

Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

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CAT Report 1732 Archaeological monitoring at Lexden Manor, 8 Colvin Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4BS: October 2021	Planning reference: 211890
	CHER Event no.: ECC4665
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-431176
	Grid Reference: TL 96922 24976 (centre)
	Number of site visits: 1
Dates of visit: 21st October 2021	

Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for a new garage.

Reason for condition: The development site is located close to Lexden Mount (Scheduled monument 1019963, MCC1536), a Roman barrow.

% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.

Results: Groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

New garage: 26.7m of foundation trench was mechanically excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.12m thick, soft medium brown sandy-silt) and subsoil (L2, c 0.46m thick, medium-dark grey-brown sandy-silt) into natural sand and gravel (L3, c 0.6m below current ground level). The trench was 0.6m wide and 0.8m deep. There were no archaeological remains.



Photograph 1 Foundation trench, looking northwest

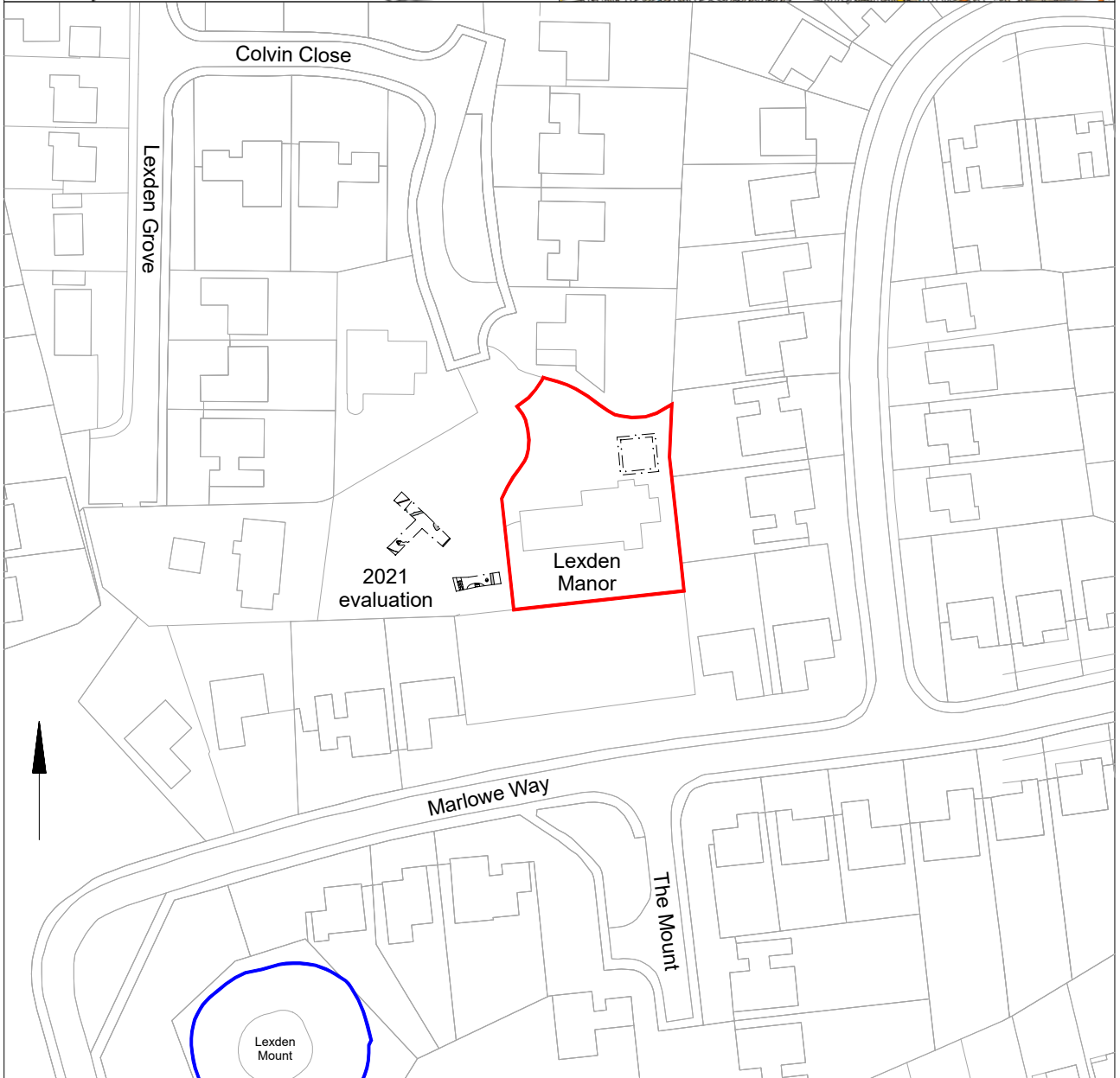


Photograph 2 Foundation trench, looking northeast



Photograph 3 Representative section, looking east

Fieldwork by: Robin Mathieson	Date: 21/10/2021
Recorded by: Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)	Date: 04/11/2021
Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)	Date: 04/11/2021



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Fig 1 Site location.



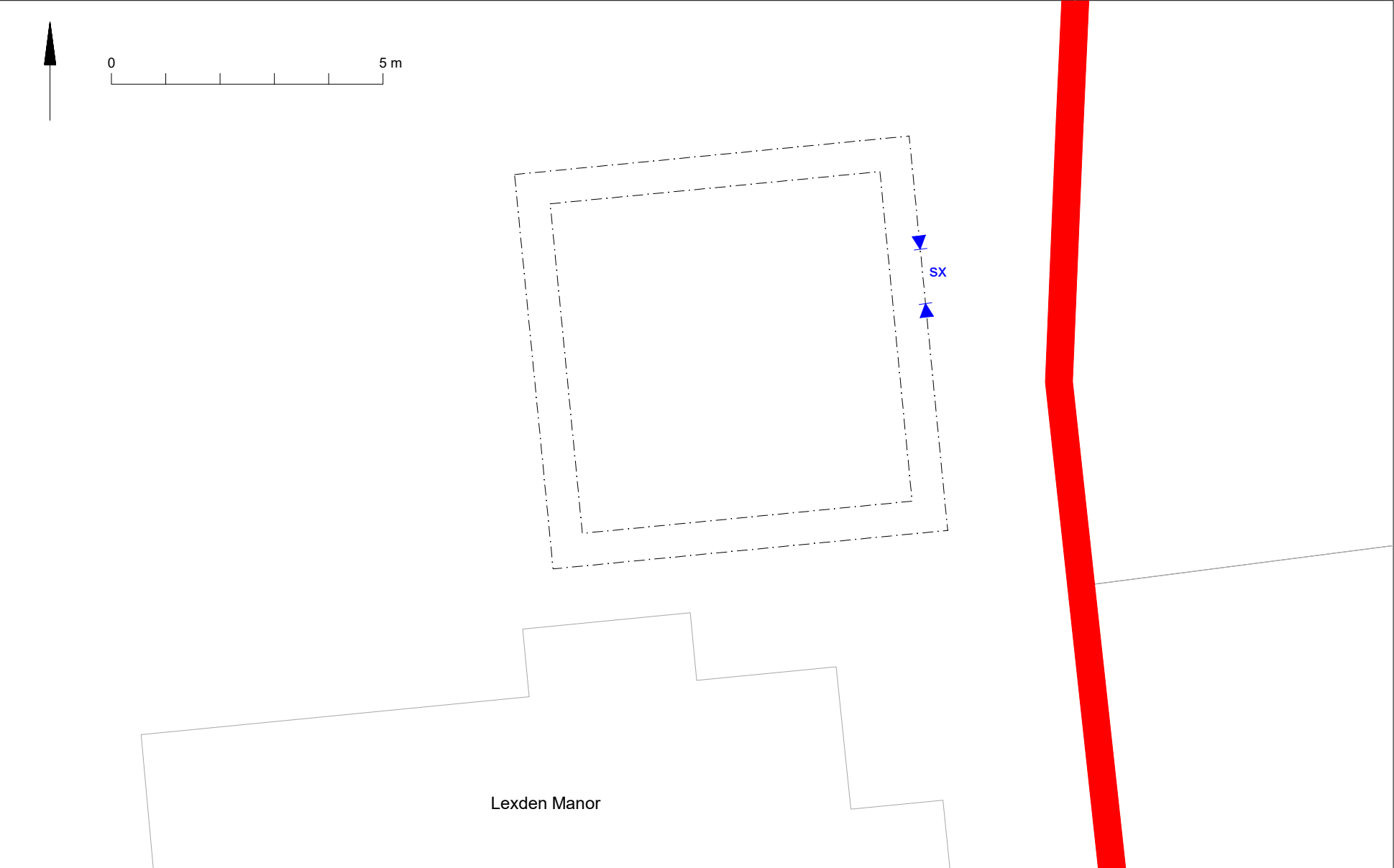


Fig 2 Results

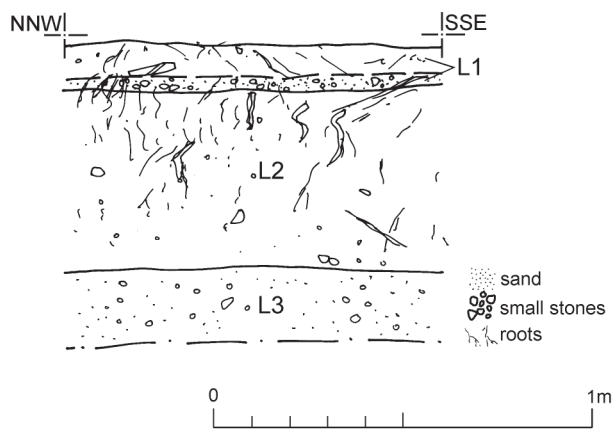


Fig 3 Representative section.

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at Lexden Manor, 8 Colvin Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4BS

NGR: TL 99610 24966 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Colchester

Planning reference: 211890

Commissioned by: Ross Bain (Vaughan & Blyth Homes)

Client: homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2021/9g

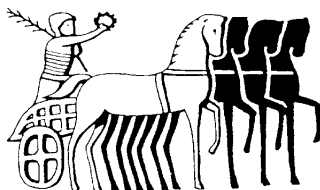
OASIS project number: colchest3-431176

Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 22.09.2021



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 2.7km west-southwest of the main historic core of Colchester at Lexden Manor, 8 Colvin Close, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99610 24966.

Proposed work

The development comprises of the demolition of a conservatory to be replaced with a new single storey rear extension and an outbuilding to be demolished and replaced with a new detached garage block with room above and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. The Lexden Dyke extends roughly north-south through Lexden Park some 420m east of the development site (CAR 11, 34-45) with the Triple Dyke extending roughly north-south 400m to the west (ibid, 55-59).

Lexden Mount (Scheduled Ancient Monument number 1019963, MCC1536) is located approximately 100m to the southwest. It is a Roman barrow that was crudely excavated in 1910, although the mound appeared to have been largely disturbed. No burial was found in the centre of the mound and the only finds from the excavation as a whole consisted of Roman tiles and oyster shell (CAR 11, 85, 124). Despite this, Lexden Mount remains substantially intact. Further burials may remain undisturbed both beneath the barrow and within the sides of the mound. The mound itself will contain valuable evidence for the date and manner of its construction, and the old ground surface, sealed at the time of the barrow's construction, may retain evidence of funerary rituals or earlier activity within this part of the *oppidum*. The Mount is one of the more prominent funerary monuments of Camulodunum and, together with the other high status burial sites in the area (like Lexden Tumulus), provides significant insights into elite burial practices.

The cropmark of a rectangular enclosure (MCC7710) was identified roughly 170m to the south. Although it has subsequently been built over by the modern housing estate, some remains may have survived. Bronze Age bucket urns have been found in Shakespeare Road (MCC1315, MCC7452) to the southwest, with other isolated finds nearby including a Palaeolithic handaxe (MCC8117), handaxe (MCC7739), and Late Iron Age and Roman pottery (MCC7531; MCC7532).

Slightly further away, the Lexden Tumulus lies approximately 685m southeast of the development site (MCC1356). It is an Iron Age barrow which, when excavated in 1924, was found to contain a rich Belgic burial with the remains of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (a cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound has variably thought to be that of Addedomarus (CAR 11, 85-94; Foster 1986) or Tasciovanus (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

The development site is also situated approximately 620m west of the core of the Lexden cemetery. This core, measuring roughly 75m across with at least twenty-seven cremation burials, is centred on 20 St Clare Road and is of a Late Iron Age date. Later burials, 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD, were then more widely scattered throughout the area of St Clare Road, Fitzwalter Road and to the south of Lexden Road (CAR 9, 261; CAR 11, 164-9).

CAT has undertaken various small monitoring works in close vicinity to the development site.

Works near 11 Wordsworth Road (CAT Report 1011), 14 Marlowe Way (CAT Report 1181) and 4 Chaucer Way (CAT Report 1352) revealed no archaeologically significant features. An evaluation on land adjacent to Lexden Manor in May 2021 revealed an undated pit and ditch and a tree throw and natural feature (CAT Report 1678).

Planning background

A planning application (211890) was made to Colchester Borough Council in June 2021 proposing the *demolition of existing outbuilding & conservatory & construction of new garage block with room above & single-storey rear extension on footprint of former conservatory..*

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 an archaeological investigation of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021).

Specifically:

The monitoring 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.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

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-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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. The investigation will involve monitoring of 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 investigate 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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical 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 monitoring.

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 Historic England guidance (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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (2015a).

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.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

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 scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

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* (Historic England 2015b).

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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

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. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

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>
	2nd ed	
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman</i>

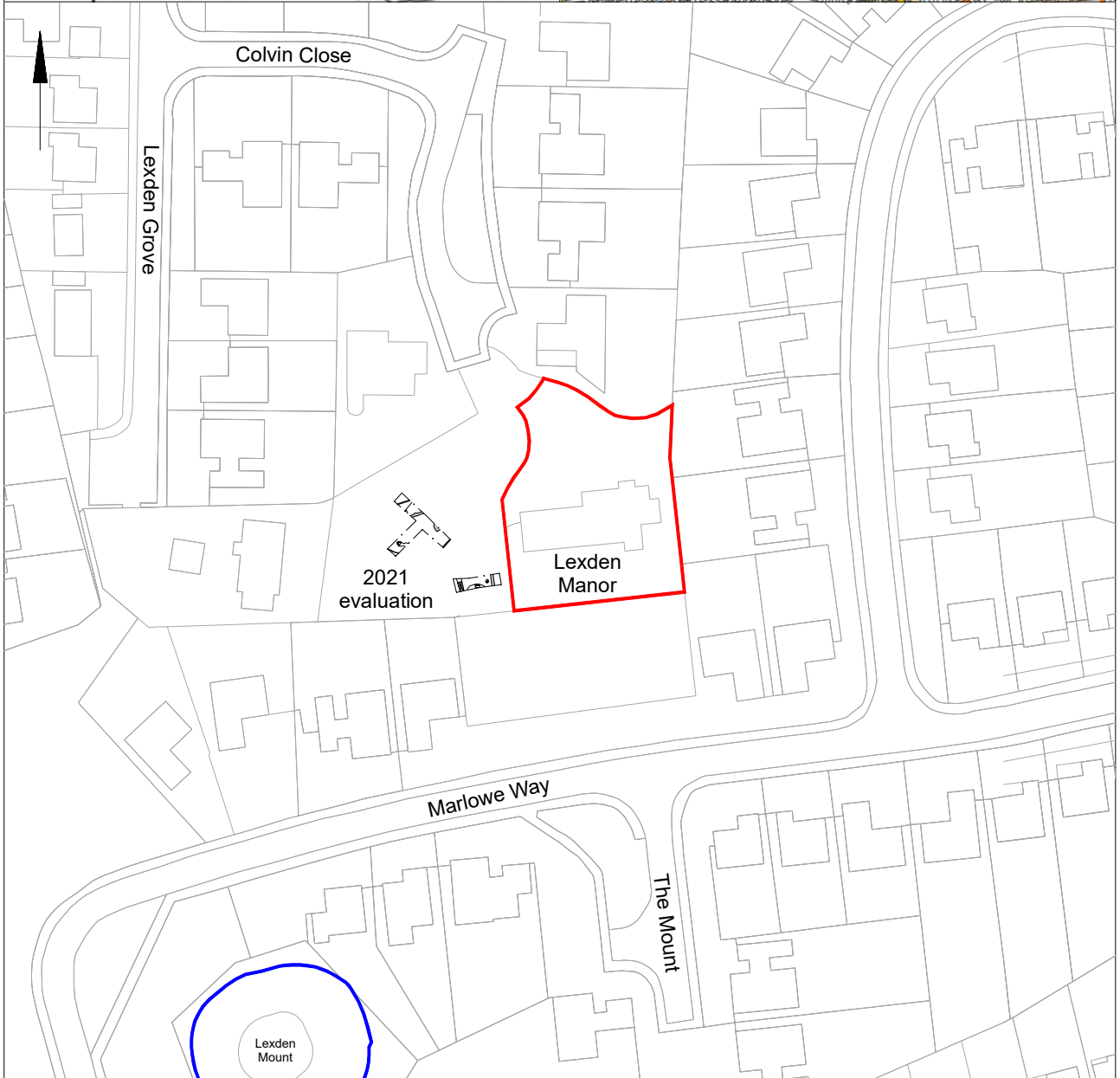
CAR 11	1995	<i>and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85, by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2, by C F C Hawkes & P Crummy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1011	2016	Continuous archaeological monitoring at Lexden Mount, near 11 Wordsworth Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4HR: September 2016, by P Parmenter
CAT Report 1181	2017	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 14 Marlowe Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4JP: October 2017, by E Hicks
CAT Report 1352	0000	Archaeological monitoring at 4 Chaucer Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4HA: November 2018, by E Hicks
CAT Report 1678	2021	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Lexden Manor, 8 Colvin Close, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ – May 2021. By E Hicks
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Lexden Manor, 8 Colvin Close, Colchester, by S Wood</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Revised June 2020</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Updated Oct 2020</i>
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct. Revised Oct 2019</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole & P Backhouse</i>
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

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Fig 1 Site location.



Summary for colchest3-431176

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-431176
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at Lexden Manor, 8 Colvin Close, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4BS
Activity type	WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	2021/9g
Planning Id	211890
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	21-Oct-2021 - 21-Oct-2021
Location	Lexden Manor, 8 Colvin Close, Colchester NGR : TL 96922 24976 LL : 51.888548, 0.860163 12 Fig : 596922,224976
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Monitoring and recording of all contractor groundworks
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring at Lexden Manor, 8 Colvin Close, Colchester, Essex took place during groundworks for a new garage. There were no archaeological features, finds or deposits.
Keywords	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	ECC4665, ECC4665
Archives	