

# **Archaeological evaluation, monitoring and recording at the former Essex County Council Offices (Altnacealgach House), Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UR**

**May-December 2016**



**by Laura Pooley**

with contributions by Stephen Benfield

figures by Ben Holloway, Emma Holloway and Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Nigel Rayner and Alec Wade

**on behalf of Mark Harding, Harding Homes**

NGR: TL 9812 2469 (centre)

Planning reference: 135948

CAT project ref.: 16/05m

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.53

CHER ref: ECC3769

OASIS reference: colchest3-252179



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**CAT Report 1056**

January 2017

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation, monitoring and recording was carried out at the former Essex County Council Offices (Altnacealgach House), Park Road, Colchester in advance of and during the conversion and extension of the existing house into residential apartments, the construction of a gatehouse dwelling and associated access, car parking, landscaping and related works. Despite being located in an area of known Roman burials and occupation remains, no significant archaeological features or horizons were present.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation, monitoring and recording at the former Essex County Council Offices (Altnacealgach House), Park Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out 31st May – 13th December 2016. The work was commissioned by Mark Harding of Harding Homes, and was completed in advance of and during the conversion and extension of the existing house into residential apartments, the construction of a gatehouse and associated access, car parking, landscaping and related works, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Investigation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006), 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 evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located at Altnacealgach House (locally listed), a Victorian mansion designed by acclaimed local architect Horace Darken and built in 1888 to be the home of Arthur Thomas Osborne, heir to a successful brewing business. It was originally built within a 75-acre estate with its own arboretum and orchard. It was sold to Essex County Council in 1913 who used it as council offices. A Heritage Assessment of Altnacealgach House was completed by the Heritage Collective in 2013 (Jarvis 2013).

The development site lies to the west of the Roman town wall and within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), or more generally

considered the Lexden cemetery (EHER no.s 11713, 11714). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds to either side of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town to London). In the immediate vicinity Roman burials were found in the grounds of St Mary's Lodge, now Vint Crescent, to the north-east of the site (EHER 11980) and a Roman grave was found to the west of Altancealgach House (EHER 11881). A trial-trench evaluation on this site in 2009 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (CHER event no. ECC2906, Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit Report).

Immediately to the west of the development site is the County High School for Girls. Excavations here in the 1930s and 1950s revealed a Roman triple ditch (EHER 12630-12631; *CAR 11*, 124-127) along with palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (EHER 12632). To the south/south-east is the site of a Roman temple (Temple 6) (EHER 13128).

## **4 Results** (Figs 2-4)

### **Evaluation**

A single trial-trench (T1) was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision within the footprint of the new gatehouse. It measured 10m long by 1.8m wide (18m<sup>2</sup>) and was excavated to a depth of 700-900mm below current ground level (bcgl).

Four layers were identified. At the east end of the evaluation trench was a layer of redeposited natural possibly associated with current groundworks (L1, c 120mm thick). Where present, L1 sealed L2. Modern sandy-silty topsoil (L2, c 320-500mm thick) sealed an accumulation horizon of medium grey/brown silt (L3, c 270-300mm thick, containing fragments of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile that were not retained), which sealed natural sand (L4, identified at a depth of approximately 700-900mm bcgl).

No significant archaeological remains were present.

### **Monitoring and recording**

#### ***Car park (strip and map)***

The area of the new car park was reduced by 500-600mm through modern topsoil (L2, 350-400mm thick) and onto an accumulation horizon of medium grey/brown silt (L3). Natural ground level was not exposed during this strip, located approximately 200-300mm further down. No significant archaeological remains were present.

#### ***Service trenches***

The service trenches measured 0.5m wide by 1-1.2m deep and were excavated through tarmac and crush (L5, c 200-220mm thick) onto modern topsoil (L2, c 150mm) and an accumulation horizon of medium grey/brown silt (L3, c 380-450mm thick) which sealed natural sand (L4). No significant archaeological remains were present.

#### ***Extensions***

Two extensions were made to Altnacealgach House. These were due to be monitored but unfortunately this was overlooked by the contractors on the ground and they were not seen by CAT staff.





**Photograph 1** T1, looking W



**Photograph 2** Strip and map monitoring of the new car park, looking NE





**Photograph 3** Service trench, looking SW

## 5 Finds

*by Stephen Benfield*

A small quantity of finds of Roman date were recovered from layer 3 (L3 (1)). This layer also contained fragments of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile that were not retained. There is a rim sherd from a large storage jar of form Cam 273 (Fabric HZ – see *CAR 10*) dated Claudian-2nd century or slightly later; although possibly more common from the Flavain period onward than earlier. The sherd is quite heavily abraded. With this are pieces of Roman brick and tile in red/orange-red, fine-medium sand fabrics. None of the pieces are diagnostic. One piece at 36mm thick probably indicates a brick/hypocaust tile rather than a roofing tile, while another piece at 16mm thick is probably from a *tegula* roof tile. The pieces are quite broken-up and show signs of abrasion. The abrasion on both the pottery and brick/tile pieces shows that they have a significant depositional history relative to this context (L3) and are residual within it.

## 6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of known Roman burials and close to the County High School for Girls where a Roman ditches, palisade trenches, wattle-and-daub structures, gullies and pits have been excavated, no significant archaeological features or horizons were present within either the evaluation trench or the monitoring areas.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mark Harding and Harding Homes for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway, N Rayner and A Wade. Figures were prepared by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

## 8 References

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

CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by Robin Symonds and Sue Wade
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by Hawke, CFC and Crummy, P
CBC	2016	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at the former Essex County Council Offices, Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UR</i> , by J Tipper
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at the former Essex County Council Offices, Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UR</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching briefs</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014d	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Jarvis, L	2013	<i>Heritage Assessment, Park Road, Lexden, Colchester</i> . Heritage Collective
Hull, M	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL 20
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)

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record, formally UAD
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** not retained

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1056)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2016.53.

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### **Distribution list**

Mark Harding, Harding Homes

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

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Essex, CO2 7GZ

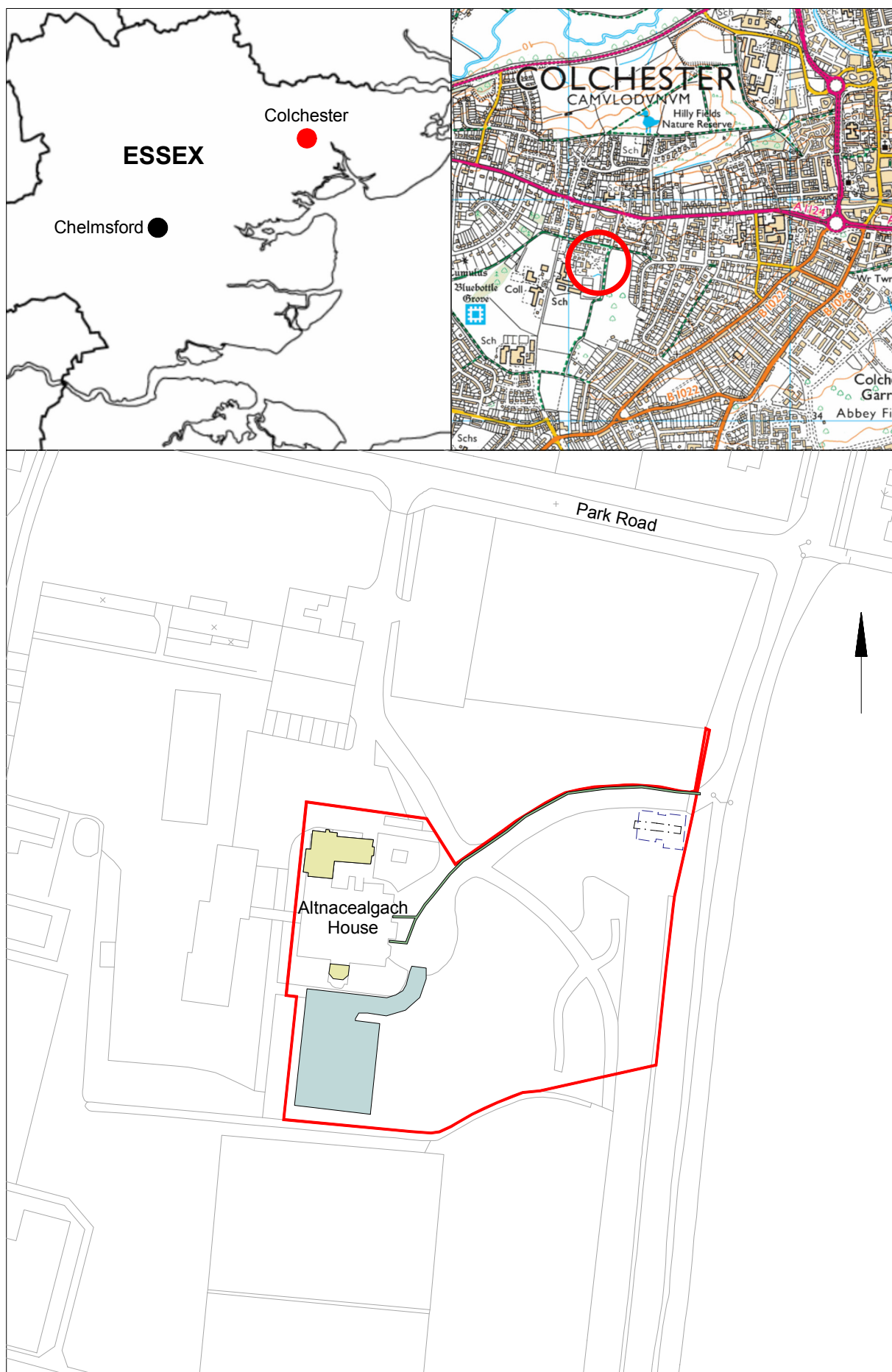
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 12/1/2017





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Fig 1 Site location

0 50 m



Fig 2 Results showing location of evaluation trench and monitoring areas



Fig 3 Evaluation results

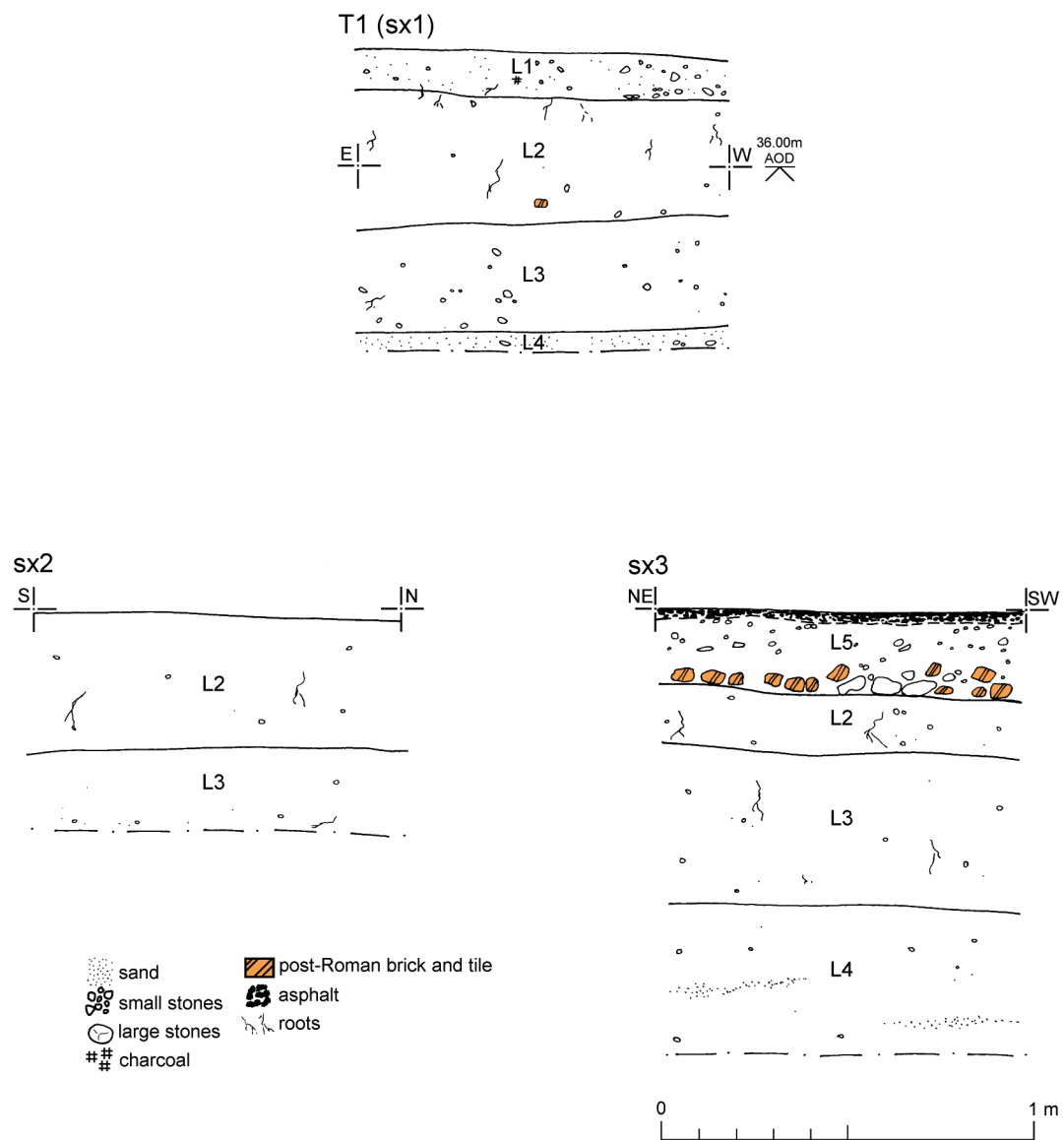


Fig 4 Representative sections from the evaluation (T1) and monitoring works.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> former Essex County Council offices (Altnacealgach House), Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UR	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9812 2469 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 16/05m CHER ref: ECC3769 OASIS ref: colchest3-252179
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation, monitoring and recording	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 31st May – 13th December 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.56ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.53	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related EHER/CHER numbers:</b> EHER 11713, 11714, 11881, 11980, 12630-12632, 13128; CHER ECC2906
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1056	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation, monitoring and recording was carried out at the former Essex County Council Offices (Altnacealgach House), Park Road, Colchester in advance of and during the conversion and extension of the existing house into residential apartments, the construction of a gatehouse dwelling and associated access, car parking, landscaping and related works. Despite being located in an area of known Roman burials and occupation remains, no significant archaeological features or horizons were present.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> –	<b>Significance:</b> –
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> January 2017



# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at the former Essex County Council Offices, Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UR**

**NGR:** TL 9812 2469 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 135948

**Client:** Mark Harding, Harding Homes

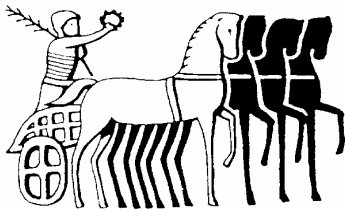
**Curating Museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:**  
**UAD Event number:** ECC3769  
**CAT Project code:** 16/05m  
**OASIS Project id:** colchest3-252179

**Site Manager:** Ben Holloway

**CBC Monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 19.05.2016



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## **Site location and description**

The proposed development site lies within grounds of the former Essex County Council Offices, Park Road, Colchester (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 9812 2469.

## **Proposed work**

The proposed work comprises the conversion of existing house (Altnacealgach House) to form six residential apartments, demolition of side storage wing and erection of extension to create two residential apartments, erection of a gatehouse, all with associated access, car parking, landscaping and related works.

## **Archaeological background**

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The development site is located at Altnacealgach House (locally listed), a Victorian mansion designed by acclaimed local architect Horace Darken and built in 1888 to be the home of Arthur Thomas Osborne, heir to a successful brewing business. It was originally built within a 75-acre estate with its own arboretum and orchard. It was sold to Essex County Council in 1913 who used it as council offices. A Heritage Assessment of Altnacealgach House was completed by the Heritage Collective in 2013 (Jarvis 2013).

The development site lies to the west of the Roman town wall and within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), or more generally considered the Lexden cemetery (EHER no.s 11713, 11714). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds to either side of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town to London). In the immediate vicinity Roman burials were found in the grounds of St Mary's Lodge, now Vint Crescent, to the north-east of the site (EHER 11980) and a Roman grave was found to the west of Altnacealgach House (EHER 11881). A trial-trenched evaluation on this site in 2009 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (UAD event no. ECC2906, Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit Report).

Immediately to the west of the development site is the County High School for Girls. Excavations here in the 1930s and 1950s revealed a Roman dyke (the 'Triple Dyke') (EHER 12630-12631; *CAR 11*, 124-127) along with palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (EHER 12632). To the south/south-east is the site of a Roman temple (Temple 6) (EHER 13128).

## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in December 2013 (application No. 135948) proposing a residential development.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / UAD 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* (DCLG 2012).

## **Requirement for work**

Full details of the required archaeological work is given in the Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically, the work will comprise:

- 1) A controlled strip and excavation in the area of the new car park to the south of the former Council offices.
- 2) A single trial-trench, 10m long by 1.8m wide, located across the footprint of the new gatehouse to assess the archaeological potential of the gatehouse site and to determine if further archaeological investigation is required during groundworks. Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.
- 3) All other groundworks relating to the car park and associated landscaping will be the subject of continuous archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief).

The investigation aim to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

## **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-d)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2016)

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.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor and one archaeologist for one day for the trial trench; one archaeologist plus assistants as necessary for the Strip, Map and Sample and Watching Brief

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

## **Evaluation and strip/map methodology**

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) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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 the site, 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Samples will be taken if palaeo-environmental and/or geoarchaeological remains are encountered (ie waterlogged deposits).

#### **Watching brief methodology (in addition to the above)**

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.

#### **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**

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

#### **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. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and 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.

#### **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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.

## 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* (English Heritage 2006).

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 trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- 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

## Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**



The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

## 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. CBCAO 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

- |                  |       |   |
|------------------|-------|---|
| CBC              | 2016  | <i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at Former Essex Council Council, Council Offices, Park Road, Colchester, CO3 3UR</i> , by J Tipper    |
| CAR 11           | 1995  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by Hawkes and Crummy   |
| CAT              | 2014  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| ClfA             | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>   |
| ClfA             | 2014b | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>   |
| ClfA             | 2014c | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>                                  |
| ClfA             | 2014d | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>                           |
| DCLG             | 2012  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>   |
| English Heritage | 2006  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Gurney, D        | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).                         |
| Jarvis, L        | 2013  | <i>Heritage Assessment, Park Road, Lexden, Colchester</i> . Heritage Collective   |
| Hull, MR         | 1958  | <i>Roman Colchester</i> , Society of Antiquaries Research Committee Report, XX  |
| 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) |

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Fig 1 Site location.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-252179**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological investigations at the former Essex County Council offices, Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UR
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation, monitoring and recording was carried out at the former Essex County Council Offices (Altnacealgach House), Park Road, Colchester in advance of and during the conversion and extension of the existing house into residential apartments, the construction of a gatehouse dwelling and associated access, car parking, landscaping and related works. Despite being located in an area of known Roman burials and occupation remains, no significant archaeological features or horizons were present.
Project dates	Start: 31-05-2016 End: 13-12-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/05m - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	135948 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3769 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.53 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER former Essex County Council offices (Altnacealgach House), Park Road
Postcode	CO3 3UR
Study area	0.56 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9812 2469 51.884987579502 0.879120652849 51 53 05 N 000 52 44 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.55m Max: 35.6m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2016.53
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2016.53
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation, monitoring and recording at the former Essex County Council Offices (Altnacealgach House), Park Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3UR: May-December 2016
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1056
Date	2017



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Entered on 12 January 2017

## OASIS:

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