

**Archaeological evaluation  
by trial-trenching at  
1 Rawstorn Road,  
Colchester, Essex  
August 2011**

**report prepared by  
Ben Holloway**

**on behalf of  
Harding Homes**

CAT project ref.: 11/8d  
Colchester and Ipswich Museums accession code: COLEM 2011.52  
NGR: TL 9986 2427 (c)



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**CAT Report 613**  
September 2011

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 1 Rawstorn Road, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> St Mary's	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9986 2427 (c)	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT - 11/8d Museum accession - COLEM 2011.52
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation by trial-trenching	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 26th August 2011	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 4m of linear trenching at 1.6m width
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Harding Homes
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>EHER nos:</b> -
<b>Periods represented:</b> 18th-19th centuries	
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 613	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>The site lies just outside the western part of the walled town, where Roman buildings and burials have been found, including the following:</i></p> <p><i>a) at least 18 inhumations of 4th-century and possibly late 3rd-century date and part of a Flavian-Trajanic building were excavated in 1971, 80m to the south of the site, in advance of the construction of Southway (CAR 9, 236-44).</i></p> <p><i>b) parts of a Roman house, including a hypocaust, were uncovered in 1925 and 1973 under the north side of Crouch Street, 90 m south-east of the current site (Hull 1958, 243; CAR 6, 340-41).</i></p> <p><i>c) some possible Roman inhumations were noted in 1981 in stanchion holes during the construction of an office block at 32 Crouch Street, 110m south east of the current site (CAR 6, 975-6).</i></p> <p><i>d) in 1985, some 20m north of the current site, an excavation by CAT at a site opposite 37 Manor Road uncovered a complete series of Roman floors, representing several layers of occupation and possible rebuilding.</i></p> <p><i>e) several Roman burials were excavated in 1988 at the southern end of 42 Crouch Street, 70m south of the current site (CAR 9, 245-56).</i></p> <p><i>f) an evaluation was undertaken 85m to the south-east of the current site at 38-40 Crouch Street by CAT in 2006, and this produced evidence of several Roman burials and pits (CAT Report 390).</i></p> <p><i>Following a brief produced by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer prior to redevelopment works, an archaeological trial-trench was excavated in the driveway of no 1 Rawstorn Road (T1).</i></p>	

*The trench was excavated through tarmac hardstanding and sub-base material (L1) and an underlying layer of topsoil (L2). The latter sealed a number of modern service runs, a modern sewer-pipe (F1) and a disused culvert (F2). The trench could not be excavated any further by machine because the sewer was still live. Sealed by the modern features was a large pit (F3). A sample section showed that the pit fill contained peg-tile, Staffordshire slipware pottery, oyster shell and glass. The material dates to the 18th and 19th centuries, and is most commonly associated with domestic waste. The pit is probably associated with buildings fronting onto Crouch Street to the south, as Rawstorn Road is a relatively modern layout in the Victorian St Mary's residential development.*

*Natural horizons were not encountered during the evaluation. Nor were any deposits earlier than the 18th-19th centuries. This is due to the high level of truncation by modern service runs.*

*The trench was dug in advance of the first stage of the redevelopment (ie 1 Rawstorn Road). A full report on this trench will be included in the report on the archaeological work when the second stage of the redevelopment (ie 33-35 Manor Road) has been completed.*

**Previous summaries/reports:** None

**Key words:** -

**Significance:** neg

**Author of summary:**  
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**Date of summary:**  
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Fig 1 T1: plan.

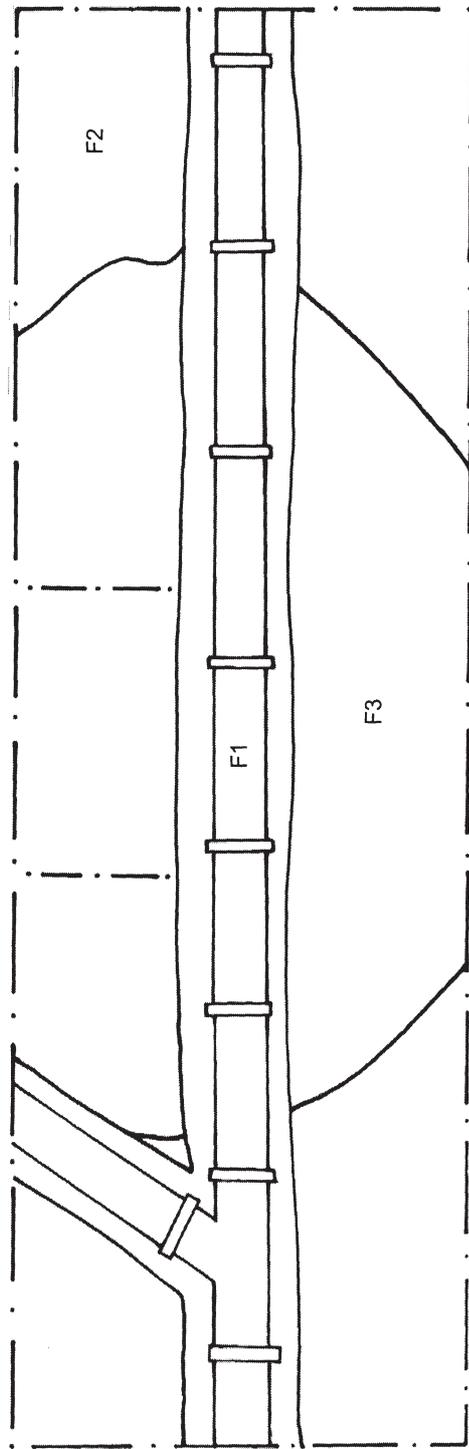


Fig 2 T1: detailed plan.