavated along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appeared to have been of high status, having evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls. The watching brief was required to locate more of these features, particularly the robbed-out walls and also the course of the Roman road.

Nearby find spots include a Roman coins found at 1 Mercers Way (MCC1208) and 18 Cowdray Avenue (MCC1252). A quantity of Roman pot was recorded from around the junction of Serpentine Walk and Margaret Road, this is thought to be from a site Hull refers to as a possible pottery kiln site (MCC1341). There are pottery kilns within this area as a kiln was discovered in the former Strowgler's Ground nursery gardens (MCC2305). Roman pottery has been found between Margaret Road and Catchpool Road (MCC1899) and at the Colchester Fire Station on Cowdray Avenue (MCC1332) and two civil war cannon balls were found in the garden at 14 Mercer Way (MCC2524).

## Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2018 (application No.182411) proposing a *two storey and ground floor extension to rear*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER 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* (MHCLG 2019).

## 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 2019).

Specifically:

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

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

## **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 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## **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. Monitoring will include all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

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), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).



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.

### **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**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

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. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

### **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 or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the investigation.

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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the 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. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

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

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups)

project osteologist (human remains): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating).

## 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* (HE 2015).

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 the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site 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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

### **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

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

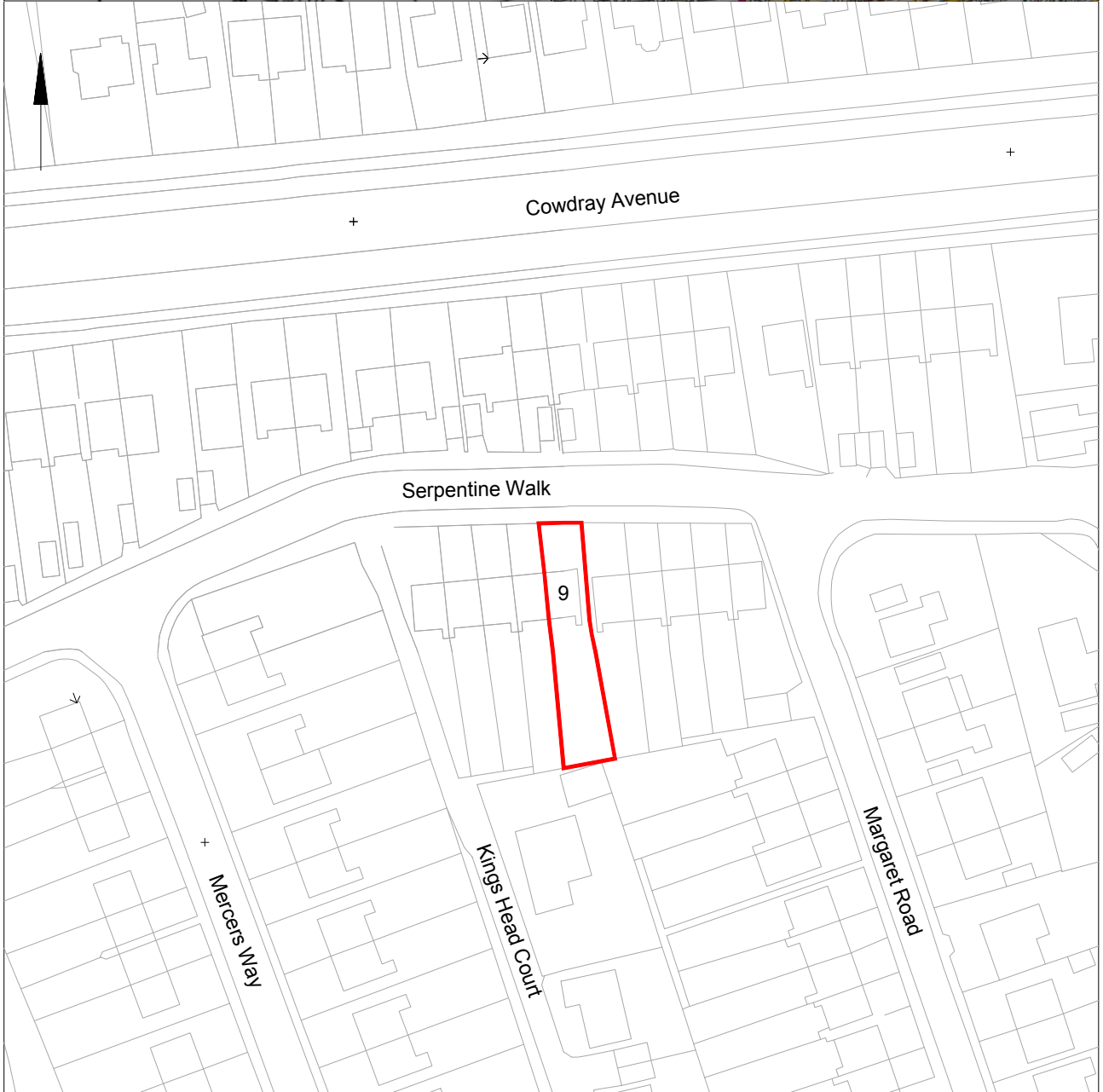
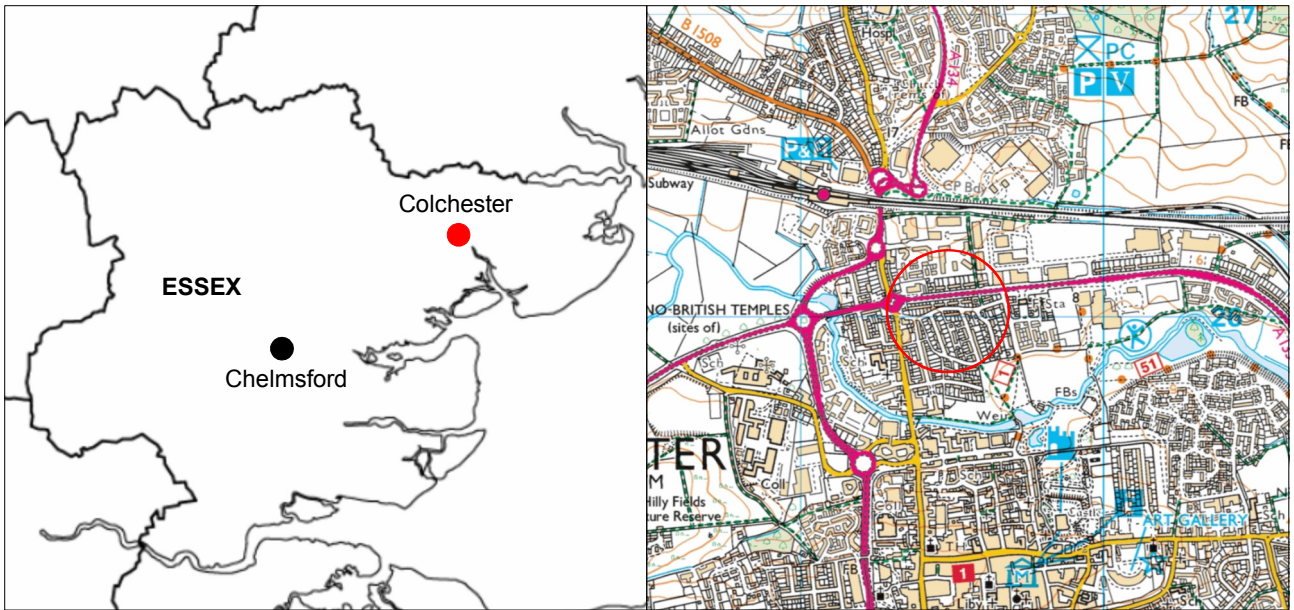
- |                       |                    |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Brown, D              | 2011               | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>   |
| CAT                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed |  |
| CAT                   | 2018               | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT Report 248        | 2003               | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, October 2003.</i> By Kate Orr                               |
| CBCAA                 | 2019               | <i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 9 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, CO1 1XP.</i> By J Tipper                             |
| CifA                  | 2014a              | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>  |
| CifA                  | 2014b              | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>                                  |
| Gurney, D             | 2003               | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).                         |
| Historic England (HE) | 2015               | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>  |
| Historic England (HE) | 2018               | <i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell                                    |
| Medlycott, M          | 2011               | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> ) |
| MHCLG                 | 2019               | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.  |

E Holloway



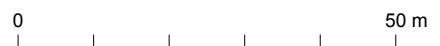
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Fig 1 Site location.



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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-352269**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at 9 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XP: June 2019
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 9 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a rear extension. Despite being located in a known area of Roman burials and kilns, no significant archaeological remains were encountered, although some unstratified sherds of Roman pottery and ceramic building material were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 24-06-2019 End: 24-06-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	182411 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/05L - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4342 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 9 Serpentine Walk, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO1 1XP
Study area	0.02 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9950 2600 51.896257361992 0.899905225707 51 53 46 N 000 53 59 E Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ms V Humm & Mr T Webb

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4342
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4342
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at 9 Serpentine walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1XP
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1440
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	3 July 2019

# OASIS:

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