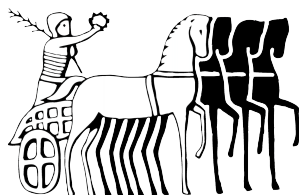


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2262
issued March 2026**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0EJ:
February 2026**



**CAT project ref.: 2025/03g
ECC code: EEX63225**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0EJ:
February 2026**

NGR: TL 71150 06214 (centre)

**Planning district.: Chelmsford
Planning ref.: 24/01741/FUL**

**CAT project ref.: 2025/03g
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**ECC code: EEX63225
OASIS id: colchest3-532696**

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Fig 1 Site location.

Fig 2 Results. (All modern concrete and services in light grey).

Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, as part of construction of a side and rear extension. Despite being in an area highlighted as having archaeological potential, the monitoring did not reveal any significant archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, between the 10th and 18th February 2026. Work was commissioned by the landowner and took place in advance of the construction of a part two-storey, part single-storey side and rear extension.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) as having a high potential for archaeological remains, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Historic Environment Consultant at Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS). This follows the guidelines given in *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2025).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording at 59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex*, written by Mark Baister (ECCPS 2025), and a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CAT (2025) in response to the brief.

In addition to the project brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2023a-b, 2025),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Gurney 2003; Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2026).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief and Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The EHER shows that the development site is within an area of known archaeological remains associated with an eastern route out of the Roman town of *Caesaromagus* (a precursor to modern-day Chelmsford). Approximately 30m to the north-east of the proposed development site, an archaeological investigation in 2003 uncovered extensive Roman remains, including a cremation urn with an iron brooch, pottery and a large, waterlogged, pit (EHER 46252). To the north-west (90m) of the development site an archaeological investigation at Rochford Road uncovered further Roman features, including a road surface, ditches, ovens and pits (EHER 17121). Later archaeological remains have also been uncovered nearby; an archaeological excavation to the east in 2010 uncovered a substantial 16th-century drainage channel, which had been recut and had timber revetting added in the 18th century (EHER 47408) (ECCPS 2025).

Approximately 100m north-west of the site, four trenches were excavated during investigations for Dawn House in the 1970s. Finds included pottery, tile and copper-alloy tweezers of a 2nd century date (SMR 17170). Another archaeological investigation that took place in the 1970s at 71-73 Goldlay Road revealed occasional flecks of fired clay during the excavation of foundation trenches (SMR 5908).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits (sand and gravel).

4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify and record any archaeological remains revealed during the works.

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

The groundworks consisted of a foundation trench and a soakaway; both were either machine- or hand-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The foundation trench was 0.7m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m, covering an area of 13m². It was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.4m thick, friable moist dark grey/brown clay silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1%) which covered a post-medieval/modern subsoil (L2, 0.6m thick, firm moist medium/dark grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1%). This in turn sealed natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 1m, firm moist medium orange/brown sandy clay and inclusions of: gravel 1%).

The soakaway was 1.2m by 1.3m and excavated to a depth of 1.1m. It was cut through the same deposits as the foundation trench with the addition of a modern paving and associated sub-base (L4, 0.25m thick) covering L1.

No archaeological features were identified; only modern concrete and services were encountered.



Photograph 1 Foundation trench, looking north-west.



Photograph 2 Foundation trench, looking north-west.



Photograph 3 Foundation trench, looking north-west.



Photograph 4 Representative section of foundation trench, looking north-east.



Photograph 5 Representative section of soakaway, looking north.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Monitoring uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at ten sherds with a weight of 4.219kg and EVE (rim estimated vessel equivalent) of 0.25 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight high at 112.3g which reflect the greater contribution of heavier CBM to the assemblage weight. This material was recovered from the topsoil (L1) and the subsoil (L2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	6	104	17.3	0.25
CBM	4	4,115	1028.8	-
All	10	4,219	421.9	0.25

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Roman Pottery

Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999) and the Chelmsford fabric series (Going 1987). Roman vessel types were classified via the Chelmsford type series (Going 1987). 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). The assemblage consisted of an early Roman La Graufesenque (BASG) samian Drag. 15/17 dish (EVE:0.11) from topsoil L1 and a greyware (fabric GX/47) Chelmsford G23.1 jar (EVE:0.14), dating to c. AD 43-100/120, from subsoil L2

Modern pottery

Modern pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). This consisted of three sherds of English porcelain (fabric F48B), possibly from a candlestick, from topsoil L1 and a sherd of late slipped kitchenware (fabric F51A) from the subsoil L2.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

This consists of a fragment of Roman CBM, medieval/post-medieval peg-tile, an 18th-early 19th century brick and a possible post-medieval paver.

Conclusion

Table 2 summarizes the dating evidence for the two layers which are both modern. None of this material was retained.

Context	Description	Roman pottery	Modern pottery	CBM	Date Approx.
L1	Topsoil	BASG (DRAG 15/17)	F48B (candlestick)	RBT	Modern
L2	Subsoil	GX/47 (G23.1)	F51A	BR, PT, PAVER	Modern

Table 2 Approximate dates for the individual layers.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area highlighted as having high archaeological potential, archaeological monitoring at 59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. All finds recovered were residual.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the landowner for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, with fieldwork carried out by X Smith and Z Eksen. Figures were compiled by X Smith and C Hill. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Mark Baister.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <https://catuk.org/online-reports/>

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEC	Essex County Council Historic Environment Consultant
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to 1540
modern	period from AD 1901 to present day
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from AD 1540 to 1901
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 Archive deposition

Digital record: This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/work/toolkits/archives/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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Distribution list:

The Landowner

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Consultant

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Pottery list

Context	Feature type	Find no.	Quantity	Weight (g)	Mean sherd weight (g)	Discarded	Rim	Handle	Base	RBH	Abraison	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diameter (mm)	Comments	Start Date	End Date
L1	TOPSOIL	1	3	44	14.7	X	0	0	3	3		F48B	CANDLESTICK	CANDLESTICK				1800	2000
L1	TOPSOIL	1	1	8	8.0	X	1	0	0	1	X	BASG	DRAG 15/17	DISH	0.11	160		43	100
L2	SUBSOIL	2	1	21	21.0	X	0	0	1	1		F51A	STORAGE JAR	JAR				1800	2000
L2	SUBSOIL	2	1	31	31.0	X	1	0	0	1		GX/47	JAR G23.1	JAR	0.14	180	BUFF/GREY MEDIUM SAND & SOME DRK GRAINS	43	100/120

Appendix 2 CBM list

Context	Feature type	Find no.	Quantity	Weight (g)	Mean sherd weight (g)	Discarded	Typology	Sub-type	Post-hole – round	Post-hole diameter (mm)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Hack/skintling/pres. marks	Burnt	Abraded	Comments	Start Date	End Date
L1	TOP SOIL	1	1	173	173.0	X	RBT											43	425
L2	SUBSOIL	2	1	247	247.0	X	PT		X	11								1200/1250	1600
L2	SUBSOIL	2	1	2525	2525.0	X	BR	UNFROGG			220	105	60	X			OR/RED, CREASED EDGE	1700	1825
L2	SUBSOIL	2	1	1170	1170.0	X	PAVER						40				RED/OR	1200	1600

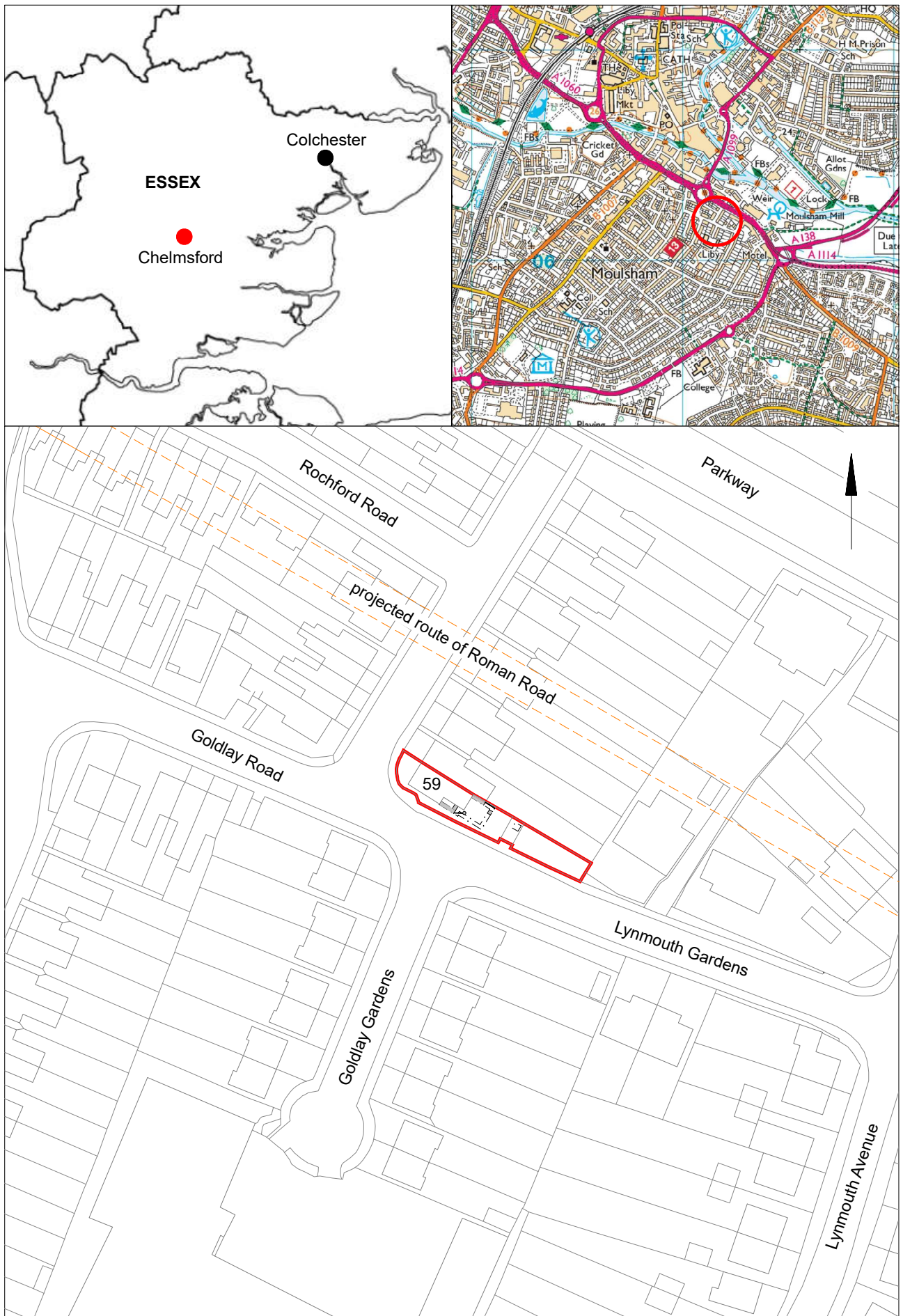


Fig 1 Site location.

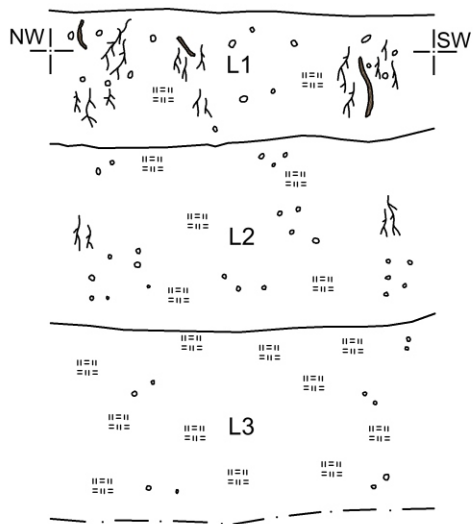
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0 50 m



Fig 2 Results. (All modern concrete and services in light grey).

Sx1



Sx2

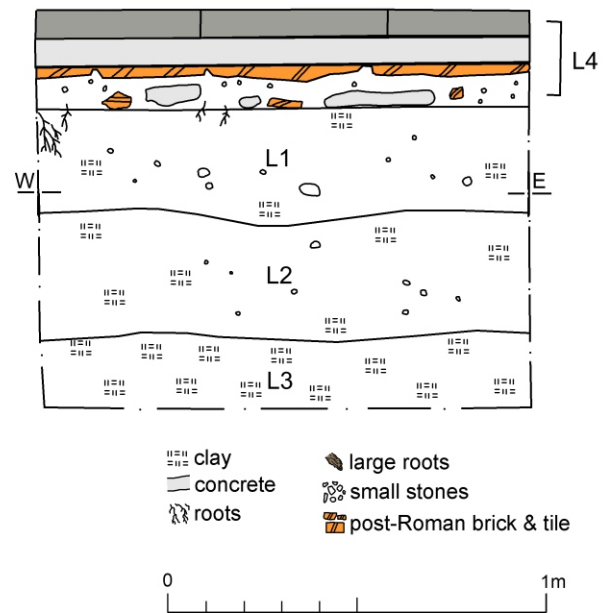


Fig 3 Representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-532696

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-532696
Project Name	Watching Brief at 59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0EJ, United Kingdom
Sitename	59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0EJ, United Kingdom
Sitecode	2025/03g
Project Identifier(s)	2025/03g
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	24/01741/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	10-Feb-2026 - 18-Feb-2026
Location	59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0EJ, United Kingdom NGR : TL 71150 06214 LL : 51.72851763987295, 0.476804247206928 12 Fig : 571150,206214
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Chelmsford Parish : Chelmsford, unparished area
Project Methodology	The groundworks consisted of a foundation trench and a soakaway; both were either machine- or hand-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 59 Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex, as part of construction of a side and rear extension. Despite being in an area highlighted as having archaeological potential, the monitoring did not reveal any significant archaeological remains.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A Wightman
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

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