

**An archaeological evaluation
by trial-trenching at
282 Shrub End Road, Colchester, Essex
December 2003**

**report prepared by
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**on behalf of
Chelsteen Homes**

CAT project ref.: 03/12a
Colchester Museums accession code: 2003.318
NGR: TL 97008 23088



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EHCR summary sheet

1 Summary

An evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out at 282 Shrub End Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of planning permission being given for a residential development. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded.

2 Introduction

- 2.1** This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out at 282 Shrub End Road, Colchester, Essex (National Grid Reference TL 97008 23088), as a result of a planning application for a residential development consisting of 22 apartments contained within two separate blocks. Planning permission could not be determined until an archaeological evaluation had taken place.
- 2.2** The work was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) from the 15th-16th December 2003, on behalf of Chelsteen Homes, according to a brief set out by Martin Winter, archaeology officer for Colchester Borough Council.
- 2.3** This report follows the standards set out in the Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1999).

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1** The development lies 3.5 km south of Colchester town centre, adjacent to the Gosbecks Archaeological Park, a scheduled ancient monument (Essex SAM no 57). The archaeological park covers an extensive area, and comprises nationally important archaeological remains of the late Iron Age and Roman periods including a temple, theatre, an early Roman fort, roads, and part of a major Iron Age field system (Hull 1958; Hawkes & Crummy 1995; Crummy 1997).
- 3.2** Fieldwalking, trial-trenching and small evaluations have been carried out in the immediate area over the past few years, and late Iron Age and Roman occupation features (Benfield 1994; Benfield & Brooks 1994; Benfield 1998), a Roman water-main, droveways and pits, and a small number of early Roman cremations and later Roman inhumations (*the Colchester archaeologist* no **12** (1999), 18-19) have been recorded.

4 Aims and objectives

The evaluation was designed to locate, identify and assess the quality and extent of surviving archaeological remains prior to a decision being taken on the preservation or otherwise of deposits and the need for further work and/or mitigation.

5 Methodology

- 5.1** In accordance with the brief, 4% of the development area was excavated. This equated to 65m of trenching at 1.4m wide, which was divided into three trenches that were positioned to provide adequate coverage across the site and to intersect known cropmarks (Fig 1).
- 5.2** The trenches were dug with a mechanical digger, using a flat-edged ditching bucket, and under the supervision of an archaeologist to the first significant archaeological layer. At this point all archaeological features and layers were cleaned and excavated by hand.

- 5.3 Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features and deposits were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets.
- 5.4 All features and layers were planned at 1:20 and sectioned at 1:10.
- 5.5 A photographic record was kept consisting of general site shots and shots of all archaeological features and deposits.

6 Results (Fig 2)

6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 9m long, 1.4m wide and 0.91m deep. It consisted of a layer of dark brown silty topsoil (Layer or L1, 0.26m deep), which covered a layer of modern hogging (L2, 0.16m deep) sealing a yellow/brown silty clay subsoil (L3, 0.49m deep). L3 then in turn sealed L4 (natural orange sand). Three features (F1-F3) were recorded:

F1 – a modern drain

F2 – a pit of indeterminate date cut by F1

F3 – a modern service trench.

6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 27m long, 1.4m wide and 0.94m deep. It consisted of L1 (0.31m deep), L2 (0.04m deep), L3 (0.59m deep) and L4. Two features were recorded:

F4 – a modern soakaway

F5 – a modern pit (containing modern building rubble).

6.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was 29m long, 1.4m wide and 0.75m deep and consisted of L1 (0.41m deep), L3 (0.34m deep) and L4. Two features were recorded:

F6 – a modern linear feature

F7 – a natural feature.

Table 1: Finds from Trench 3.

Layer/ Feature no	Finds no	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
L1	2	Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce bottle	1	252
F6	1	Peg-tile	1	55
F6	1	Post-medieval brick	1	417
F6	1	Clay-pipe stem	1	5
F6	1	Modern glass	1	77
F6	1	China	2	55
F6	1	Medieval sandy grey ware pottery (Fabric 20)	1 (in 2 pieces)	12

7 Discussion

No features or finds of an archaeological significance were recorded during the trial-trenching evaluation.

8 Archive deposition

A copy of this report will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museums under accession code 2003.318.

9 Acknowledgements

The Colchester Archaeological Trust is grateful to Chelsteen Homes for commissioning the work. The investigation was monitored by Martin Winter for Colchester Borough Council.

10 References

- Benfield, S, 1994 Archaeological assessment at Gosbecks Farm, unpublished CAT archive report
- Benfield, S, 1998 Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-western area, 1998, unpublished CAT archive report
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- Hull, M R, 1958 *Roman Colchester*, RRCSAL, **20**
- Colchester Archaeological Trust 1999 *The Colchester archaeologist* magazine, **12**

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Distribution list:

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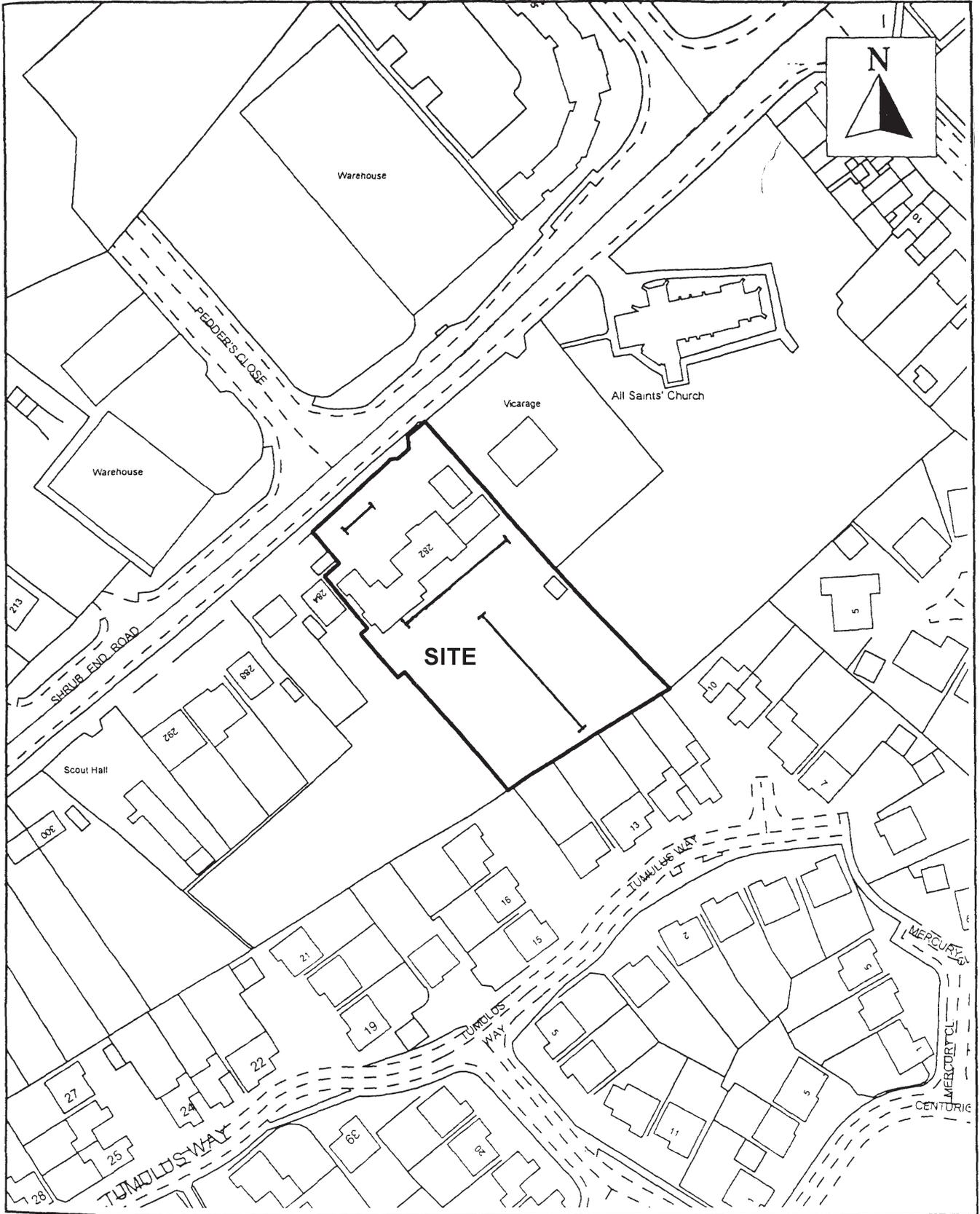


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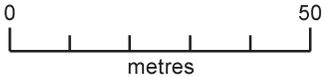
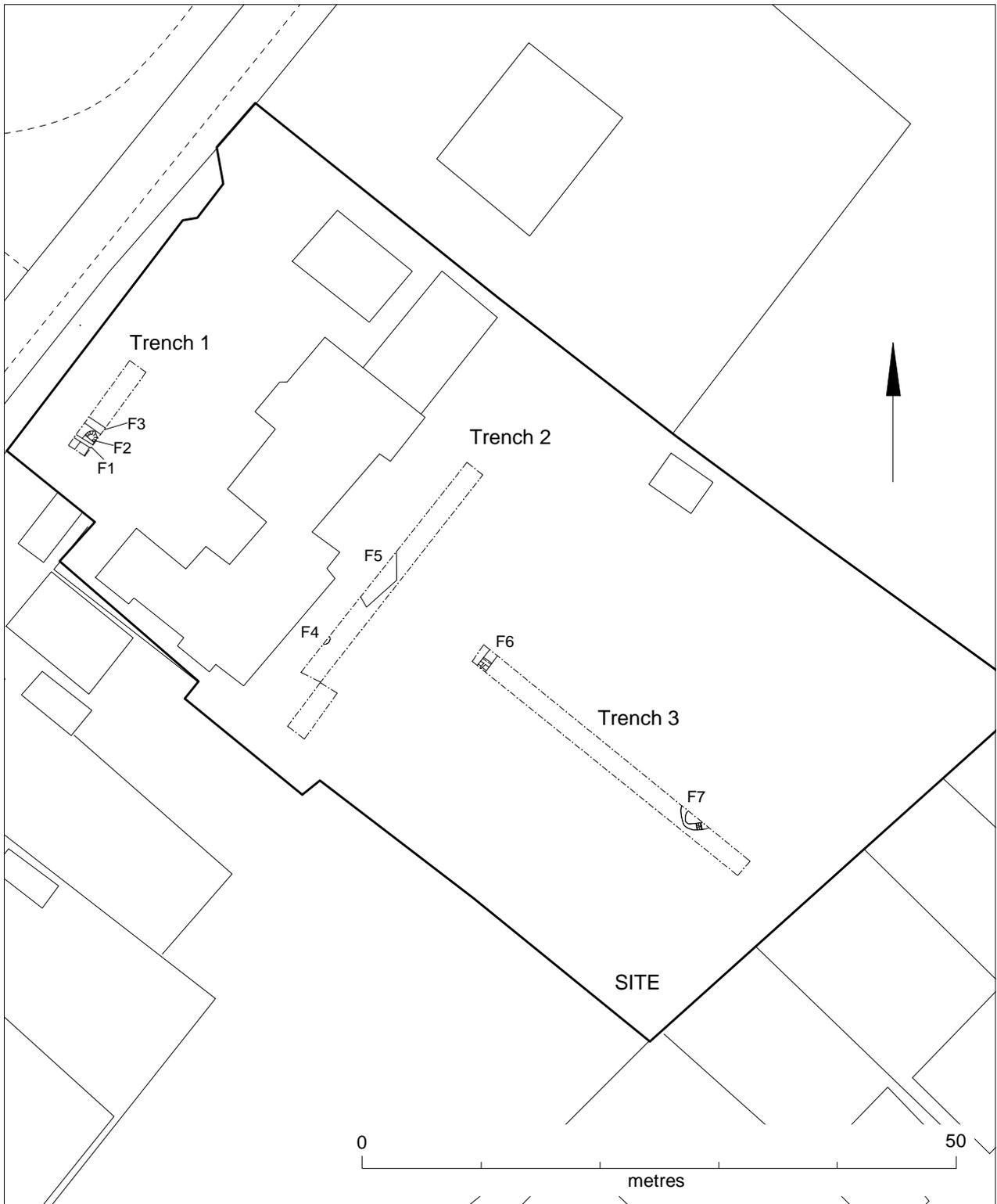


Fig 1 Site location plan.



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Fig 2 Plan of trenches.

**Essex Heritage Conservation Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site address: 282 Shrub End Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 97008 23088	Site code: Museum accession code 2003.318
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: December 2003	Size of area investigated: Three trenches 1.4m wide and a total of 74m in length
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHCR nos: No
Final report: CAT Report 257	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out at 282 Shrub End Road in advance of planning permission being given for a residential development. No features or finds of an archaeological significance were recorded.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: N/A	
Author of summary: Ben Holloway and Laura Pooley	Date of summary: December 2003