

Archaeological monitoring at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ

March 2022



by Sarah Veasey

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Megan Seehra
figures by Chris Lister, Sarah Veasey and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Sarah Veasey

commissioned by the homeowner

NGR: TL 97455 24925 (centre)

Planning ref.: 200685

CAT project ref.: 2022/02e

ECC code: ECC4699

OASIS ref.: colchest3-504684



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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CAT Report 1787

June 2022

revised August 2022

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for extensions to the front and rear of the property. The site is located within Lexden Cemetery, an area of known Late Iron Age and Roman burials. Excavation of a foundation trench revealed a single urned cremation burial. Buried in flask dating to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period were the remains of possibly two individuals, one adult and one young child.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex on 9th March 2022. The work was commissioned by the homeowner and took place during groundworks for a rear, side and front extension.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Simon Wood 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Investigation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Simon Wood (CBCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2022).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Chartered 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 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. One of these, Lexden Dyke, extends roughly north-south through Lexden Park 114m west of the development site (CAR 11, 34-45; MCC2099).

The site is located approximately 40m south of the projected route of the main Roman road between London and Colchester (MCC1928). It is also situated to the west of the core of the Lexden Late Iron Age cemetery (CAR 9, 261; CAR 11, 164-9; MCC7525). This core, measuring around 75m across with at least 27 cremation burials, is centered on 20 St Clare Road (*ibid*). Later burials, dating from the 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 11, 164-9). Several of these are believed to have been found in the grounds of 9 St Clare Road, to the north of the development site.

Approximately 250m to the south southeast lies the Lexden Tumulus, a Late Iron Age barrow which, when excavated in 1924, was found to contain a rich burial with the remains of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion

(MCC1356). Pottery finds recovered during the excavation date the burial (a cremation) to the period just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound has variously thought to be that of *Addedomarus* (CAR 11, 85-94; Foster 1986) or Tasciovanus (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

CAT has undertaken a number of other fieldwork projects in St Clare Road and the adjacent Fitzwalter Road in recent years. Most of them revealed no significant archaeological remains (CAT Reports 99, 136, 195, 225, 250, 258, 267, 334, 455, 568, 1004). However, two Roman urned cremation burials were identified during archaeological monitoring at 12 St Clare Road (CAT Report 582; MCC3097). Excavations at 20 St Clare Road revealed a post-medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval or modern pits (CAT Report 832). During a watching brief at 1 St Clare Road in 2016, two early Roman pits, a post-medieval pit and a modern pit were observed (CAT Report 959). In 2016, evaluation and excavation at 19 St Clare Road (CAT Report 958 and 1009) uncovered four Roman ditches, a pit and a possible grave, and during excavation and monitoring at High Trees, St Clare Drive (CAT Report 1008) Roman ditches, pits and post-holes representing a largely agricultural landscape were revealed. During a watching brief in 2017 at 7 St Clare Road, six features were recorded, one contained Late Iron Age pottery, two were modern, and the rest were undatable due to lack of finds (CAT Report 1122; ECC3995).

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 42m of foundation trenching was mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 0.70m wide and 0.50-1.00m deep.

To the rear of the existing house, the stratigraphic sequence as revealed in the trench was as follows:

- topsoil (L1, c 0.08-0.11m thick, soft moist dark grey/brown sandy silt) overlying
- subsoil (L2, c 0.30-0.34m thick, soft moist medium grey/brown sandy silt) overlying
- natural sands and gravel (L3, c 0.41-0.45m below current ground level [bgl]).

At the side and front of the house, the stratigraphic sequence was:

- concrete/tarmac with sub-base (L4, c 0.20-0.24m thick) overlying
- subsoil (L2, c 0.28-0.32m thick) overlying
- natural sands and gravel (L3, c 0.52-0.55m bcgl).

Burial pit F1 was located in the west of the foundation trench. The pit was approximately 0.35m wide and 0.40m deep. An almost complete cremation urn was recovered, dating from the Late Iron Age/early Roman period.



Photograph 1 Site shot, looking north-east



Photograph 2 F1, looking west



Photograph 3 Site shot, looking south-west



Photograph 4 Cremation urn recovered from F1

6 Cremation urn (Photograph 4, Fig 4)

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Monitoring uncovered 35 sherds weighing 2.485kg from a Cam 231-232 flask lacking most of the neck and the rim. This cremation vessel is in a Late Iron Age to early Roman fine sandy oxidised fabric (FSOW). At least two large holes (c 20mm diameter), c 85mm apart, have been cut or drilled through the vessel wall on the upper shoulder, but not enough of the vessel had survived to determine if there were more than two. These are unlikely to represent repair holes and instead could have been for the attachment of a cord so that the vessel could have been used to haul water out of a well or to allow air to escape when filling with water. Perhaps less likely, another explanation could involve the 'ritual destruction' of the vessel. Finally, there are also patches of burning on the vessel's exterior surface.

7 Cremation Burial

by Megan Seehra

Introduction

Cremated remains (cremains) were found contained in the cremation urn from F1. The urn was almost complete, which resulted in all cremains staying contained within the vessel during the lifting of it on site. As the urn was dated from the Late Iron Age to early Roman period, the cremains also likely date to this period.

Methodology

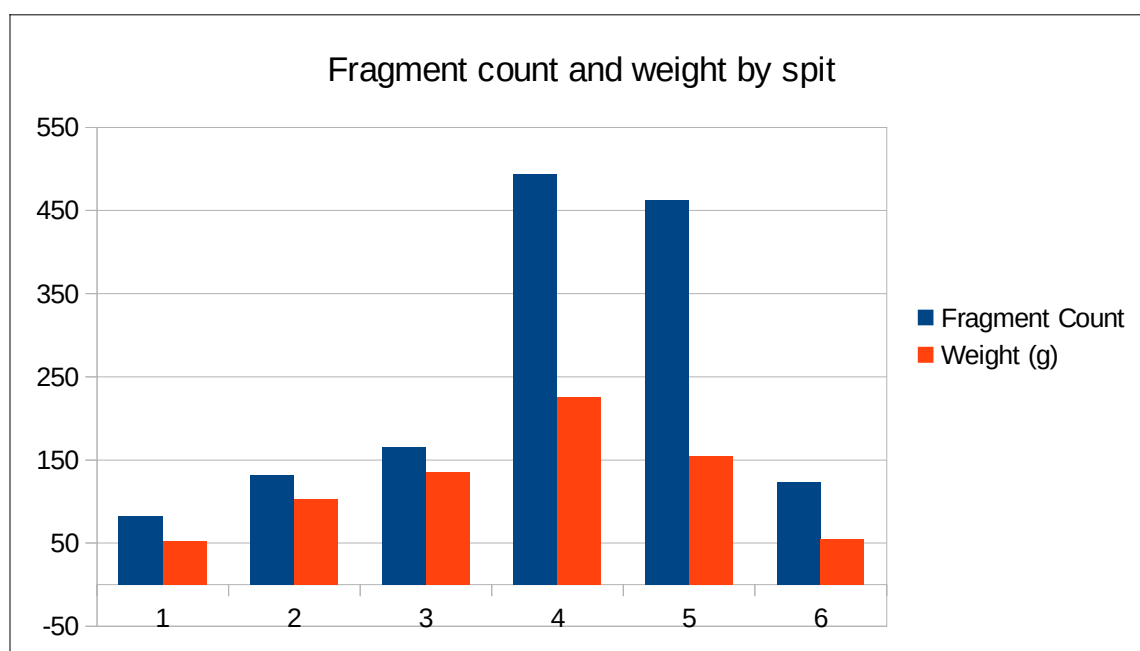
This methodology followed guidelines from ClfA (McKinley 2018). After lifting, the vessel was excavated off-site with wooden tools in 5cm spits (resulting in a total of six spits). Larger fragments of bone were taken out by hand, then the spits were dry-sieved followed by wet-sieving. Once dry, each spit was mesh-sieved into size groups, ranging from 10mm+ to <3mm. Each size group was then weighed and counted. Any fragments under 3mm were not counted due to their high fragmentation, and were weighed only. These size groups were then divided into colour groups (white, white-grey, brown-black, unburnt) which were counted and weighed. Identifiable fragments were seen during these processes, which were grouped into area of the body (skeletal elements), and were used to estimate sex, age, and note any pathologies seen. Fragments under 5mm were not analysed to identify skeletal elements. These estimations were carried out using Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994), as well as Schaefer, Black and Scheuer (2009).

Quantification and preservation

The total amount of bone recovered was 720g with a count of at least 1480 fragments. As Graph 1 shows, the largest number of fragments and total weight were found in spits 4 and 5, which is the equivalent of 20-25cm deep in the urn.

As Table 1 shows, the majority of fragments being in the 3-5mm, however the 10mm+ size had bone that weighed the most. The most bone was found at spits 4 and 5 (Table 2), which would have been approximately 15-25cm deep in the urn.

Preservation of bone is relatively good, with little disturbance due to the urn remaining intact *in situ*. The largest fragment was 54mm long.



Graph 1 Fragment count and weight grouped by spit

Size group	Fragment count	Weight (g)
10mm+	102	226.39
7-10mm	250	221.18
5-7mm	434	166.76
3-5mm	694	80.51
<3mm	-	24.75
Total	1480	719.59g

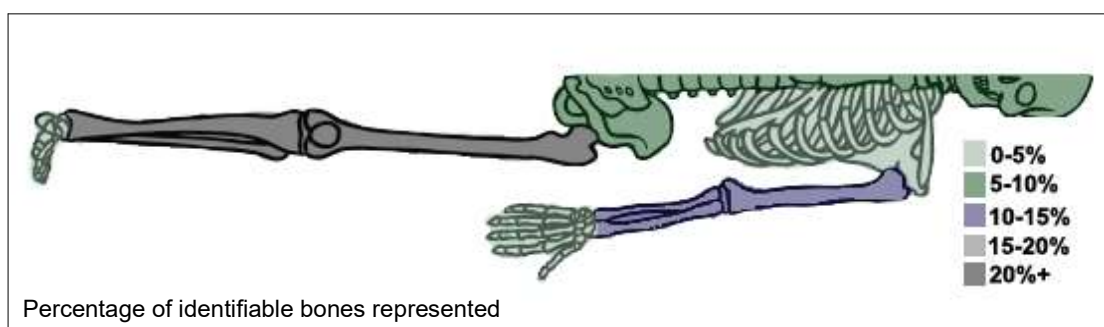
Table 1 Fragment count and weight grouped by size group

Spit	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
1	86	51.31
2	137	101.68
3	178	134.62
4	494	223.36
5	462	154.83
6	123	53.79
Total	1480	719.59g

Table 2 Fragment count and weight by 5cm spit

Elements presented

Over 50% of the cremains were identifiable by skeletal element. Most identifiable fragments were found in spit 4, which was approximately 15-20cm deep in the urn. All areas of the skeleton were identified (skull, torso, arms, pelvis, legs), and the image below shows the percentage of identifiable bones represented in this assemblage. Not shown in this picture are fragments that were unable to be specifically identified by bone; these are unidentified long bones (25%), unidentified hands or feet (1%) and unfused epiphyses (2%). As this shows, the legs appeared to be most prevalent in this assemblage. The femur in particular can be a robust bone, and its cross section is thick compared to most other bones in the body.



Heat-related changes

The heat source used to cremate human remains can reach temperatures of up to 1400°C, and normally burns for at 1-3+ hours to complete the cremation process (McKinley 2002:406-407). Completely white bone fragments indicate oxidised bone, whereas black or brown bone means charring only. The vast majority of the bone fragments were white, with just under 5% being white-grey in colour. These remains were therefore likely burnt at a temperature of at least 700°C for at least 1 hour (Ubelaker, 2015). The high percentage of white (oxidised) bone indicates an efficient cremation process, i.e. the distribution of heat.

Dehydration of human bone during cremation – especially fleshed bone – causes various types of cracks, fissures, warping and shrinkage. As per classifications outlined by Symes *et al* (2008), there are seven fracture types associated with cremated human bone: longitudinal, step, transverse, patina, splintering and delamination, burn line fractures, and curved transverse.

Longitudinal, step, transverse, and delamination fractures were noted amongst this cremated bone. This signifies the individual was articulated and had recently passed at the time of cremation (i.e. muscle and flesh was still present on the body). It also denotes a uniform cremation occurring in a single event.

Some shrinkage has also occurred, although the exact percentage is unknown it is not significant.

Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)

It is estimated this assemblage has an MNI of two. This is due to finding bone fragments belong to a fully grown adult, as well as immature, unfused bone fragments.

Estimation of Age

A complete mastoid process was found, which was noted to be very small. This was compared to an unburnt mastoid process of an individual from a similar site whose age was estimated to be between two to four years old (Photograph 5). Taking into account a degree of bone shrinkage during the cremation process, this mastoid process looked very similar. The mastoid process forms in individuals between the age of one and five years old (Schaefer, Black & Scheuer 2009, 24). One individual is likely to be between the age of two and five years old.

A fused partial humeral head was found, as well as a fused ilium fragment (part of the pelvis). These denote an individual of adult age (18 years+). Other limb fragments were the right size for an adult as well, taking into account heat-related shrinkage.

There appeared to be more fragments in the assemblage belonging to the adult than the child. They may have been cremated together

Estimation of Sex

Sex was unable to be estimated for both individuals.

Estimation of Stature

Stature was unable to be estimated.



Photograph 5 Mastoid process of an individual from a similar site, aged between two-four years old (left), compared to the mastoid process from this cremation (right).

Pathologies

One fragment of an unidentifiable skeletal element showed signs of new bone, indicative of the site of a healing fracture. This fragment appeared to be from the adult individual.

Conclusion

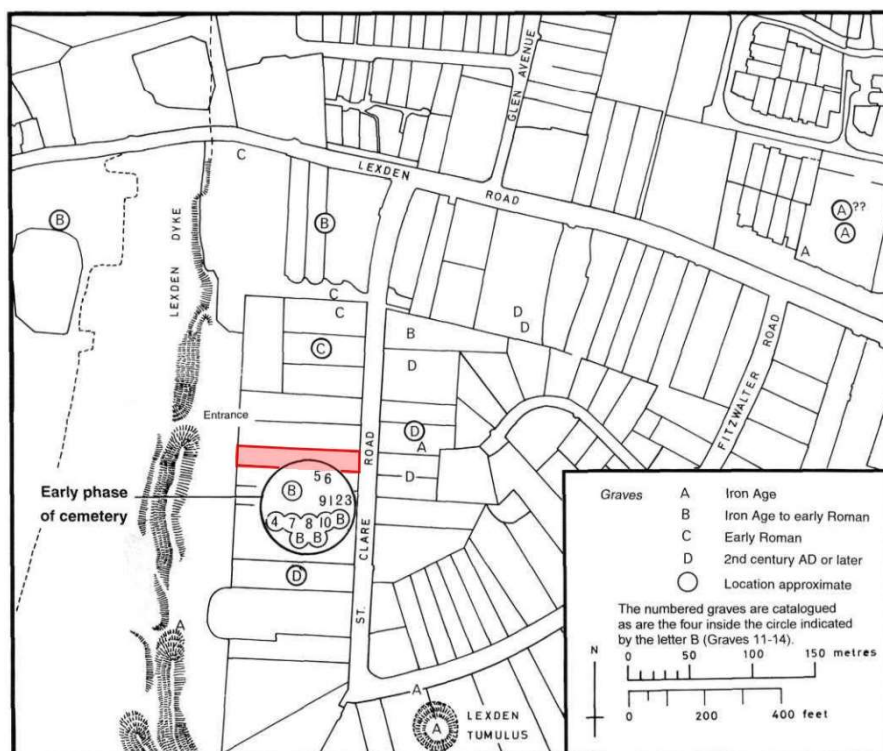
The urned cremation recovered from this site revealed the remains of possibly two individuals; one adult and one young child. It is possible they were cremated together, and the implications of this are that they are closely related. It is also conceivable to theorise the remains of the younger individual were inadvertently mixed in with the adult's remains, either during the cremation/collection process or during deposition. There are examples of dual cremations in archaeological contexts, with the most common combination being an adult and child together (McKinley 2014, 1734).

The total weight of the cremains (720g) could be enough to suggest the burial of an entire individual in the urn, rather than a partial, "token" deposition of the cremains (McKinley 2000). It could be said the inclusion of the small fragments of juvenile bone may be a "token" deposition that were placed in the urn during deposition of the adult.

8 Conclusion

Monitoring at 16 St Clare Road revealed a single urned cremation burial dating from the Late Iron Age/early Roman period. Cremains within the urn were possibly of two individuals, one adult and one young child. There is evidence of burning on the exterior of the vessel along with two holes cut or drilled into the neck, a possible indication of the vessel's use prior to being utilised as a burial urn.

This discovery provides another example of a Late Iron Age/early Roman burial within this area of Colchester and is specifically located within an early phase of the Lexden Cemetery (Map 1). Burials in this area have been dated to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period, this paired with the date of the vessel likely dates this burial to the same period.



Map 1 Burial locations in the Lexden Late Iron Age Cemetery, from CAR 11 Fig 7.1, 16 St Clare Road highlighted in red.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, and carried out by S Veasey. Figures were prepared by C Lister, S Veasey and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Dr Simon Wood.

10 References

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

- | | | |
|----------------|---------|--|
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| | 2nd ed. | |
| CAR 9 | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds & S Wade |
| CAT | 2022a | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2022b | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ</i> By E Holloway |
| CAT Report 99 | 2000 | <i>Report on an archaeological watching brief at 1a St Clare Road, Colchester: October 2000</i> , by K Orr |
| CAT Report 136 | 2001 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 14 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: April 2001</i> , by K Orr |
| CAT Report 195 | 2002 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 10 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: June 2002</i> , by H Brooks |
| CAT Report 225 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological excavation at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2003</i> , by M McDonald |
| CAT Report 250 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2003</i> , by K Orr |
| CAT Report 258 | 2004 | <i>Report on a negative watching brief at 24 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2003</i> , by L Pooley |

CAT Report 267	2004	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at Lexden Tumulus, 30 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2003-March 2004</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 334	2005	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 36 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2005</i> , by K Orr
CAT Report 455	2008	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: January 2008</i> , by H Brooks
CAT Report 568	2010	<i>Watching brief at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2010</i> , by C Lister
CAT Report 582	2010	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 12 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2010</i> , by D Shimmin
CAT Report 745	2013	<i>A Roman cemetery east of Lexden Dyke: archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 'High Trees', St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2013</i> , by B Holloway
CAT Report 832	2015	<i>Archaeological strip, map and recording on land adjacent to 20 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2015</i> , by P Parmenter & A Wightman
CAT Report 958	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 959	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 1004	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: August 2016</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 1008	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and excavation at 'High Trees', St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TA: February-July 2016</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 1009	2016	<i>Archaeological excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: July 2016</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 1122	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 7 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: June 2017</i> , by E Hicks
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester</i> , by S Wood
CiFA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Revised June 2020
CiFA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CiFA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2021
Foster, J	1986	'The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex', <i>BAR 156</i>
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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)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Schaefer, M, Black, S & Scheuer, L	2009	<i>Juvenile Osteology</i>
Symes, M, Rainwater, C W, Chapman, E N, Gipson, D R & Piper A. L.	2008	'Patterned thermal destruction of human remains in a forensic setting' in <i>The Analysis of Burned Human Remains</i> by C Schmidt and S Symes
Ubelaker, D H & Buikstra, J E	1994	<i>Standard for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains</i>
Ubelaker, D H	2015	'Case applications of recent research on thermal effects on the skeleton' in <i>The Archaeology of Cremation</i> by T Thompson

11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
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 (layer) of material
Iron Age (Late)	Late Iron Age (LIA), period from c 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained (vessel returned to homeowner and the cremains will be reburied)

Digital record:

The report (CAT Report 1787)
CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log
Scans of original site records (plan/sections)
Graphic files
Site data
Survey data

13 Archive deposition

The 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

Distribution list

Homeowner

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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Essex, CO2 7GZ

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email: sv@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 16/06/2022

Appendix 1 Skeletal elements by spit (fragment count in red, weight (g) in blue)

Spit	Skull (incl. teeth)	Torso (excl. vert.)	Vertebrae	Arms	Hands/ wrist	Pelvis and sacrum	Legs	Unident. long bones	Unident. hands/ feet	Unident. unfused epiphyses	TOTAL by spit
1	4 3.91	-	2 1.82	2 2.59	-	3 3.51	3 18.54	-	-	1 0.34	15 30.71
2	7 11.93	1 1.48	2 4.65	3 21.55	1 2.76	-	-	10 14.36	-	1 2.49	25 59.22
3	7 9.05	1 1.14	5 7.64	2 7.35	1 1.62	2 7.54	5 7.24	2 7.03	-	-	25 48.61
4	11 7.75	4 3.33	3 2.94	7 17.42	1 0.38	5 5.28	29 54.72	53 46.32	6 1.41	-	119 139.55
5	8 4.03	3 1.79	9 9.76	2 1.73	5 4.47	9 12.34	10 9.92	22 27.39	1 0.83	6 5.60	75 77.86
6	2 1.71	1 0.36	-	1 0.59	-	7 6.63	17 21.59	-	1 0.17	-	29 31.05
Total	39 38.38	10 8.10	21 26.81	17 51.23	8 9.23	26 35.30	64 112.01	87 95.10	8 2.41	8 8.43	

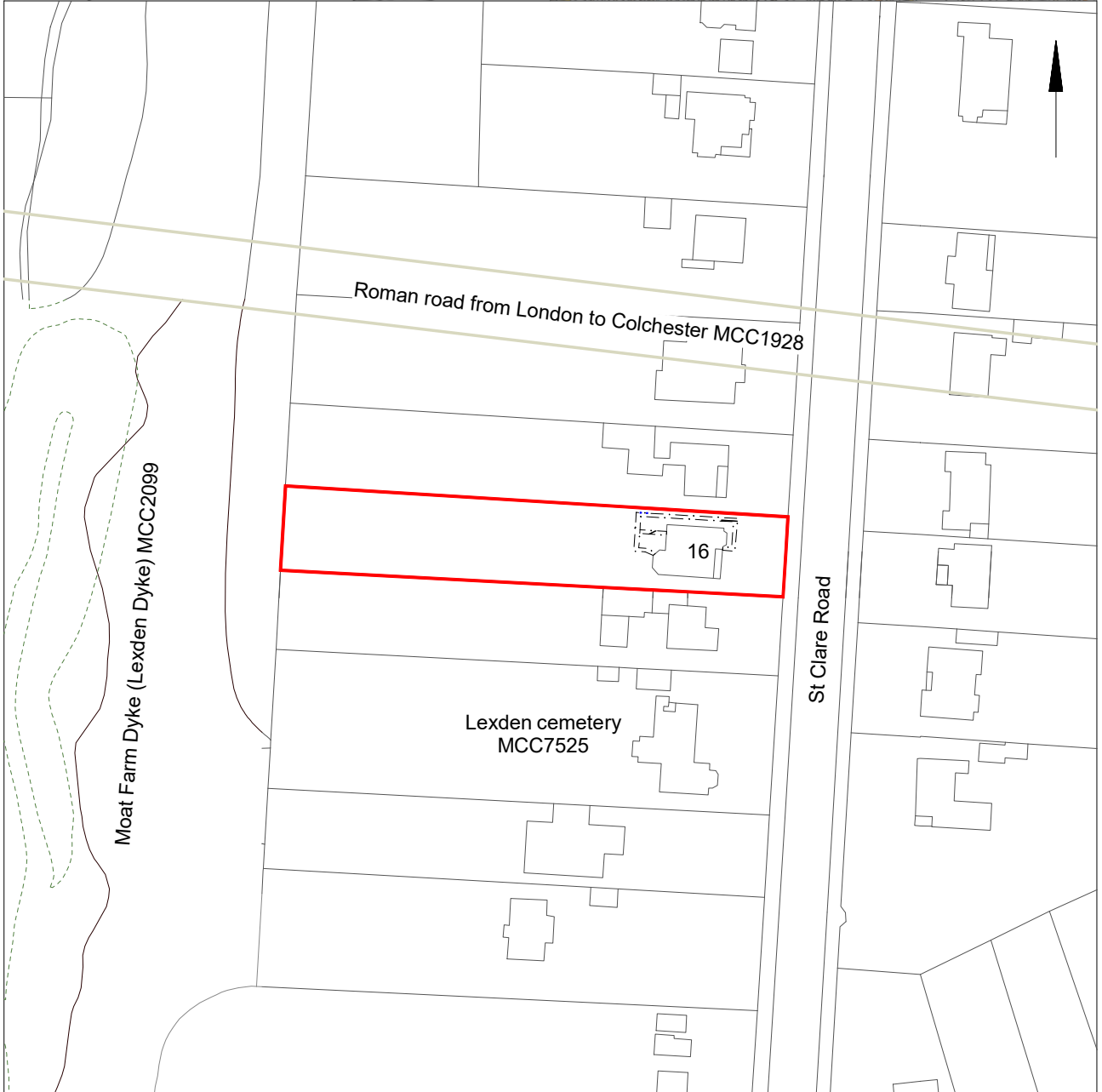
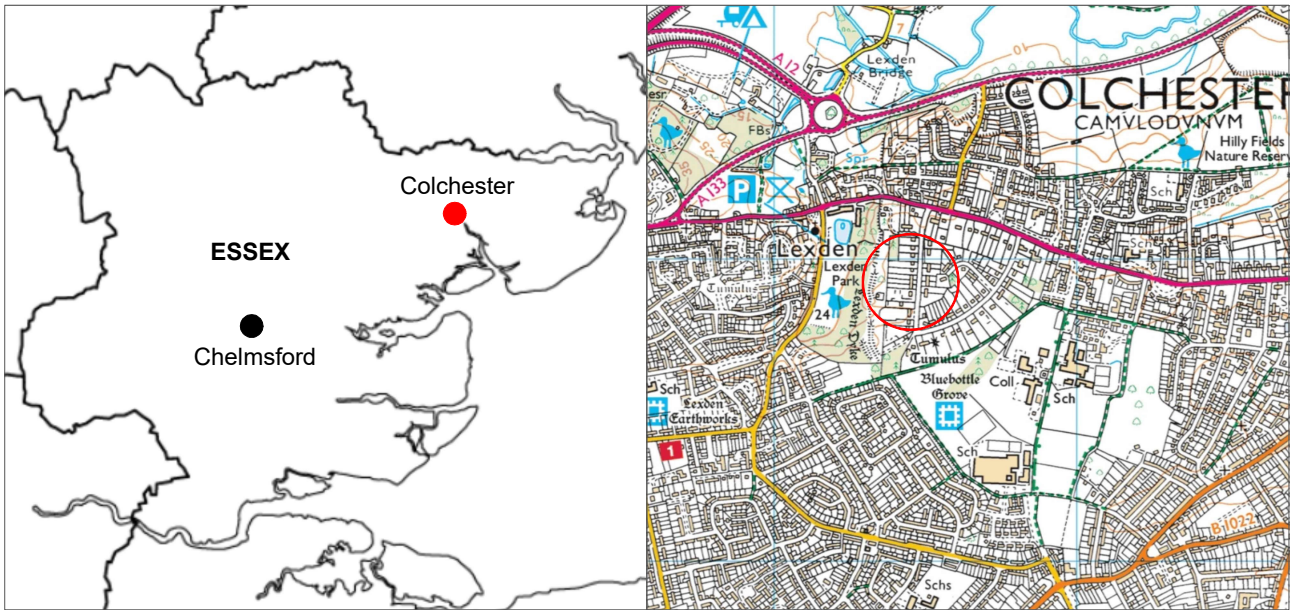


Fig 1 Site location.

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Fig 2 Monitoring results. Modern services in grey.

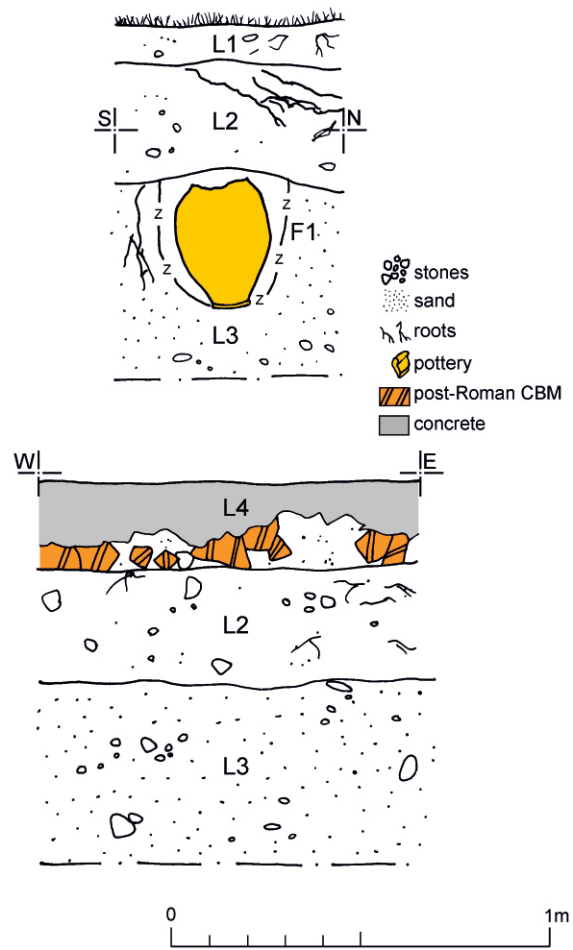


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

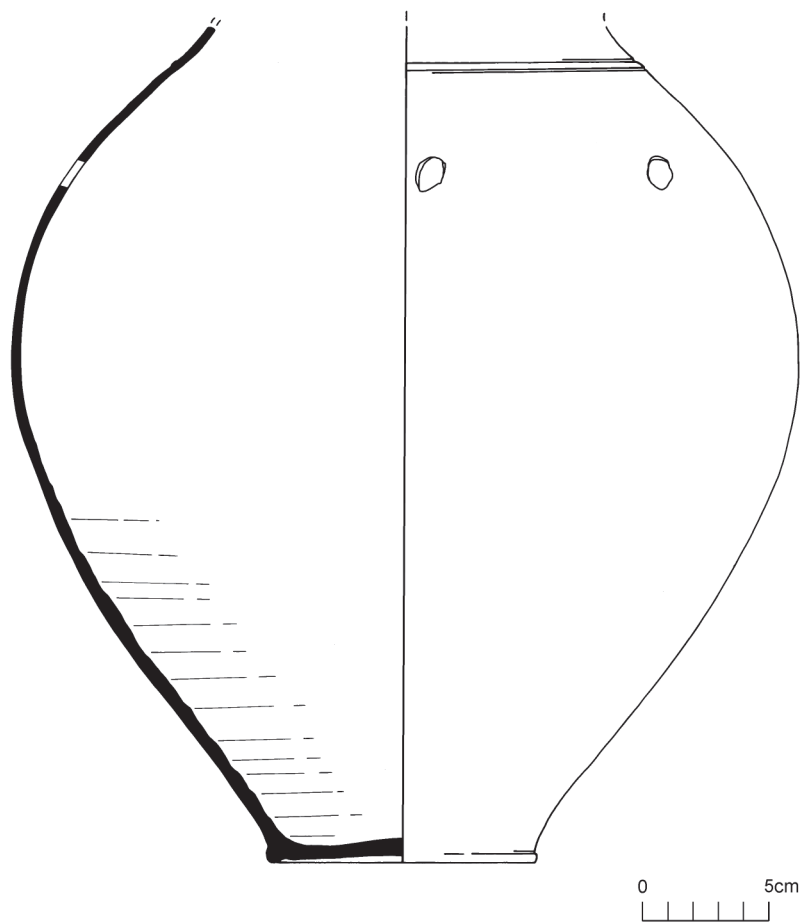


Fig 4 Roman cremation urn from F1.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 16 Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 97455 24925 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/02e CHER ref: ECC4699 OASIS ref: colchest3-504684
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 9th March 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.15ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC1356, MCC1928, MCC2099, MCC3097, MCC7525; ECC3995
Final report: CAT Report 1787	
Periods represented: Late Iron Age/early Roman	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for extensions to the front and rear of the property. The site is located within Lexden Cemetery, an area of known Late Iron Age and Roman burials. Excavation of a foundation trench revealed a single urned cremation burial. Buried in flask dating to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period were the remains of possibly two individuals, one adult and one young child.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: Cremation burial	Significance: **
Author of summary: Sarah Veasey	Date of summary: June 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ

NGR: TL 97455 24925 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Colchester

Planning reference: 200685

Client: Homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/02e

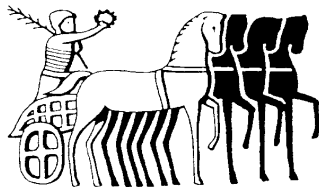
OASIS project number: colchest3-504684

Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 16/02/2022



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 2.1km east-southeast from the main historic core of Colchester at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 97455 24925.

Proposed work

The development comprises of the demolition of walls at the front, side and rear of the dwelling including demolition of a rear garage. New extensions will be added including widening the garage at the front and extending the rear to create a much larger kitchen diner area including a spiral wine cellar.

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. One of these, Lexden Dyke, extends roughly north-south through Lexden Park 114m west of the development site (CAR 11, 34-45, MCC2099).

The site is located approximately 40m south of the projected line of the main Roman Road between London and Colchester (MCC1928).

It is also situated within approximately 115m west of the core of the Lexden cemetery (CAR 9, 261; CAR 11, 164-169, MCC7525). This core, measuring around 75m across with at least 27 cremation burials, is centered on 20 St Clare Road and is of a Late Iron Age date (*ibid*). 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 11, 164-9). Several of these are believed to have been found in the grounds of 9 St Clare road, immediately to the south of the development site.

Approximately 253m to the south-southeast lies the Lexden Tumulus, an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced 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 (MCC1356). 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).

CAT has undertaken a number of other fieldwork projects in the adjacent St Clare Road and Fitzwalter Road in recent years, most of them revealed no significant archaeological horizons (CAT Report 99, 136, 195, 225, 250, 258, 267, 334, 455, 568, 1004). However, two Roman urned cremation burials were identified during a watching brief at 12 St Clare Road (CAT Report 582, MCC3097). Excavation at 20 St Clare Road revealed a post-medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval/modern pits (CAT Report 832). A watching brief at 1 St Clare Road in 2016 revealed two early Roman pits, a post-medieval pit and a modern pit (CAT Report 959). In 2016, evaluation and excavation at 19 St Clare Road (CAT Report 958 and 1009) revealed four Roman ditches, a pit and a possible grave and excavation and monitoring at High Trees, St Clare Drive (CAT Report 1008) revealed Roman ditches, pits and postholes representing a largely agricultural landscape. During a watching brief in 2017 at 7 St Clare Road six features were recorded, one contained late Iron Age pottery, two were modern, and the rest were undatable due to lack of finds (CAT Report 1122, ECC3995).

Planning background

A planning application (200685) was made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2020 for *proposed extensions and internal alterations*.

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 monitoring of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022).

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* (ClfA 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 2022).

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 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 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: Tom Lawrence
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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

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.

If there are no finds retained a full 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>
CAR 9	2nd ed 1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by N Crummy, P Crummy and C Crossan. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Roman pottery from</i>

		<i>excavations in Colchester, 1971-86, by R Symonds & S Wade. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 99	2000	<i>Report on an archaeological watching brief at 1a St Clare Road, Colchester: October 2000</i>
CAT Report 136	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 14 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: April 2001</i>
CAT Report 195	2002	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 10 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: June 2002</i>
CAT Report 225	2003	<i>An archaeological excavation at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2003.</i>
CAT Report 250	2003	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2003</i>
CAT Report 258	2004	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 24 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2003</i>
CAT Report 267	2004	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at Lexden Tumulus, 30 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2003-March 2004</i>
CAT Report 334	2005	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 36 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2005</i>
CAT Report 455	2008	<i>Report on a negative watching brief at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: January 2008.</i>
CAT Report 568	2010	<i>Watching brief at 30 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2010</i>
CAT Report 582	2010	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 12 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2010</i>
CAT Report 745	2013	<i>A Roman cemetery east of Lexden Dyke: archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 'High Trees', St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2013</i>
CAT Report 832	2015	<i>Archaeological strip, map and recording on land adjacent to 20 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2015</i>
CAT Report 958	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>
CAT Report 959	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 1 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: May 2016</i>
CAT Report 1004	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: August 2016</i>
CAT Report 1008	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and excavation at 'High Trees', St Clare Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TA: February-July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1009	2016	<i>Archaeological excavation at 19 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ: July 2016</i>
CAT Report 1122	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 7 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex – June 2017</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester. By S Wood</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Revised June 2020</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Updated Oct 2020</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct. Revised Oct 2021</i>
Foster, J	1986	<i>'The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex', BAR, British Series, 156</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.</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 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway



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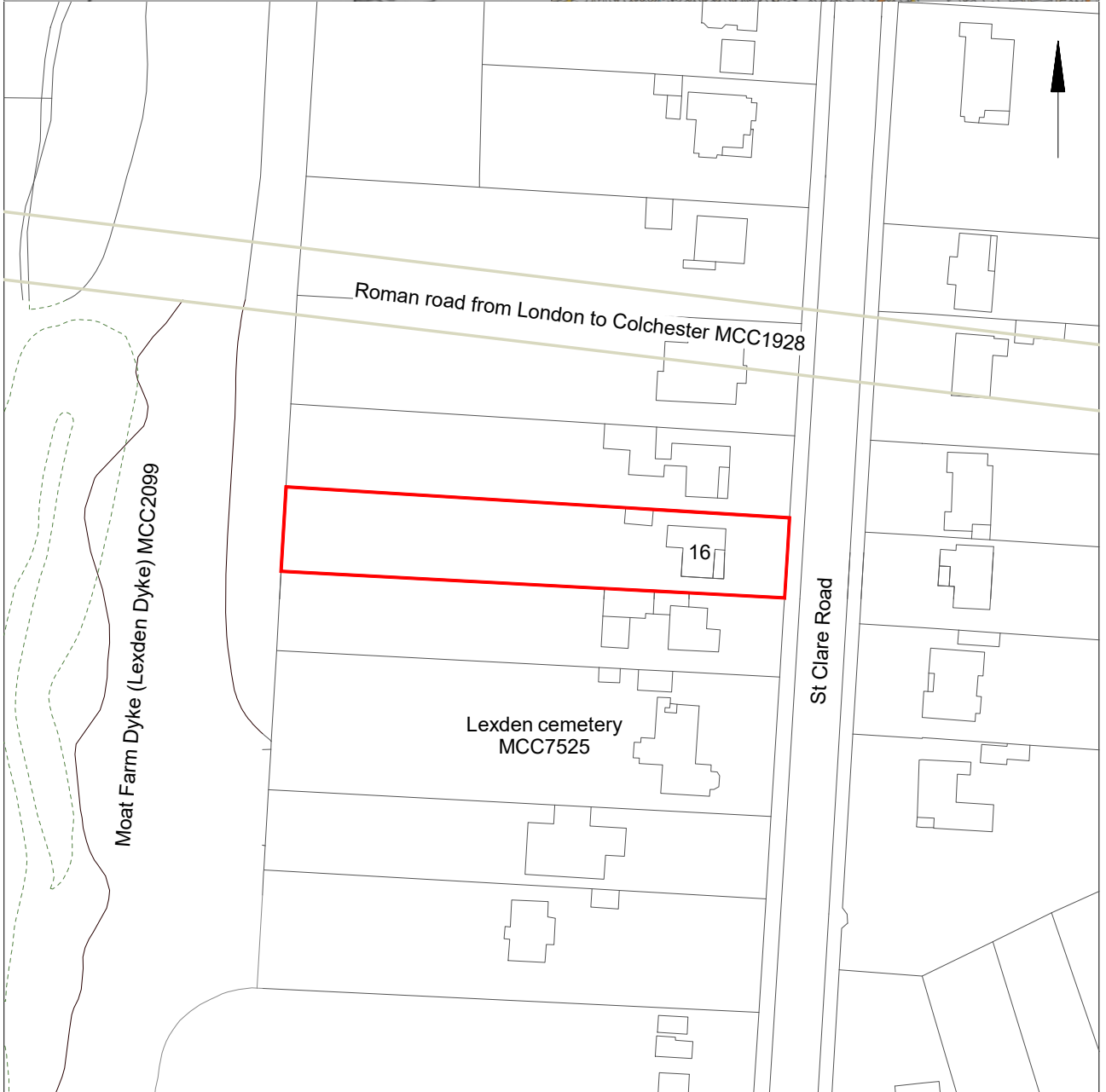
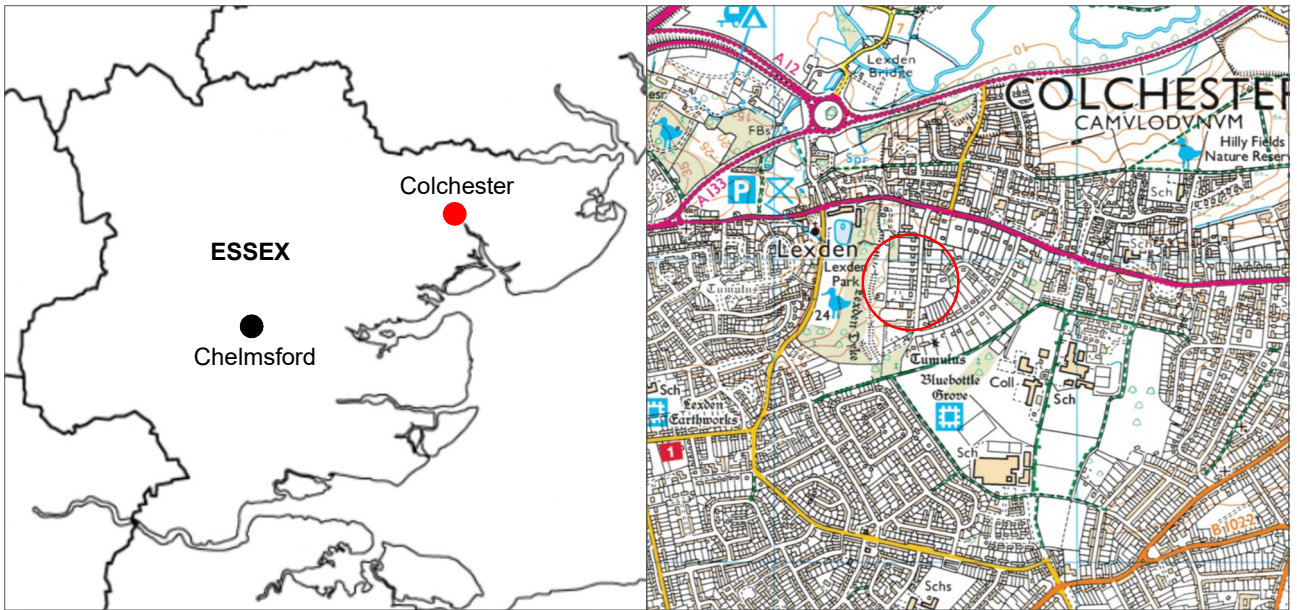


Fig 1 Site location.

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Summary for colchest3-504684

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-504684
Project Name	Watching Brief at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ
Sitename	16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/02e
Planning Id	200685
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	09-Mar-2022 - 09-Mar-2022
Location	16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SZ NGR : TL 97455 24925 LL : 51.8878994173165, 0.867866168150733 12 Fig : 597455,224925
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for extensions to the front and rear of the property. The site is located within Lexden Cemetery, an area of known Late Iron Age and Roman burials. Excavation of a foundation trench revealed a single urned cremation burial. Buried in flask dating to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period were the remains of possibly two individuals, one adult and one young child.
Keywords	Cremation Burial - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Burial Urn - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Cremation - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4699
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;