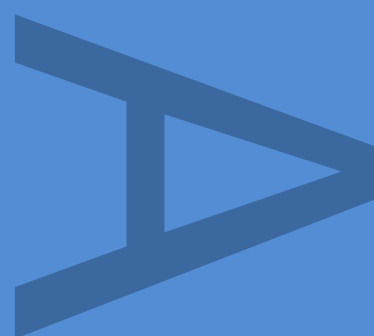


LAND NEXT TO PARK
ROAD, LEXDEN,
COLCHESTER:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION AND
MONITORING

POST-EXCAVATION
ASSESSMENT

July 2014



Land next to Park Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex CO3 3UL.

Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

Local Planning Authority:	Colchester Borough Council
Central National Grid Reference:	TL 98097 24773
Site Code:	EPRL14
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July 2014

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring and excavation and carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land next to Park Road, Lexden, Colchester, CO3 3UP (TL 98097 24773). The archaeological work consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with demolition in October 2013, the stripping of two excavation areas (Area 1 and Area 2) and further monitoring of groundworks between 8th May and 1st July 2014. The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Redrow Homes Eastern Ltd and in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of 31 new residential dwellings. The aim of the work was initially to characterise the archaeological potential of the site, and then to preserve by record any archaeological remains which would be damaged or destroyed by the new development.

The excavations identified two early Roman cremation burials, a pit of probable medieval date, a modern ditch within Areas 1 and 2 and a single modern pit in Area 2. No other features were exposed during the subsequent monitoring phases. The western end of Area 1 was disturbed by a modern car park although there was no indication of any archaeological remains within this area. Modern disturbance was apparent within the eastern part of the site, where Area 1 was located. Here, a former car park had resulted in the truncation of the natural geological horizon.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring and excavation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land next to Park Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex CO3 3UP (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98097 24773). The archaeological work consisted of the monitoring of groundworks and the stripping of two small excavation areas (strip, map and sample) during October 2013 and May-July 2014.
- 1.2 The site is located within Lexden to the southwest of the city of Colchester and is bordered by Park Road to the north, school playing fields to the east, south, and west, and school buildings in the south-west. The development area comprises approximately 2.1ha, 0.24ha of which was subjected to archaeological excavation. A further 398m² was monitored as part of the watching brief scheme.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs, on behalf of Redrow Homes Eastern Ltd, in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of 31 new residential dwellings (Planning Reference 131604).
- 1.4 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman of PCA (Hinman 2013)
- 1.5 The aim of the archaeological work was to identify and 'preserve by record' any archaeological remains present in those areas of the site which would be affected by the new development.
- 1.6 This Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design (PXA & UPD) describes the results of the excavation and monitoring programme and their significance, presents proposals for further analysis and research during the post-excavation phase of the project, and provides a proposal for dissemination of the project results through publication in Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History. Following completion of the project, the site archive will be deposited at the Colchester Museum stores.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The solid geology of the site is London Clay (Thames Group) overlain by superficial windblown deposits of clay, silt and sand (Cover Sand) (British Geological Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk).
- 2.2 The site is located on gently sloping ground, rising from an elevation of approximately 36.5m AOD in the west to 38.5m AOD in the east. The landscape beyond the excavation area rises to the south and slopes downwards towards the River Colne to the north.
- 2.3 The ground had been truncated due to modern activities including the construction of a car park. The geological horizon was therefore recorded at a height of between 35.6m AOD and 36.3m AOD, overlain by mixed subsoil, modern ground disturbance and top soil, measuring an average depth of 0.62m.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, at the edge of Roman Colchester. To the immediate southwest of the site is Altnacealglach House, a locally listed building dating to 1888. The archaeological and historical background has been detailed in the desk-based assessment (Mayo 2013) and the most pertinent information is here referenced.
- 3.2 Evidence for early Roman activity has been recorded to the immediate southeast, east and northwest of the site, suggesting the development area lies within a known zone of Roman activity.
- 3.3 The Roman name for Colchester 'Camulodunum', derives from the Iron-Age name: meaning 'the fortress (-dunum) of Camulos', the God of War. The original site of the Iron-Age settlement was some 4km southwest of Colchester at Gosbecks. A sprawling Iron Age Oppida was established covering an area approximately 16 square kilometres in extent, bounded by rivers on two sides and a complicated system of dykes at its western end. The interior of the Oppida is thought to have been largely agricultural, a mixture of enclosed fields, pasture and woodland, with smaller occupation zones around two larger settlement complexes at Sheepen and Gosbecks.
- 3.4 The development site is located within the late Iron Age defended enclosure of Camulodunum, although the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Camulodunum at Sheepen (SAM EX46; TL 986 253) lies c.300m to the north. The pre-Roman settlement at Sheepen has been identified as an industrial and commercial centre, dependent on the River Colne for transportation of resources and products.
- 3.5 The Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Lexden Dyke lies c.500m southwest of the study site and forms the central section of the late Iron Age linear boundary earthwork (SAM 29463; TL 9733 2470) (Appendix 1). Excavation of the dyke in 1932 indicated that it was constructed in the early 1st century AD.
- 3.6 The Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Lexden Tumulus (Iron Age burial

- mound) lies c.400m west of the study site (SAM 11266; TL 9753 2471). The Tumulus was excavated in 1924 and revealed one of the richest Late Iron Age burials ever discovered in Britain, dating to c.10-15 BC. The barrow was built within an established Iron Age urnfield cremation cemetery, located around At Clare Road, 500m west of the site.
- 3.7 An extensive Roman cemetery containing both inhumation and cremation burials, developed to the west of the Roman town (EHER 11852), including a high-status child burial dating to c.43 AD. The study site lies c.200m southwest of the known western extent of this cemetery, although the 19th century recovery of a Roman amphora to the southwest of the development area (EHER11881) and a bronze figurine found to the northeast indicate peripheral burials may be found in the vicinity (see 1923 OS map). The limits of this cemetery are not clear and burials have been found on either side of the Roman road (Hull 1958) and Roman urns have been found in the field northeast of the development site.
- 3.8 Hull excavated several trenches within the vicinity of Altnacealgach House in 1939. Trenches in the north of the study area along Park Road and at the southwest contained no archaeological features. Anecdotal evidence suggests Roman burial urns have been recovered along Park Road and skeletons were found in the northwest corner of the gardens (Hull 1958), whilst a Roman amphora cremation burial from the vicinity is noted in the HER (MCC1359). Further trenches were dug to the west of Altnacealgach house where a Roman north-south aligned ditch was recorded. At the time, the ditch was interpreted as the remains of a semi-permanent camp or fort of rhomboid shape (Hull 1958). Further Roman features have been excavated southwest of the development area, close to Altnacealgach House (MCC2064).
- 3.9 The remains of a probable Roman wattle and daub wall with septaria and shelly limestone support was discovered during archaeological excavations c.50m southeast of the study site in 1956 (HER Ref ELM936; grid ref TL 98113 24617). An east-west palisaded trench and a pit of Antonine date were also recorded (HER Ref GRP86; grid ref TL 98122 24633).

- 3.10 A possible Roman earthwork described as a triple dyke was discovered during excavations at the County High School for Girls site, c.50m southwest of the study site (HER Ref MON851; grid ref TL 97989 24668).
- 3.11 In 2006, an archaeological evaluation at the site revealed a ditch in Trench 3 on the eastern side of the site and was considered to be of possible Roman date. A northwest to southeast aligned ditch was recorded in Trench 4 in the north of the site and may align with the Roman ditch in Trench 8 exposed in the southeast of the study site. Two urned Roman cremation burials were revealed in the southern corner of the study site in Trench 7, one of which had been truncated in antiquity. An undated northwest to southeast aligned ditch was located a short distance to the west of these cremations. Two Roman ditches were excavated in the north of Trench 8 in the southeast of the study site; the larger ditch was aligned east to west (Ennis 2007).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 Two areas of the site were targeted for open area excavation and were located parallel to Park Road, on the northern side of the development area (Figure1). Area 1 comprised 0.12ha and Area 2 0.12ha. The two areas were defined by the foundation layout of house plots 1-10.

4.2 Excavation Methodology

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction of excavation Areas 1 and 2 was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 20-tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological horizon where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 4.2.2 Immediately north and south of Areas 1 and 2 topsoil and some subsoil was also removed in preparation for the development. These areas were stripped in places with an 8-tonne mechanical excavator, and occasionally using a larger, 16-tonne mechanical excavator, both fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The stripping was monitored by an experience archaeologist as part of the watching brief programme.
- 4.2.3 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and sand-hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

- 4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.3.2 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown

2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). Multiple sections excavated across a single feature were later grouped together by unique 'group numbers', signified here by capitals: e.g. Ditch 1. The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits excavated during the evaluation and excavation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.3.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation and monitoring process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only modern objects were recovered from metal detecting the topsoil and subsoil deposits and were not retained.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process. In addition, monochrome photographs were taken of significant features.

4.4 Sampling Strategy

4.4.1 Discrete features were 50% excavated, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). The cremation deposits were excavated in plan in arbitrary 0.2m spits. Each spit was photographed and a scale plan drawn where bone fragments and associated finds were present. The soils of each spit were retained separately for post-excavation processing and assessment by the osteo-archaeologist.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The excavations at Park Road, Lexden revealed two Romano-British cremations, one medieval pit as well as a modern ditch and a large, rectangular modern pit. The two cremations located in Area 1, contained fragments of cremated animal bone and small pieces of unidentified cremated bone, as well as fragments of early Roman brooches. Nails representative of possible box fittings were found in one of the pits, suggestive of a disturbed cremation burial. A significant level of modern truncation was noted within Area 1, especially at the western end where a former car park had existed. This truncation undoubtedly accounts for the poor survival of the two cremation burials.

5.2 Cremation Pit [203] (Plate 2)

5.2.1 This pit measured approximately 0.89m in diameter and 0.26m deep and was located at the relative centre of Area 1. The fill of this feature (204) comprised a dark grey-brown, charcoal-rich sandy silt with occasional fragments of cremated and calcined bone. Several fragments of bone have been identified as pieces of sheep/goat bone, although a number of fragments were too small to be positively identified ~~and could potentially be human~~ (see Reilly, below). Three complete or partial complete iron nails of Manning Type 1B and two further fragments of iron nails were recovered from this feature, as well as a fragment of a copper alloy brooch, (possibly Colchester type dating to 25-60 AD) (see Beveridge, below). These finds are suggestive of an early Roman boxed cremation, most of which has since decayed and/or been truncated. Small crumbs of Romano-British pottery were recovered from this feature (see Anderson, below) and support the interpretation of an early Roman truncated cremation burial.

5.3 Cremation Pit [206] (Plate 3)

5.3.1 Pit [206] measured 0.95m by 0.81m and 0.20m deep. Both the form of pit [206] and its fill (207) were comparable to those of pit [203]. Small fragments of unidentifiable cremated bone were also recovered from pit

[206] as well as a fragment of a second copper alloy brooch of Colchester type. These finds imply that this pit also contained a poorly preserved early Roman cremation burial. Pottery fragments, comparable to those recovered from pit [203] were found within the fill of this pit and support an early Roman date.

5.4 Pit [208]

5.4.1 Pit [208] measured 1m in length and 0.23m in depth was located in Area 1, partially obscured by the edge of excavation and in between the two pits containing cremated bone fragments. However upon investigation, this pit yielded a fragment of medieval tile and a fragment of residual Roman tile (see Jarrett, below) and is not thought to relate to the Roman activity.

5.5 Modern Pit [217]

5.5.1 A rectangular pit, partially obscured by the limit of excavation was excavated in Area 2. The pit was approximately 10m wide but was not excavated to its base. This pit yielded fragments of modern (19th-20th century) ceramic vessels including printed white-ware, fragments of glass wine bottles and a modern nail (see Jarrett, below). The feature may have originally been cut as part of late post-medieval/modern quarrying, but had evidently been used as a rubbish pit associated with one of the adjacent houses.

5.6 Modern Boundary Ditch [214]

5.6.1 A modern boundary ditch [214], aligned roughly east-west was excavated and yielded 20th century material which was not retained. The ditch was clearly seen to cut from within the subsoil deposit and where excavated was approximately 0.8m wide and 0.26m deep. This ditch is aligned parallel to Park Road and may have been established as part of an earlier phase of the road. The ditch was recorded across the southern limits of both Areas 1 and 2.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 Roman Pottery – Katie Anderson

- 6.1.1 A very small and highly fragmented assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from the excavations, totalling 15 sherds weighing just 6g. The pottery was recovered from two cremation burials [203] and [206]. Due to the size and condition of the pottery, the assemblage could only be broadly dated as Romano-British. The fabrics comprised coarse sandy ware fabrics, with both oxidised and reduced examples, as well as a small fragment of Samian. No vessel forms were identified.
- 6.1.2 Given the nature of the assemblage, it is debateable whether the pottery was contemporary with the features from which they were recovered, and therefore the features should not be dated as Roman based on the pottery alone.
- 6.1.3 A small quantity of fragments of burnt clay (20 fragments, 11g) was also recovered. None of the material could be assigned a form or function, and the date is unclear.

6.2 Post-Roman Ceramic Material – Chris Jarret

6.2.1 The pottery recovered from the cremation deposits has been detailed in a separate assessment (see Anderson, this report). This assessment describes the ceramic material recovered from all other features on site. The pottery has been classified according to the Colchester post-Roman pottery codes (Cotter 2000).

6.2.2 As well as the ceramic material, a single fragment of dark olive green glass was found in context (218). This fragment is from an English wine bottle of moulded cylindrical type which dates from 1830 AD onwards. A fragment of medieval peg tile and a single modern nail were also recovered from this feature.

Context	Material Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Fabric	Form	ENVs	Date
209	Tile	6	57			n/a	Late Medieval
209	Tile	1	67			n/a	Roman
215	Pottery	3	10	Fabric 20. Sandy grey-ware		3	1175-1400 AD
215	Pottery	2	4	Fabric 48D. Transfer-printed refined white-ware	Plate	1	1780-1900 AD
215	Pottery	1	25	Fabric 48D. Transfer-printed refined white-ware with purple colour decoration	Plate	1	1825-1900 AD
215	Tile	4	151		Peg tile	n/a	Medieval and post-medieval
218	Pottery	1	3	Fabric 48D. Blue coloured Staffordshire type white-earthenware		1	1800-1900 AD
218	Pottery	1	4	Fabric 48D. Bone china	Tea cup	1	1794-1900 AD
218	Pottery	1	1	Fabric 48D. Bone china		1	1794-1900 AD
218	Pottery	1	2	Fabric 48D. Bone china	Saucer	1	1794-1900 AD
218	Pottery	1	4	Fabric 48D. Cream-ware		1	1740-1830 AD
218	Pottery	1	8	Fabric 45. English stoneware with Bristol glaze		1	1830-1900 AD
218	Pottery	1	4	Fabric 40. Glazed red earthenware		1	1550-1900 AD
218	Pottery	1	5	Fabric 98. Miscellaneous unsourced medieval		1	900-1500 AD
218	Pottery	1	4	Fabric 48D. Transfer-printed white-ware	Plate	1	1780-1900 AD
218	Pottery	1	1	Fabric 45. White stoneware		1	1800-1900 AD

- 6.2.3 The finds have no significance at a local level and the only potential of the material is to date the contexts they were recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the finds.

6.3 Small Finds – Ruth Beveridge

- 6.3.1 A total of seven small finds were examined and are catalogued below. All of the finds are from cremation fills, five being from the same context.

Pit [203] (Context (204))

- 6.3.2 *SF 16* - Fragment of a corroded copper alloy brooch recovered from cremation fill 204. The lower part of a flattened bow, bent, with remnants of the catchplate survive. Length: 33mm. It is possibly a Colchester type brooch comparable to no. 70. fig 63 (Blagg et al 2004). Date: AD25 - 60.
- 6.3.3 *SF 10* - An iron nail with a discoidal head of diameter 28mm and a shaft that is square/rectangular in section. Point of nail missing. Length: 76mm. Possibly a Manning Type 1B (Manning, 1985) with a round flattened head. Comparable to the Inchtuthil type Nos. 168,169, (Manning 1976, Fig 25, p58).
- 6.3.4 *SF 11* - Complete nail, though the shaft is broken below the nail head. The head is discoidal and is 27mm in diameter. The shaft is square in section and tapers to a point. Length: 82mm. Possibly a Manning Type 1B with a round flattened head. Comparable to the Inchtuthil type Nos. 168,169, (Manning 1976, Fig 25, p58).
- 6.3.5 *SF 12* - Shaft and head of an incomplete nail. The head is discoidal and is 27mm in diameter. The shaft is square in section and is broken midway. The length of the nail is 46mm. Possibly a Manning Type 1B with a round flattened head. Comparable to the Inchtuthil type Nos. 168,169, (Manning 1976, Fig 25, p58).
- 6.3.6 *SF 13* - Shaft and head of an incomplete nail. Heavily encrusted with dirt; in two fragments. The head is possibly discoidal, similar to SFs 10, 11 and 12. The shaft is square in section and incomplete. Length of nail is 55mm.
- 6.3.7 *SF 14* - Fragment of an iron shaft, probably from a nail similar to SFs 10 - 13. The shaft is square in section and incomplete. Length of object is 58mm.

Pit [206] (Context (207))

- 6.3.8 *SF 15* - A fragment of a Colchester type brooch was recovered from cremation fill 207. The lower half of the round-fronted bow and part of the catchplate survives. The catchplate was pierced. Length: 29mm. Dates from AD 25 - 60.

Discussion

- 6.3.9 The two brooches of first century date were recovered from pit [203] and pit [206]. The brooch fragment from [203] was found in association with the group of five hand- forged nails SF10 – 14, all from fill (204). Iron nails SF 10, 11 and 12 are in good condition with only small amounts of corrosion masking sections of the shanks of SF10 and SF12. It is possible that this group of nails is all that remains of a box into which the cremated bones were placed prior to burial. A similar use of boxes for cremation was seen at the Roman cemetery of Kelvedon, Essex (Rodwell, 1988).

6.4 Animal Bone – Kevin Reilly

6.4.1 Two of the excavated pits contained fragments of cremated/calced bones, ([203] and [206]). The former provided a number of iron nails suggestive of the remains of a box burial, whilst both pits contained fragments of Colchester type early Roman brooches.

6.4.2 The contents of these features were collected as samples, [203] in three separate spits, which were then wet sieved and hand sorted. While no animal bones were found in cremation [206], a selection of definite and possible animal bone fragments were identified from cremation [203]. These are as follows, divided by spit:-

Spit 1 - two sheep/goat astragalus fragments plus a sheep/goat left ulna (anterior part of neck and beginning of halfmoon-shaped articulation) plus two sheep-size ribs and at least 10 sheep-size limb bone pieces

Spit 2 - three pieces of a sheep/goat astragalus and another sheep-size fragment.

Spit 3 - two distal phalange fragments, probably sheep/goat or pig, more likely the former, as well as a sheep-size long bone fragment.

6.4.3 There is undoubtedly a preference for sheep/goat amongst these cremated remains and this perhaps conforming to the general practice concerning animal grave goods in Roman cremations, as reviewed by Philpott (1991), who suggests that cattle and sheep/goat remains were most common. However, the survival of particular bone fragments and the pieces large enough to be positively identified could also account for this bias within the deposited remains.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 With the quantity of Roman remains in the vicinity of Park Road, it is perhaps surprising that so few remains were found in the excavations. The level of modern disturbance at the site has resulted in the truncation not only of those features found on site but also perhaps the complete removal of other similar remains.
- 7.2 The background research and the previous evaluation (Mayo 2013; Ennis 2007) implied that Roman cremation burials were among the most likely features to be encountered and although the surviving evidence is fragmentary, pits [203] and [206] do appear to be the remains of severely truncated cremation burials. Whilst there are a number of identifiable animal bone fragments among the cremated remains, there are also a number of unidentifiable pieces which could be human. Animal bone fragments are not an unusual component of Roman cremation burials and furthermore, the fragments of Colchester type brooches in both pits, coupled with the Manning Type 1B nails in pit [203] strongly support the notion of disturbed cremation burials - the nails in pit [203] imply a boxed cremation.
- 7.3 The results of the evaluation (in particular those trenches located south of Area 1 and 2), coupled with the known burial sites to the northeast of the development site suggest that Area 1 lies at the western edge of a more extensive Roman burial zone.
- 7.4 The Roman remains at Park Road are perhaps too partial to be of any significance to the story of Roman Colchester, however, coupled with the evaluation results and the known Roman burial remains in the vicinity, the excavation confirms the probable western edge of this burial activity.
- 7.5 The modern pit [217] is indicative of waste disposal associated with the adjoining properties, whilst the alignment of modern ditch [214], parallel to Park Road, suggests a former roadside boundary.

8 PUBLICATION PROPOSAL

The results of the excavation at Park Road, Lexden are not considered significant as to require a separate publication. A short summary of the excavation should be included in *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History*.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMS for commissioning the work on the behalf of Redrow Homes Eastern Ltd. PCA are also grateful for Martin Winter of Colchester Borough Council Archaeology and Planning. The author would also like to thank Josephine Brown of PCA's CAD department for producing the figures.

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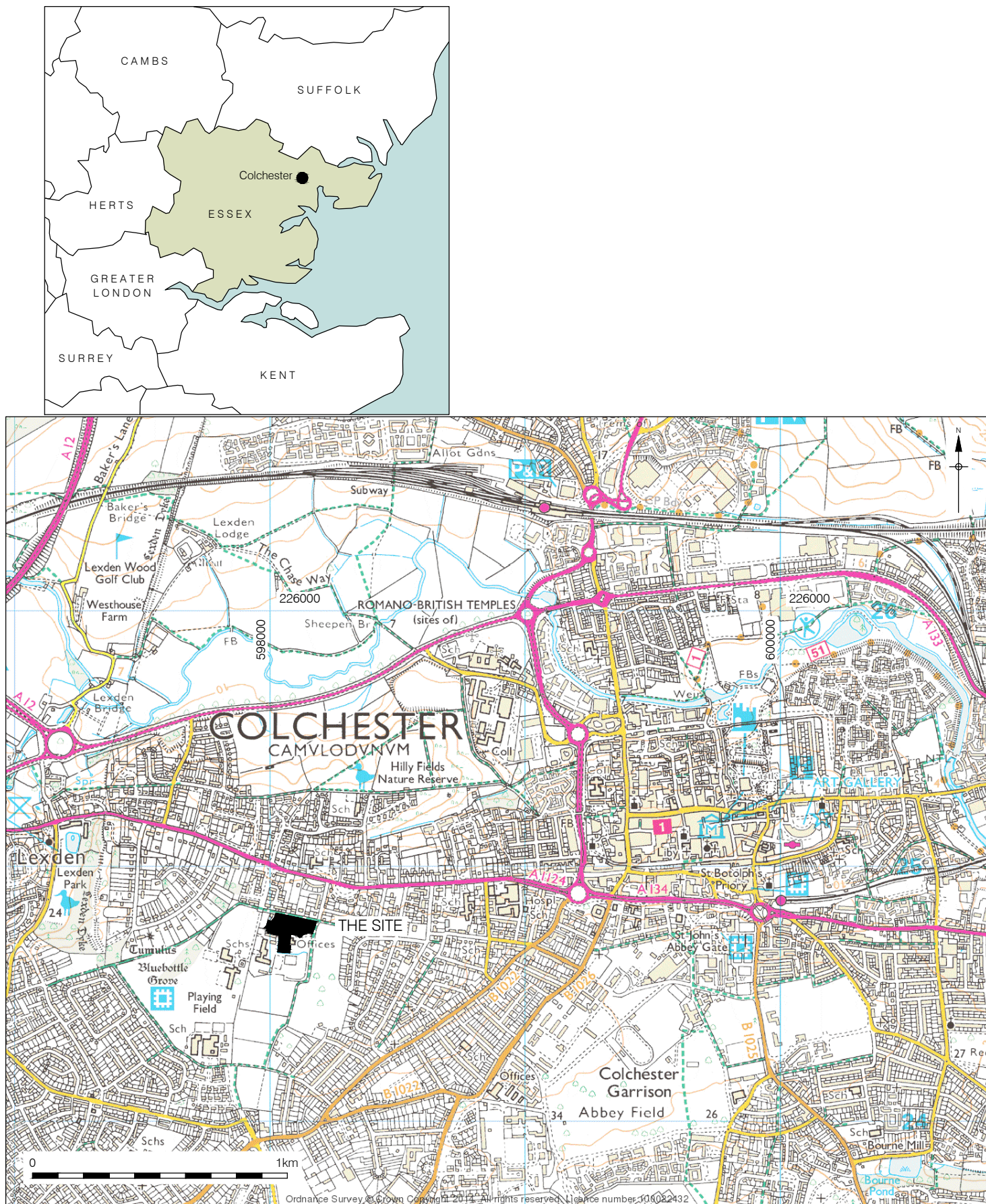
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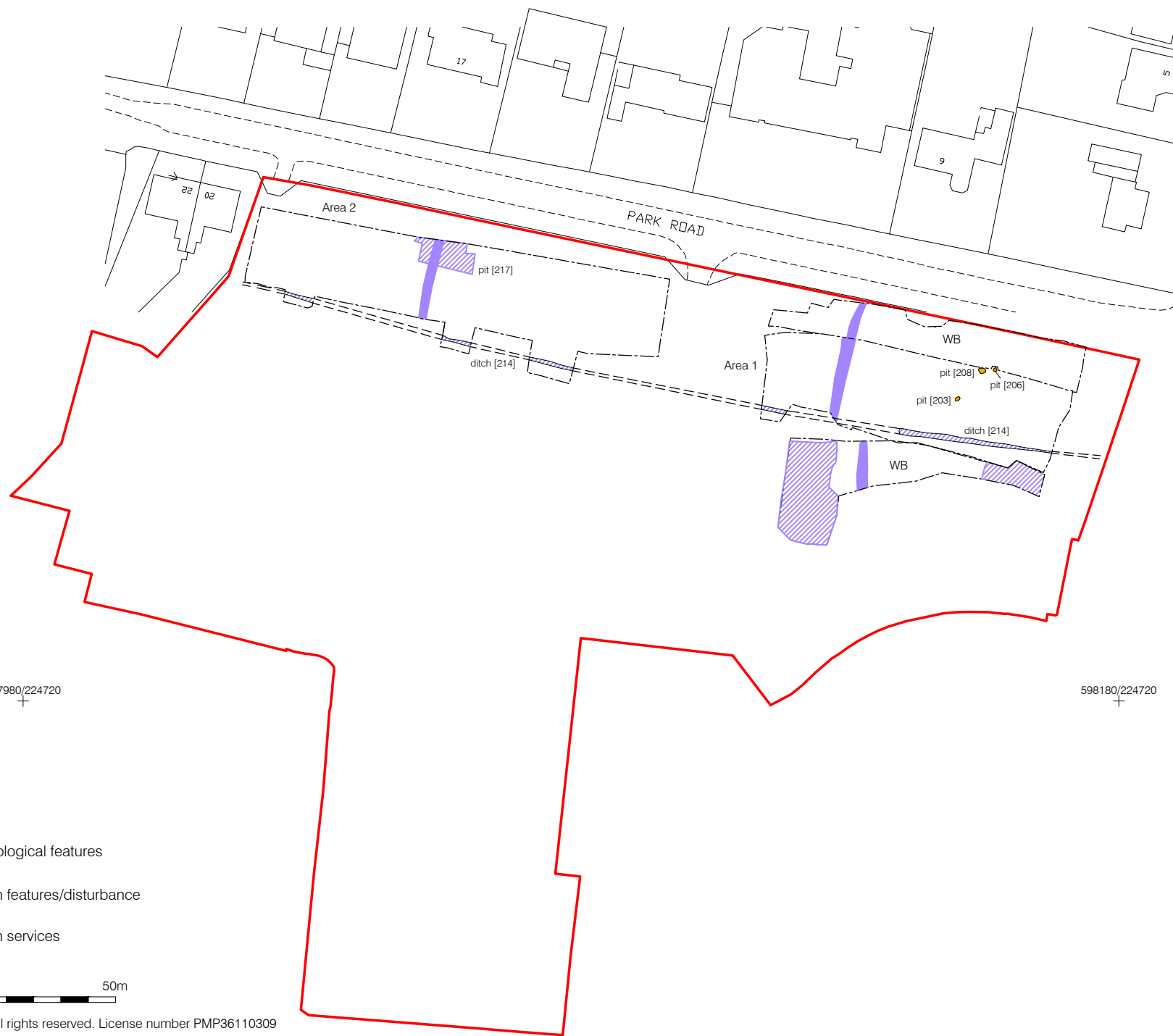


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22/07/14 JB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000 & 1:20,000 at A4



- archaeological features
- modern features/disturbance
- modern services



Figure 2
 Plan of Site
 1:1,000 at A4

11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Excavation of Area 2, looking east.



Plate 2: Pit [203] showing two of the iron nails on the surface.



Plate 3: Pit [206] at the northern edge of excavation Area 1.

12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context data			
Context	Cut	Type	Category
200		Layer	Topsoil
201		Layer	Subsoil
202		Layer	Natural
203	203	Cut	Pit (cremation)
204	203	Fill	Fill (of cremation)
205	203	Fill	Fill (of cremation)
206	206	Cut	Pit (cremation)
207	206	Fill	Fill (of cremation)
208	208	Cut	Pit
209	208	Fill	Pit
214	214	Cut	Ditch
215	214	Fill	Ditch
216	203	Fill	Cremation

13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-185335

Project details

Project name	Park Road, Lexden, Colchester: Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring and excavation and carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land next to Park Road, Lexden, Colchester, CO3 3UP (TL 98097 24773). The archaeological work consisted of the stripping of two excavation areas (Area 1 and Area 2) and the monitoring of groundworks associated with the development. The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Redrow Homes Eastern Ltd and in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of 31 new residential dwellings. The aim of the work was initially to characterise the archaeological potential of the site, and then to preserve by record any archaeological remains which would be damaged or destroyed by the new development. The excavations identified two possible early Roman cremation burials, a pit of probable medieval date and a modern ditch within Area 1 and a single modern pit in Area 2. No other features were exposed during the monitoring phases. The western end of Area 1 was disturbed by a modern car park although there was no indication of any archaeological remains within this area. Modern disturbance was apparent within the eastern part of the site, where Area 1 was located. Here, a former car park had resulted in the truncation of the natural geological horizon.
Project dates	Start: 12-05-2014 End: 26-06-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	EPRL14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	CREMATIONS Roman
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	BURNT BONE Roman
Significant Finds	METAL FITTINGS Roman
Investigation type	"Part Excavation","Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
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Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Park Road, Lexden, Colchester
Postcode	CO3 3UP
Study area	2.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98097 24773 51.8857411701 0.878834524689 51 53 08 N 000 52 43 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.60m Max: 36.30m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Essex County Council
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Jonathan House
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Redrow Homes Eastern Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	EPRL14
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	EPRL14
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	EPRL14

Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Human Bones","Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Park Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex: Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hanson, K. and Jones, M.
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PCA

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