



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org

CAT Report 1800 Archaeological monitoring at 1 Alexandra Cottages, Woodview Road, Layer Marney, Essex, CO5 9UJ: April 2022	CAT code: 2022/03d
	Planning reference: 212231
	CHER event no.: ECC4739
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-505325
	Grid Reference: TL 92147 17328 (centre)
	Number of site visits: 2
Dates of visit: 25th and 27th April 2022	
Nature of the work Observation of groundworks for two-storey side extension, a new porch and a new detached double garage.	
Reason for condition A field to the south-west produces large quantities of Roman brick and tile when deeply ploughed. To the immediate west is Parkgate Farmhouse, a 15th-century timber-framed hall-house. 650m south-west is Layer Marney Tower, a gatehouse and east and west wings of a great 16th-century house. Prehistoric features have also been recorded by aerial photography to the south-west.	
% of total seen 100% of the groundworks.	
Results (Figs 2-3) The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services. Extension and porch – The foundation trenches for the new extension totalled 20m long, 0.6m wide and 1.2m deep, with an area 2.8m by 0.9m and 1.2m deep excavated for the new porch. Two horizons were observed, a modern topsoil (L1, c 0.4m thick) sealed natural clay (L2). The concrete foundations of the house were exposed along with a copper water pipe and ceramic drain. Double garage – The foundation trenches totalled 21m long, 0.6m wide and 2.35-2.55m deep. Half was excavated through L1 (c 0.3m deep) into L2, and the other half through a layer of modern made-ground/crush from the current driveway (L3, c 0.4m thick) overlying L2 (see Fig 2 for location of L3). Context information: L1, topsoil, soft, dry, medium grey/brown loam. L2, natural clay. L3, crush/gravel of modern driveway containing large amounts of modern debris (including plastic and modern building material). There were no archaeological remains.	



Photograph 1 Representative section 1, looking south-east



Photograph 2 Representative section 2, looking south-east



Photograph 3 Porch excavation area, looking north-east



Photograph 4 General shot of extension foundations, looking east-south-east



Photograph 5 General site shot of garage foundations, facing east-north-east

Recorded by: Bronagh Quinn (bq@catuk.org)

Date: 27/4/2022

Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)

Date: 5/9/2022

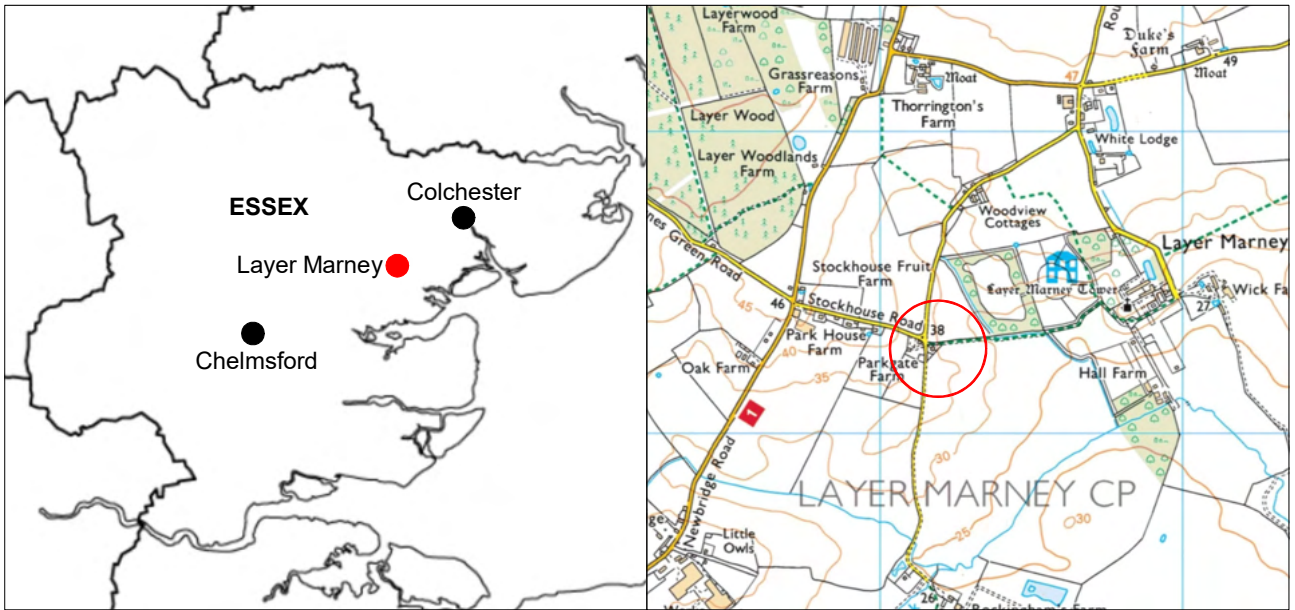


Fig 1 Site location.

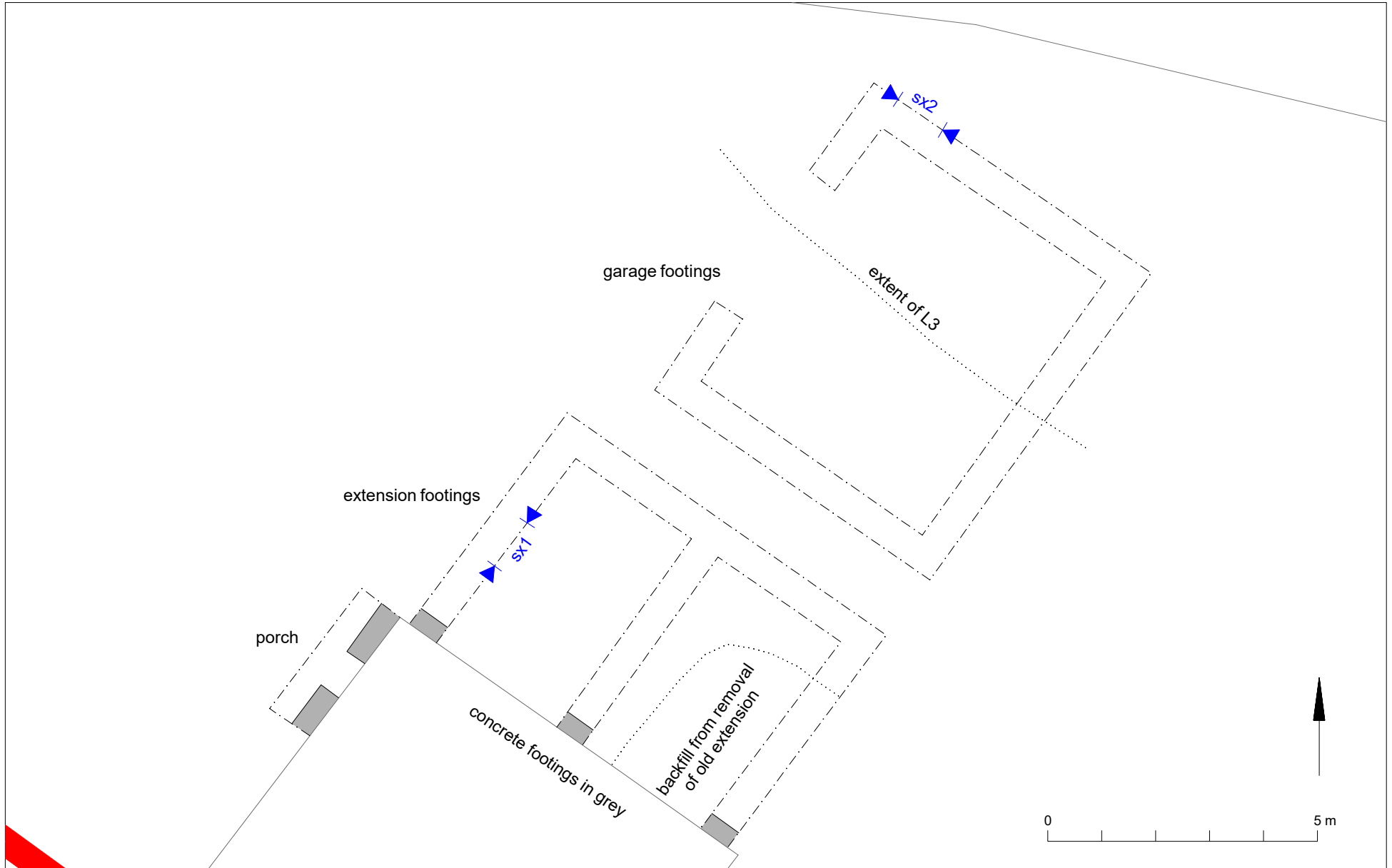


Fig 2 Results

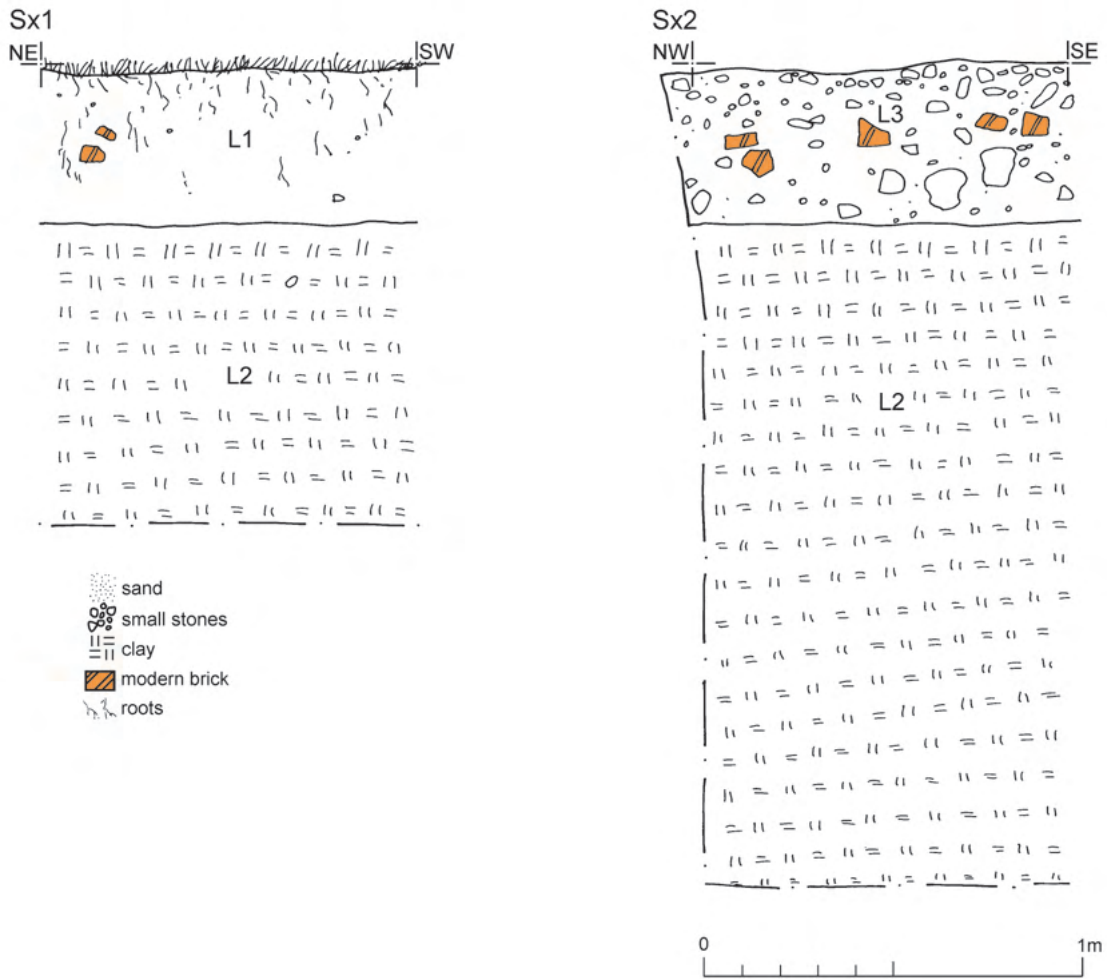


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 1 Alexandra Cottages, Woodview Road, Layer Marney, Essex, CO5 9UJ	
Parish: Layer Marney	District: Colchester
NGR: 92147 17328 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/03d CHER ref: ECC4739 OASIS ref: colchest3-505325
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 25th and 27th April 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.12ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: -
Final report: CAT Report 1800	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 1 Alexandra Cottages, Woodview Road, Layer Marney, Essex during groundworks for a side extension, porch and garage. Despite being located within an area of archaeological potential, groundworks revealed no archaeological remains.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Bronagh Quinn	Date of summary: August 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 1 Alexandra Cottages, Woodview Road, Layer Marney, Essex, CO5 9UJ

NGR: TL 92147 17328 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Layer Marney

Planning reference: 212231

Client: Homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/03d

OASIS project number: colchest3-505325

Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 08/01/2022 (revised)



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785 option 1

email: services@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately by the junction Woodview Road and Stockhouse Road at 1 Alexandra Cottages, Woodview Road, Layer Marney, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 92147 17328.

Proposed work

The development comprises of a two-storey side extension, a new porch and a new detached double garage 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 MCC/DCC/ECC numbers are accessible for viewing via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

On the southeastern boundary of the site is a field where large quantities of Roman brick and tile have been found when deeply ploughed. This would suggest that a Roman building is likely located nearby (MCC7339). A fragment of Roman lava quernstone has also been found to the northeast of the site (MCC7428).

To the immediate west of the site is Parkgate Farmhouse. The timber-framed and plastered house was originally constructed in the 15th century as a hall-house with jettied cross wing (MCC4357).

Approximately 650m west-southwest of the site is Layer Marney Tower, a gatehouse and remaining east and west wings of a great 16th century house (MCC7319). The gatehouse is a fine example of early Renaissance work, said to have been designed by the Kings Italian architect, Guilamo de Travizi.

Southwest of the site is an area with cropmarks recorded by aerial photography showing a ring-ditch and linear features. These have been interpreted as likely depicting historic field boundaries although they are not visible on early historic ordnance survey mapping. A ring-ditch could be indicative of the ploughed-out remains of a Prehistoric barrow (MCC7398).

Planning background

A planning application (212231) was made to Colchester Borough Council in August 2021 for a *proposed two storey side extension, new porch and new detached double garage*.

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 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: 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> |
| | 2nd ed | |
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CBCAA | 2022 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 1 Alexander Cottages, Woodview Road, Layer Marney.</i> By S Wood |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Updated Oct 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 |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse |
| 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



Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester
Essex
CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785 option 4
email: eh@catuk.org

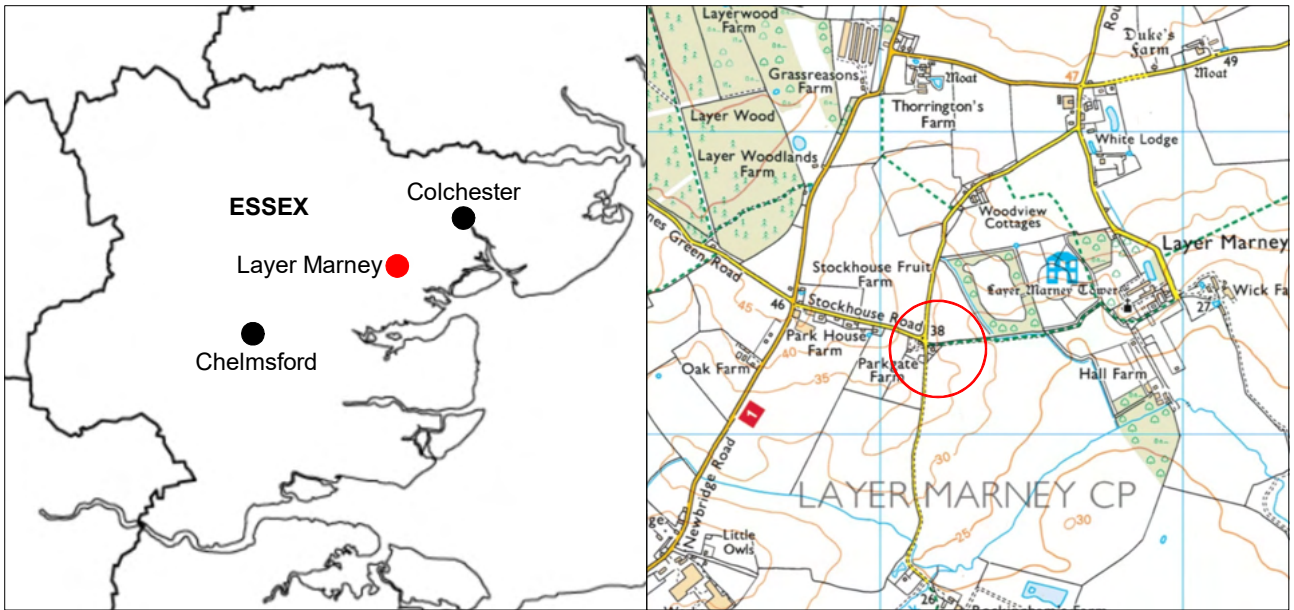


Fig 1 Site location.

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Summary for colchest3-505325

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-505325
Project Name	Watching Brief at 1 Alexandra Cottages, Woodview Road, Layer Marney, Essex, CO5 9UJ
Sitename	1 Alexandra Cottages, Woodview Road, Layer Marney, Essex, CO5 9UJ
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/03d
Planning Id	212231
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	25-Apr-2022 - 27-Apr-2022
Location	1 Alexandra Cottages, Woodview Road, Layer Marney, Essex, CO5 9UJ NGR : TL 92147 17328 LL : 51.8215297049541, 0.78661410784225 12 Fig : 592147,217328
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Layer Marney
Project Methodology	Observation of groundworks for two-storey side extension, a new porch and a new detached double garage.
Project Results	<p>Extension and porch – The foundation trenches for the new extension totalled 20m long, 0.6m wide and 1.2m deep, with an area 2.8m by 09m and 1.2m deep excavated for the new porch. Two horizons were observed, a modern topsoil (L1, c 0.4m thick) sealed natural clay (L2). The concrete foundations of the house were exposed along with a copper water pipe and ceramic drain.</p> <p>Double garage – The foundation trenches totalled 21m long, 0.6m wide and 2.35-2.55m deep. Half was excavated through L1 (c 0.3m deep) into L2, and the other half through a layer of modern made-ground/crush from the current driveway (L3, c 0.4m thick) overlying L2 (see Fig 2 for location of L3).</p> <p>Context information: L1, topsoil, soft, dry, medium grey/brown loam. L2, natural clay. L3, crush/gravel of modern driveway containing large amounts of modern debris (including plastic and modern building material).</p> <p>There were no archaeological remains.</p>
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4739

Archives

Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service
Archive;