

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1899
issued February 2023**

**Archaeological monitoring at 86 Lexden Road,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SR: January 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/08c
ECC code: ECC4744**

**Archaeological monitoring at 86 Lexden Road,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SR: January 2023**

NGR: TL 97701 25078

**CAT project ref.: 2022/08c
CAT Report 1899**

**ECC code: ECC4744
OASIS id: colchest3-509014**

report prepared by Tabitha Lawrence

**with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton,
Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman**

**figures by Harvey Furniss, Tabitha Lawrence
and Emma Holloway**

fieldwork by Tabitha Lawrence and Sarah Veasey

commissioned by the homeowner

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Issued:	07/02/2023	

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 86 Lexden Road Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a single-storey extension to the rear of the property. The development area was situated within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum and the Late Iron Age/Roman Lexden cemetery area. The investigation uncovered one Roman pit that contained two ceramic vessels that were probably displaced grave goods.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 86 Lexden Road Colchester, Essex on the 23rd to 25th January 2023. The work was commissioned on behalf of the homeowner in advance of the construction of a single-storey extension at the rear of the property and the replacement of the existing raised patio area. The creation of a soakaway was also monitored during the works.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological monitoring and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 86 Lexden Road Colchester*, written by CBCAA (2022) and detailing the required archaeological work (CBCAA 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief (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 Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (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 c 380m west of the development site (CAR 11, 34-45, MCC2099).

It is also situated within the Lexden cemetery area (CAR 9, 261; CAR 11, 164-169, MCC7525). The core of this cemetery, 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).

In 1980 the previous owner of 86 Lexden Road found some Roman pottery and two copper-alloy brooches whilst excavating a small pond in their garden close to the rear of the house (CAR 6, 392, CAT Report 1000 project 80/1a, MCC8075). The finds were dated to the mid-1st century. One of the brooches was an unusual form of bow brooch (CAR 2, 12-13). These finds are most probably related to a disturbed burial context.

Approximately 390m southwest of the site is Lexden Tumulus (MCC1356), which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHLE 1019965). Lexden Tumulus is an Iron Age barrow excavated by Henry Laver in 1924 (ECC770). Laver dug a single trench across the mound which was expanded to encompass the area of the burial chamber within its centre. Within the chamber was a rich Late Iron Age 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).

On the southern side of Lexden Road, CAT has undertaken a number of other fieldwork projects in the adjacent St Clare Road and Fitzwalter Road in recent years, and eleven of them revealed no significant archaeological horizons (CAT Reports 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, ECC3643). Excavation at 20 St Clare Road revealed a post-medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval/modern pits (CAT Report 832, MCC9288). A watching brief at 1 St Clare Road revealed two early Roman pits, a post-medieval pit and a modern pit (CAT Report 959). Evaluation and excavation at 19 St Clare Road (CAT Report 958 and 1009) revealed four Roman ditches, a pit and a possible grave. Excavation and monitoring at High Trees, St Clare Drive revealed Roman ditches, pits and postholes representing a largely agricultural landscape (CAT Report 1008). At a watching brief 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). Monitoring at 16 St Clare Road revealed an urned cremation burial (CAT Report 1787, ECC4699). Monitoring at the Woodlands Residential Home for Ladies, 76 Lexden Road, revealed one undated pit (CAT Report 1517).

Opposite the site, a watching brief at The Lindens, 139 Lexden Road (CAT Report 48) revealed 23 pits and a ditch running north-south (MCC2645-6). Approximately 12kg of pottery was recovered from the features. All of the pottery was dated from the Late Iron Age to early Roman period apart from two sherds of Samian pottery (MCC2647).

A nearby evaluation and monitoring at Lexden Grange (CAT Report 338 and 431), off Lexden Road, revealed part of a Late Iron Age pedestal urn, thought to be part of a disturbed cremation and some Roman pits and ditches which included metalworking debris and a fragment of crucible used for brass-making.

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to excavate and record any archaeological remains impacted by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

The foundation trenches for the extension measured 11.6m long, 0.6-0.65m wide and 0.9-1.05m deep. The uppermost layer was of topsoil (L1, c 0.35m thick) which sealed a subsoil layer (L2, 0.45m thick). Beneath L2 was the natural gravelly sand interface (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.9m below current ground level).

The southern and western ends of the trench works were archaeologically sterile. A single feature (F1) was uncovered in the easternmost foundation trench. The full extent could not be determined, but it was 1.7m in length/width with sloping sides and an irregular base ranging from 0.65 to 0.85m in depth. At the base of the feature were a Roman bowl and half a jar, tilted onto their sides, and seemingly not the result of deliberate placement. As it did not have the characteristics of a grave (straight-sides and a flat base), the feature was identified as a pit.



Photograph 1 Site shot with pit F1 in foreground, looking north.



Photograph 2 Pit F1 and the *in situ* Roman vessels, looking north-west.



Photograph 3 The storage vessel and bowl *in situ* in F1, looking west.



Photograph 4 Representative section, looking south-west.



Photograph 5 Soakaway, looking north-west.

A soakaway was excavated approximately 5m from the south-western corner of the development area (see Photograph 5). Its dimensions in plan were approximately 1.5m by 1.5m, reaching a depth of 1.05m. The same layers from the foundation trenches were observed within the soakaway (L1 c 0.4m thick, L2 c 0.4m thick and L3 0.25m deep when first encountered). No archaeological features or finds were recovered from the monitoring.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material (Fig 4)

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with 54 sherds with a weight of 3,269g and EVE of 1.31 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is high at 61g which is down to the presence of complete and partially-complete vessels. Most of this material came from the pit F1 except for two sherds of Roman CBM from the topsoil L1 (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	50	2,863	57	1.31
CBM	4	406	102	-
All	54	3,269	61	1.31

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Pit	52	2,905	56
L1	Topsoil	2	364	182
Total		54	3,269	61

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific contexts.

Late Iron Age-Roman pottery

The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recorded using the fabric groups from the Colchester 'Institute' (Loughton in prep.) alongside the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999). The Late Iron Age and Roman vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR 10*, Bidwell & Croom 1999, 468-487). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles, and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian	AD 43-110
BSW 1	Black surface ware 1	Roman
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	Late Iron Age-2nd/3rd century AD
HZ OX	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares	Late Iron Age-2nd/3rd century AD
HZ BSW	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares with black surface	Late Iron Age-2nd/3rd century AD
RCW	Romanising coarse wares	Late Iron Age-early Roman
RCW 2	Romanising coarse wares 2 (pimply)	Late Iron Age-early Roman

Table 3 Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian	1	3	3	0.00
BSW 1	Black surface ware 1	6	622	104	1.22
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	1	15	15	0.00
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	15	97	6	0.00
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	14	1,628	116	0.00
HZ (OX)	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares	1	29	29	0.00
HZ (BSW)	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares with black surface	9	423	47	0.09
RCW	Romanising coarse wares	1	20	20	0.00
RCW 2	Romanising coarse wares 2	2	26	13	0.00
Total		50	2,863	57	1.31

Table 4 Details on the Late Iron Age-Roman pottery.

All the pottery came from pit F1 and dates to the Late Iron Age-Roman period (Table 3) while the fabrics and identifiable vessel forms indicate a date sometime during the early Roman period (Claudian to the late 1st/early 2nd century AD) (Table 4). Pottery of note included a complete Cam 218 bowl (Fig. 4) in fabric BSW 1, dating to AD 43-120, which was scratched with a post-firing graffito (abbreviated owners mark?) of EAI (?) (Fig 4) on the underside of the base. This vessel may also have been 'ritually destroyed' by having a circular hole (50/65mm diam) punched through the vessel wall from the inside (Photograph 6). It is possible that this vessel represents a grave good from a disturbed burial. There was also the complete lower portion from a Cam 270B or Cam 273 storage jar in fabric HZ. Finally, there was a small sherd from a southern Gaulish samian (fabric

BASG) Drag. 27 cup which dates to AD 43-110 and a possible Cam 231-232 flask (EVE:0.08) in fabric BSW 1, dating to AD 43-150/180. Soil from inside the bowl and semi-complete jar was removed during post-excavation processing but both were empty.



Photograph 6 Roman bowl with circular hole

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Two sherds (364g) of Roman brick and tegulae came from topsoil L1. Pit F1 contained one sherd of Roman imbrex (26g) and a small sherd (16g) of intrusive modern brick. None of the CBM was retained.

6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley (animal bone identified by Adam Wightman)

Also from pit F1 (finds no. 3) was a fragment of large-mammal bone (16.0g) and a small iron nail (1.1g). The nail is missing its head and has a square-sectioned shank, 0.24m long, clenched at 45 degrees.

7 Discussion

Archaeological monitoring at 86 Lexden Road uncovered a Roman pit. Amongst the finds assemblage was a semi-intact bowl dating to AD 43-120, which appeared to have been 'ritually destroyed' and was probably originally a grave good from a burial on the development site which had been truncated by later activity. This would suggest that the semi-complete storage jar dating to the Late Iron Age-2nd/3rd century AD was also a displaced grave good. Groundworks at the site in 1980 had previously revealed two mid 1st-century copper-alloy brooches, which were likewise identified as finds displaced from a burial context (CAR 2, 12-13; CAR 6, 392; CAT Report 1000 project 80/1a). Therefore, evidence from both 1980 and the current groundworks show truncation of one or more Roman burials on the site. What is particularly interesting from current works is that the pit appears to be of Roman date, indicating truncation of Roman burials in the Roman period.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and L Pooley, the fieldwork was carried out by T Lawrence and S Veasey. Figures are by H Furniss, T Lawrence and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Simon Wood.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------|--|
| Bidwell, P & Croom, A | 1999 | 'The Camulodunum/Colchester type series', in Symonds, R & Wade, S (eds.), <i>CAR 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , 468-487. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| Brown, D | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAR 2 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 2: The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9</i> , by N Crummy |
| CAR 6 | 1992 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and miscellaneous sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy |
| 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 and C Crossan. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds & S Wade. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 48 | 1999 | <i>A Watching Brief at The Lindens, 139 Lexden Road, Colchester (Phase 1)</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 338 | 2005 | <i>An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Lexden Grange, 127 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2005</i> |
| CAT Report 431 | 2007 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Lexden Grange, 127 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2006-February 2007</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 1000	2017	<i>A miscellany of Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</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>
CAT Report 1517	2019	<i>Archaeological monitoring at Woodlands Residential Home for Ladies, 76 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: May 2018-September 2019</i>
CAT Report 1787	2022	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2022</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 86 Lexden Road Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SR, by E Holloway</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 86 Lexden Road, 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 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>
Hawkes, CFC. & Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum. First Report on the Excavation at Colchester 1930-1939 (Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no. 14). Oxford: The Society of Antiquaries, London.</i>
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester (Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no. 20). Oxford: The Society of Antiquaries, London.</i>
Loughton, ME	In prep.	<i>Colchester Institute.</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	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>
Symonds, R & Wade, S (eds.)	1999	<i>CAR 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from c 700 BC to AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material

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
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: All finds returned to homeowner.

Digital record

CAT Report 1899

CBCAA evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs

Site data

Survey data

12 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.

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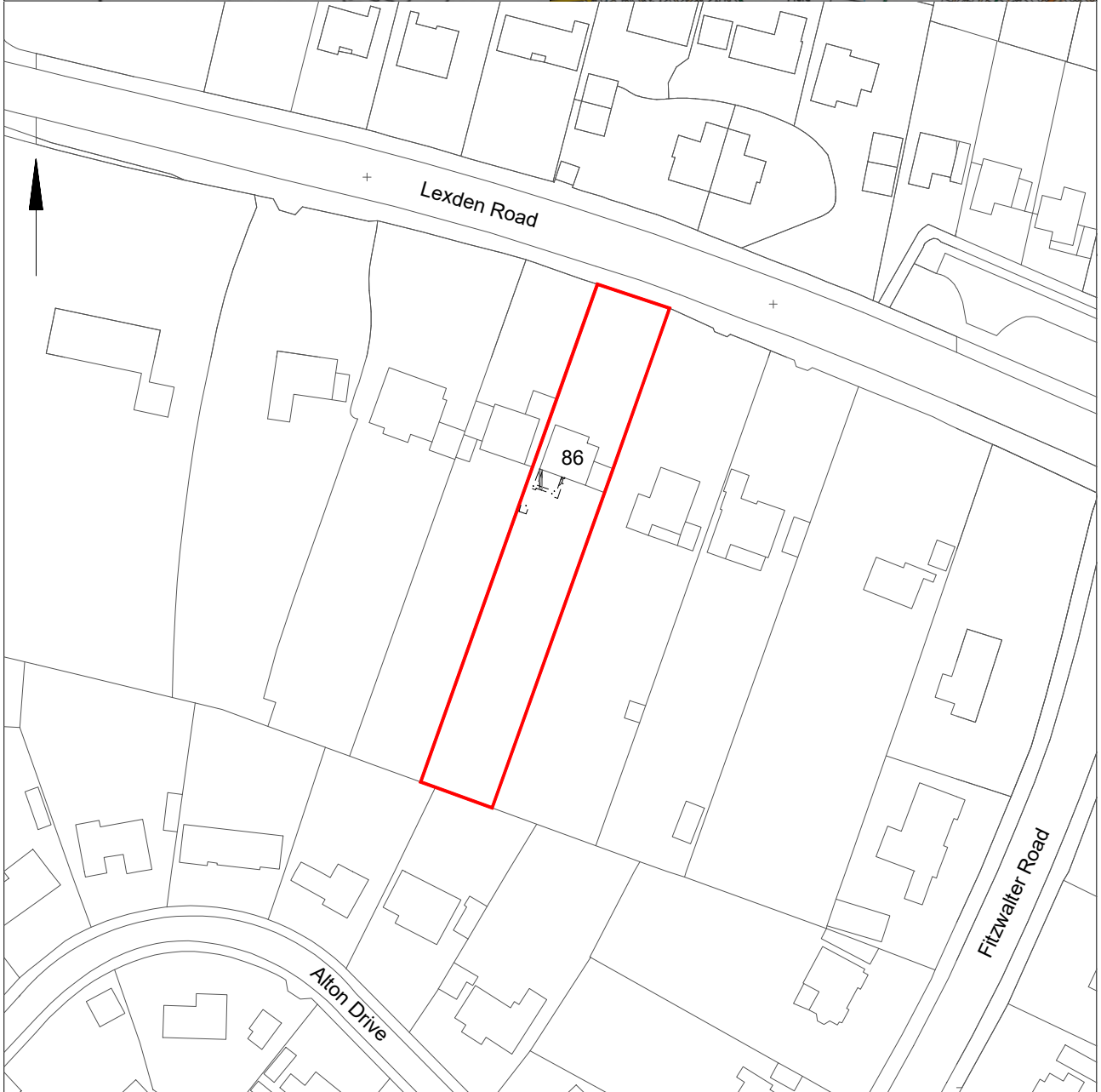
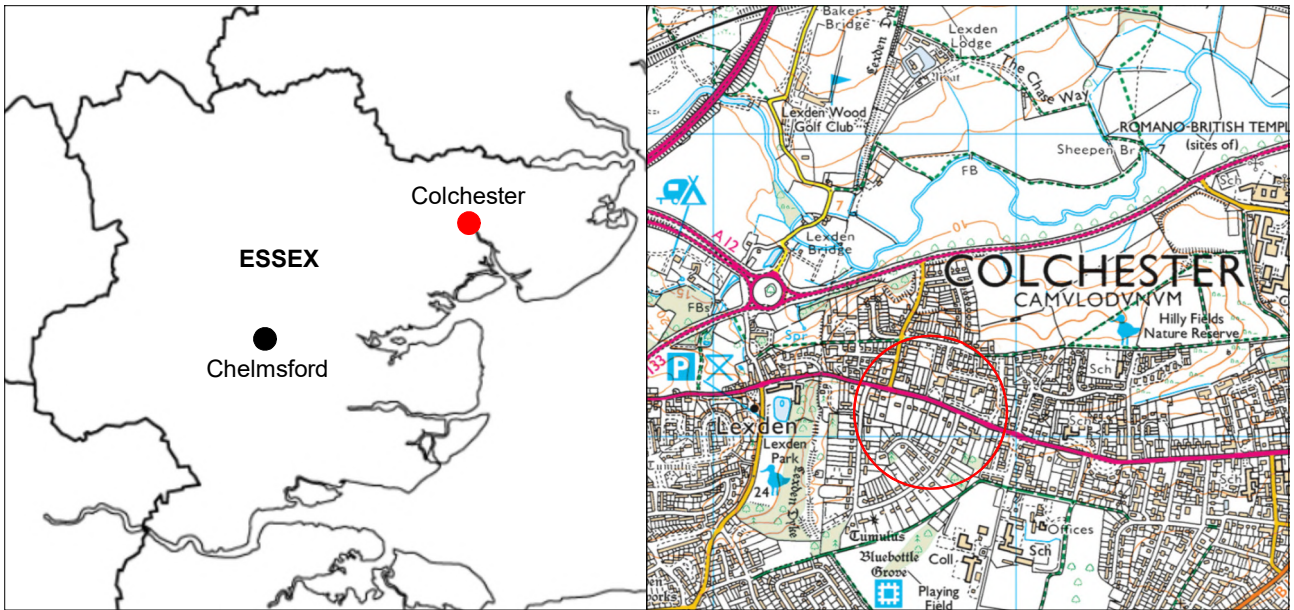
Distribution list:

The homeowner

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	2	Topsoil	Friable moist dark brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: gravel 10%	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Friable moist medium yellow/brown clay silt and inclusions of: gravel 15%	Undated
L3	-	Natural	Friable moist dark orange sand and inclusions of: gravel 50%	Post-glacial
F1	1, 3, 4	Pit	Firm moist dark brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 10% pot 40%	Roman, early 1st to 2nd century AD



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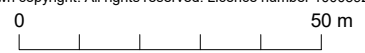
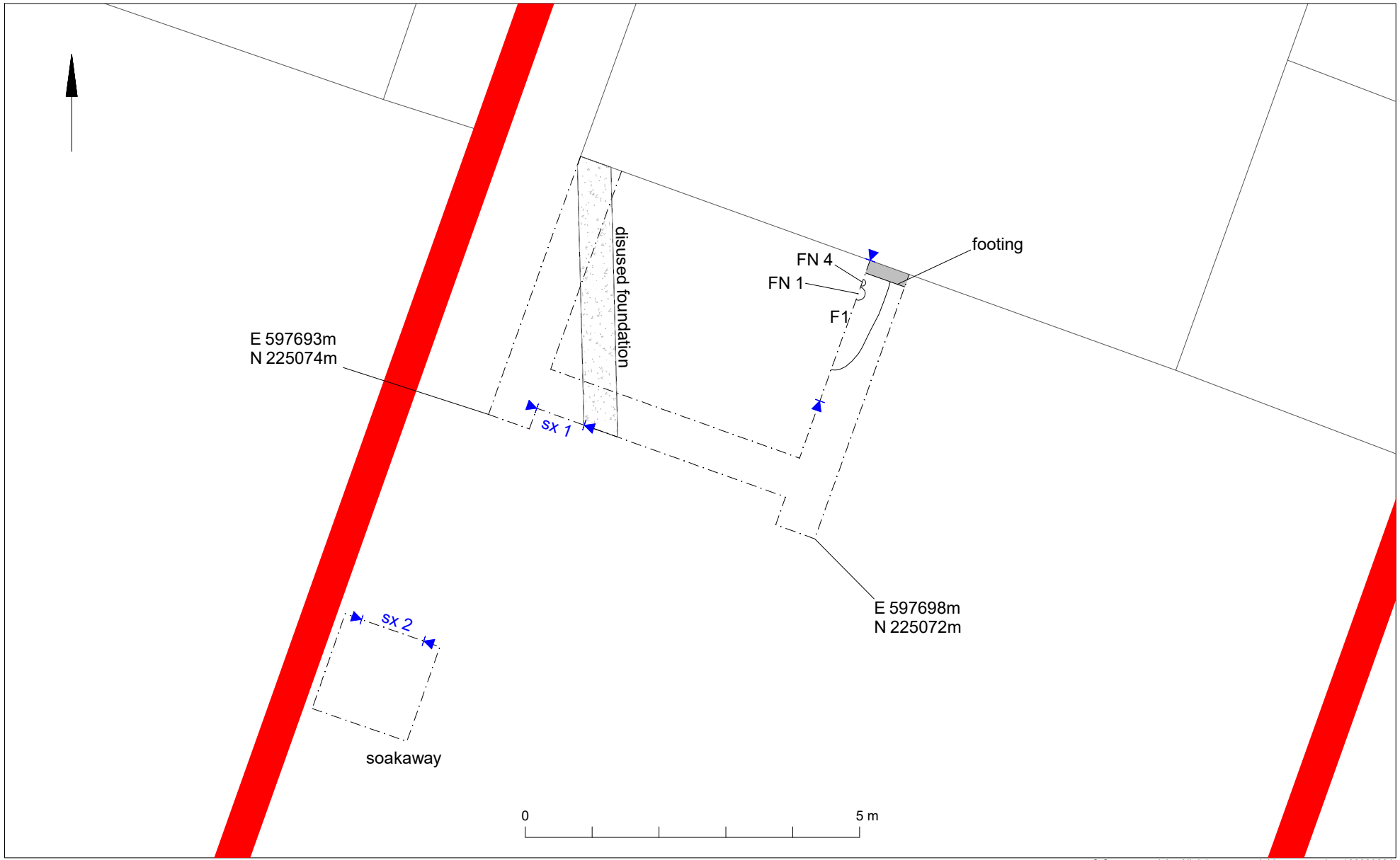


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Results (FN = finds number).

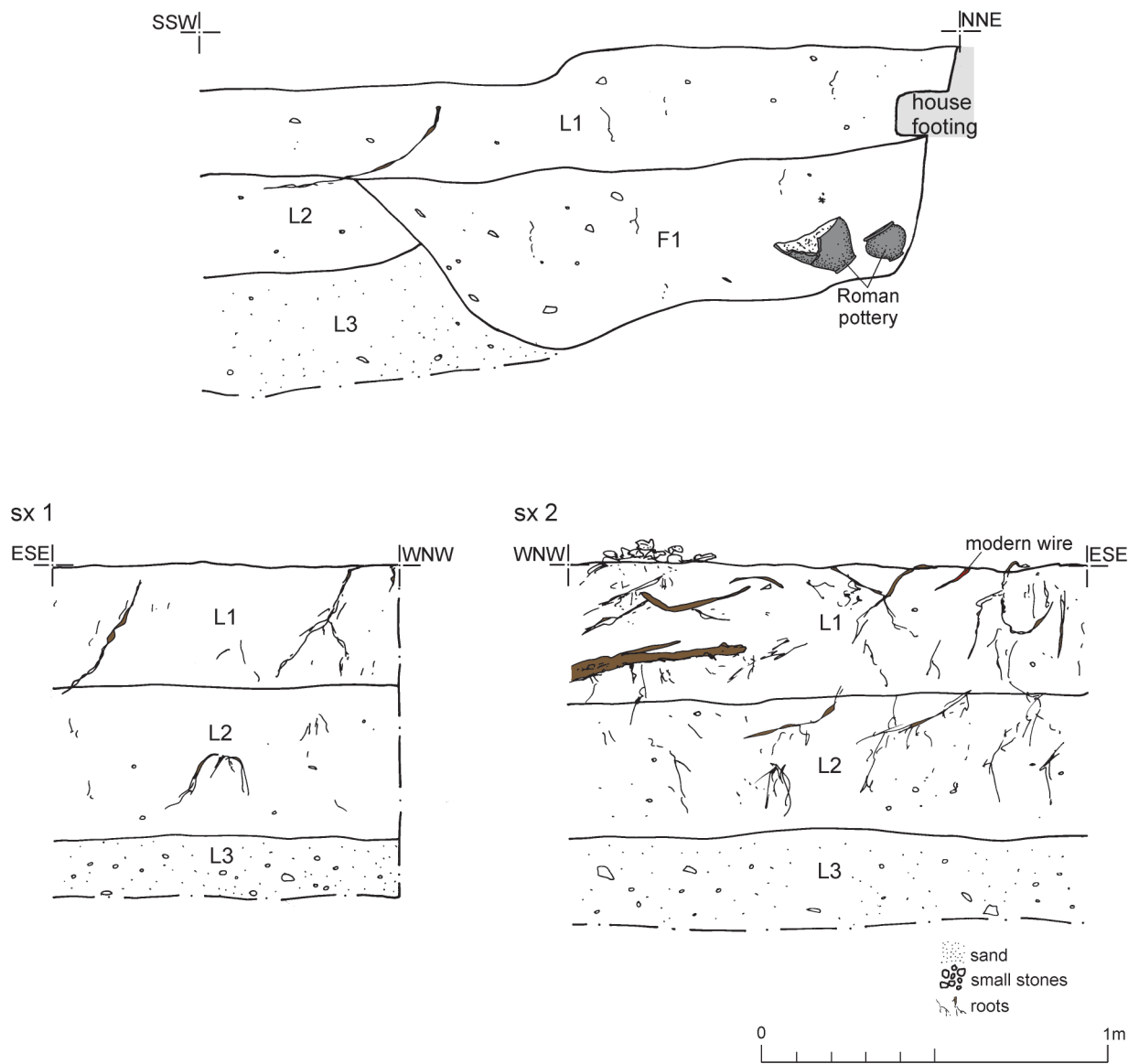


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

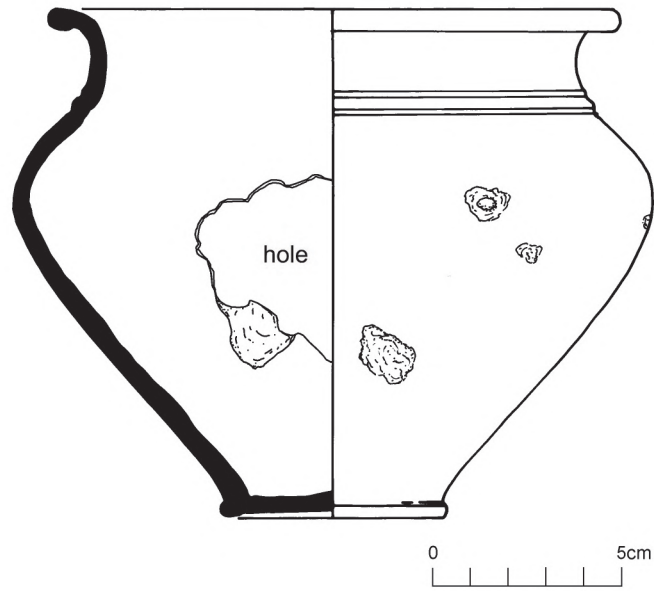


Fig 4 Roman bowl from F1 with graffiti on the base.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 86 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SR	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 97701 25078 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/08c ECC code: ECC4744 OASIS id: colchest3-509014
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd-25th January 2023	Size of area investigated: 0.15h
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Homeowner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 1899	
Periods represented: Roman	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 86 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a single-storey extension to the rear of the property. The development area was situated within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum and the Late Iron Age/Roman Lexden cemetery area. The investigation uncovered one Roman pit that contained two ceramic vessels that were probably displaced grave goods.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: grave goods	Significance: *
Author of summary: Tabitha Lawrence	Date of summary: February 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 86 Lexden Road Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SR

NGR: TL 97701 25078 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Colchester

Planning reference: 220596

Client: Homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: ECC4744

CAT project code: 2022/08c

OASIS project number: colchest3-509014

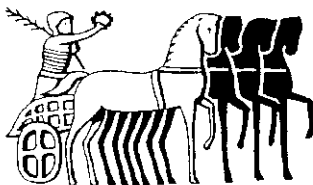
Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 31/08/2022



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
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Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785 (option 1)

email: services@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 1.89km west of the historic core of Colchester town centre at 86 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 97701 25078.

Proposed work

The development comprises of a single storey extension to the rear of the property to create an open plan living area and replacement of the existing raised patio area with a new larger one and any associated groundworks, including services and soakaways.

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 c 380 west of the development site (CAR 11, 34-45, MCC2099).

It is also situated within the Lexden cemetery (CAR 9, 261; CAR 11, 164-169, MCC7525). The core of this cemetery, 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).

In 1980 the owner of 86 Lexden Road found some Roman pottery and two copper-alloy brooches whilst digging a small hole for a pond in their garden close to the rear of the house (CAR 6, 392, CAT report 1000 project 80/1a, MCC8075). The finds were dated to the mid-1st century. One of the brooches was an unusual form of bow brooch (CAR 2, 12-13).

Approximately 390m southwest of the site is Lexden Tumulus (MCC1356), which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHLE 1019965). Lexden Tumulus is an Iron Age barrow excavated by Henry Laver in 1924 (ECC770). Laver dug a single trench across the mound which was expanded to encompass the area of the burial chamber within it's centre. Within the chamber was 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).

On the southern side of Lexden Road CAT has undertaken a number of other fieldwork projects in the adjacent St Clare Road and Fitzwalter Road in recent years, several of them revealed no significant archaeological horizons (CAT Reports 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, ECC3643). Excavation at 20 St Clare Road revealed a post-medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval/modern pits (CAT Report 832, MCC9288). 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). Evaluation and excavation at 19 St Clare Road (CAT Report 958 and 1009) revealed four Roman ditches, a pit and a possible grave. Excavation and monitoring at High Trees, St Clare Drive revealed Roman ditches, pits and postholes representing a largely agricultural landscape (CAT Report 1008). A watching brief 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). Monitoring at 16 St Clare Road revealed an urned cremation burial (CAT Report 1787, ECC4699). Monitoring at the Woodlands Residential Home for Ladies, 76 Lexden Road, revealed one undated pit (CAT Report 1517).

Opposite the site, A watching brief at The Lindens, 139 Lexden Road by CAT in 1999 (CAT Report 48) revealed 23 pits and a ditch running north-south (MCC2645-6). Approximately 12kg of pottery was recovered from the features. All of the pottery was dated from the Late Iron Age to early Roman period apart from two sherds of Samian pottery (MCC2647). A nearby evaluation and monitoring by CAT at Lexden Grange (CAT Report 338 and 431), off Lexden Road revealed part of a Late Iron Age pedestal urn, thought to be part of a disturbed cremation and some Roman pits and ditches which included metalworking debris and a fragment of crucible used for brass-making.

Planning background

A planning application (220596) was made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2022 for a proposed *single storey rear extension and raised patio*.

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 2021).

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* (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 2022)
- 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A 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): Megan 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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- 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. 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.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. Staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works in partnership with Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785 (option 1).

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 2	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 2: The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9.</i> By N Crummy
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and miscellaneous sites in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> By P Crummy
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 and C Crossan. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86,</i> by R Symonds & S Wade. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 48	1999	A Watching Brief at The Lindens, 139 Lexden Road, Colchester (Phase 1)
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 338	2005	An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Lexden Grange, 127 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2005
CAT Report 431	2007	An archaeological watching brief at Lexden Grange, 127 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2006-February 2007
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:</i>

		December 2013
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 1000	2017	<i>A miscellany of Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</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>
CAT Report 1517	2019	<i>Archaeological monitoring at Woodlands Residential Home for Ladies, 76 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex – May 2018-September 2019</i>
CAT Report 1787	2022	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 16 St Clare Road, Colchester, Essex – March 2022</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 86 Lexden 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>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Foster, J	1986	'The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex', <i>BAR, British Series</i> , 156
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	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

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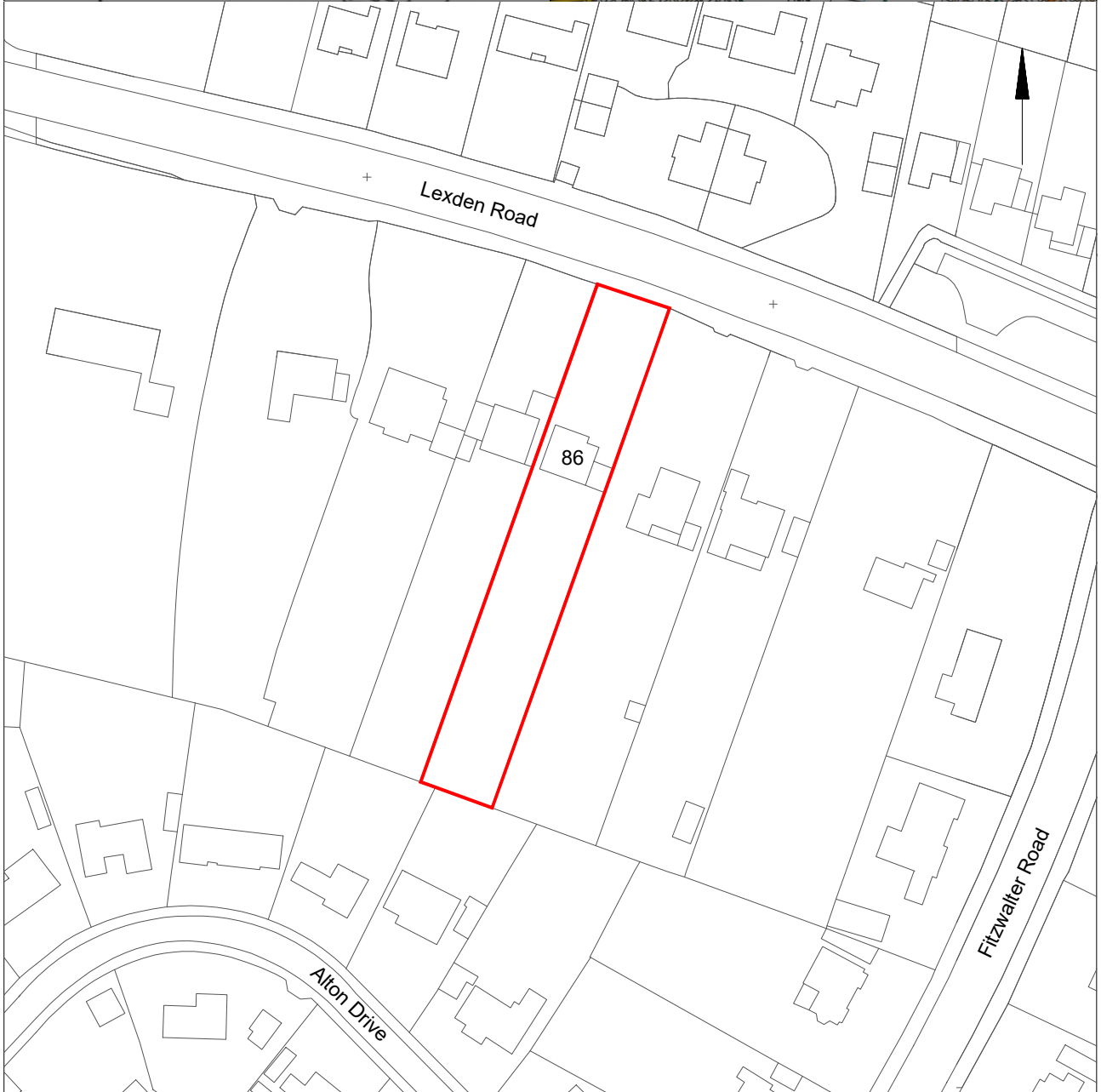
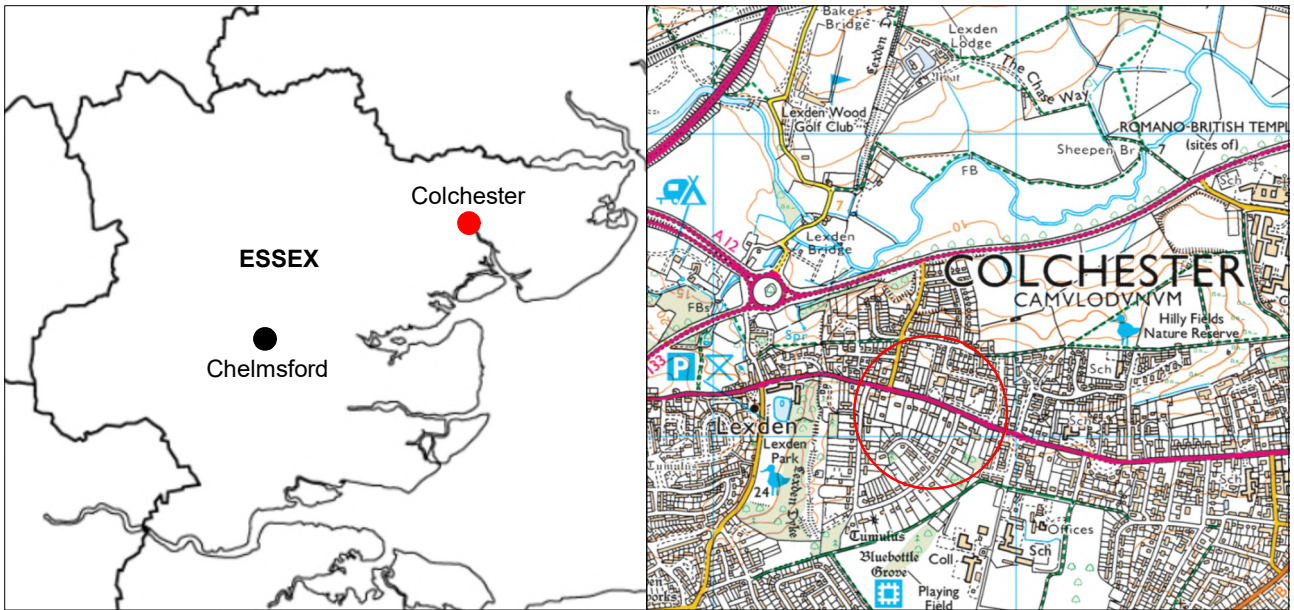


Fig 1 Site location.

Summary for colchest3-509014

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-509014
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at 86 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SR
Sitename	86 Lexden Road Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SR
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/08c
Planning Id	220596
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	23-Jan-2023 - 25-Jan-2023
Location	86 Lexden Road Colchester, Essex, CO3 3SR NGR : TL 97705 25081 LL : 51.8892116987426, 0.871583400412116 12 Fig : 597705,225081
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring of all groundworks carried out as per the conditions stated in the brief and wsi.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 86 Lexden Road Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a single-storey extension to the rear of the property. The development area was situated within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum and the Late Iron Age/Roman Lexden cemetery area. The investigation uncovered one Roman pit that contained two ceramic vessels that were probably displaced grave goods.
Keywords	Bowl - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Jar - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	T, Lawrence
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4744
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;