

**Archaeological monitoring at the University of  
Essex Parkside Office Development, Wivenhoe  
Park, Colchester, Essex  
September 2013**

**PHASE 1**



**report by  
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## Archaeological monitoring at the University Of Essex Parkside Office Development, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex PHASE 1

Three archaeological monitoring visits were made during the groundworks for the new Parkside Office Development at the University of Essex Wivenhoe Park campus (Fig 1). The monitoring visits were made on the 5th, 10th and 18th of September by professional archaeologists employed by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The removal of the topsoil from the area of Block C and from the car park to the north-east of Block C (Fig 2) was carried out under intermittent archaeological supervision. The footprints of blocks A and B and the associated roads and car parking were examined after they had been excavated. The footprint of Block B and the roadways were partly obscured. However, the edges of the excavations were still observable and where the footprint of Block A remained exposed no archaeological features were observed.

Across most of the development area, a dark grey/brown clayey-silt topsoil (L1) directly overlay natural sand and gravel (L3). In the south-western corner of the development area (Block C), a medium brown clayey-silt colluvium (L2) was stratified between the topsoil and the natural alluvial clays and gravels (L3). In the northern corner of Block B, a large feature (F1, c 15m x 7m) with a silty-sand fill was observed cut into the natural sand/gravel/clay (Plate 1). However, based on the size and fill of F1 and its location on the valley slope of the River Colne, it is probable that this feature is an infilled water channel.

Three sherds of pottery and a piece of clay pipe stem were recovered during the excavation of the piling mat for Block C. The finds were identified by Stephen Benfield of CAT. One of the pottery sherds (18g) is from the flanged rim of a large bowl or pancheon. It is in an orange fabric with a grey fabric core and has traces of a cream slip on the upper and lower surfaces. It can be identified as a Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21A) and is most probably of 15th-16th century date (CAR 7, 146). This sherd is of the same fabric and date as a significant quantity of medieval pottery which was collected from an area 40m to the south-west during the infrastructure enabling works watching brief (CAT Report 638, 18). This pottery is thought to be derived from a nearby medieval domestic site occupied in the 13th-14th centuries. The other two sherds (17g) are both post-medieval red earthen ware (Fabric 40), which broadly date to the period of the 16th/17th-19th century. One is from a close form with external glaze, the other is from the rim of a bowl. The clay pipe stem piece (4g) is not closely dated, but the bore, at approximately 2 mm diameter, suggests a c 18th century date.

In addition, a possible boundary marker was observed in the trees to the north of the development area (Plate 2).

### Reference

CAR 7, 2000, Cotter, J., *Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*, Colchester Archaeological Report 7



**Plate 1 Possibly an infilled water-worn channel.**



**Plate 2 A possible boundary marker.**

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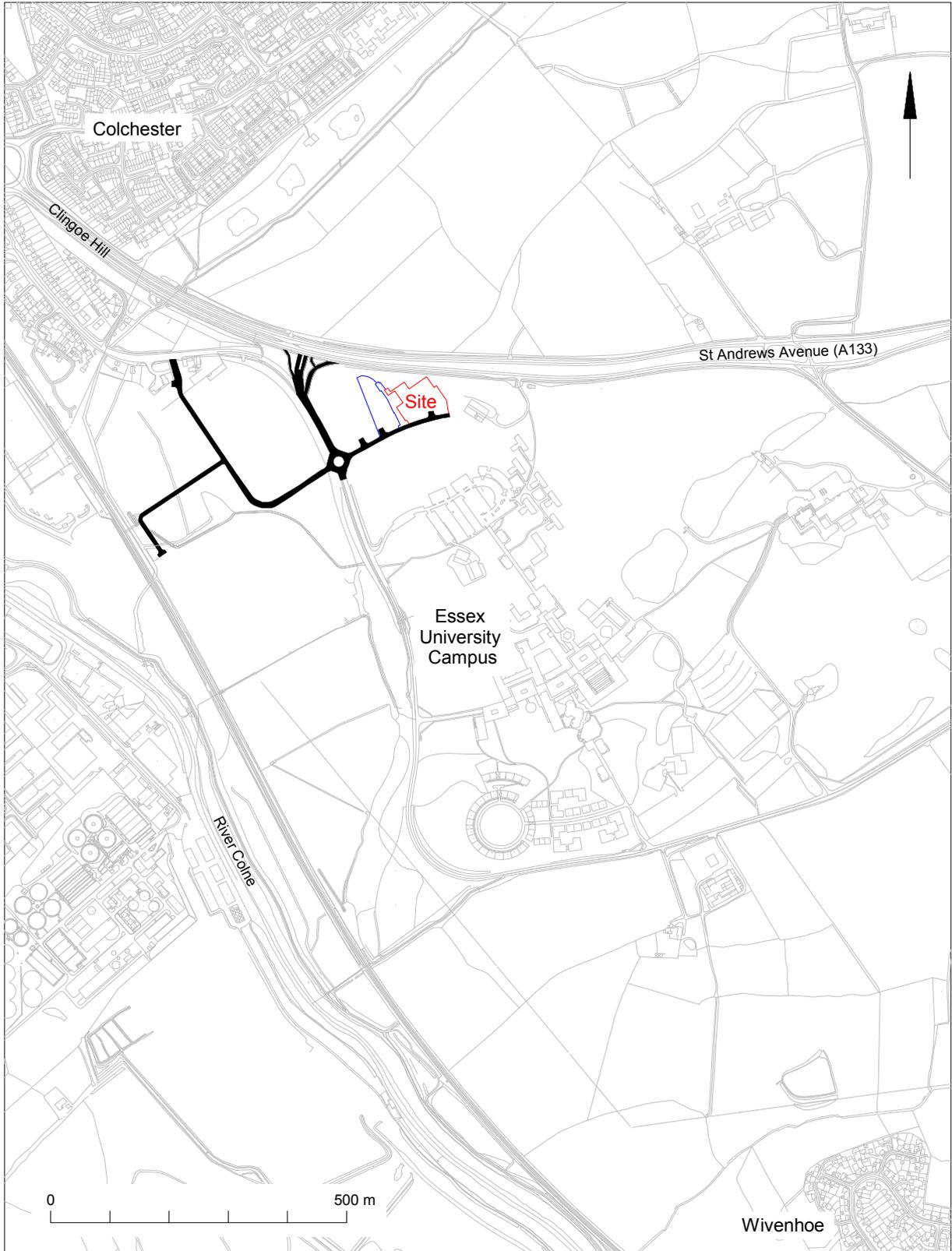


Fig 1 Site location.

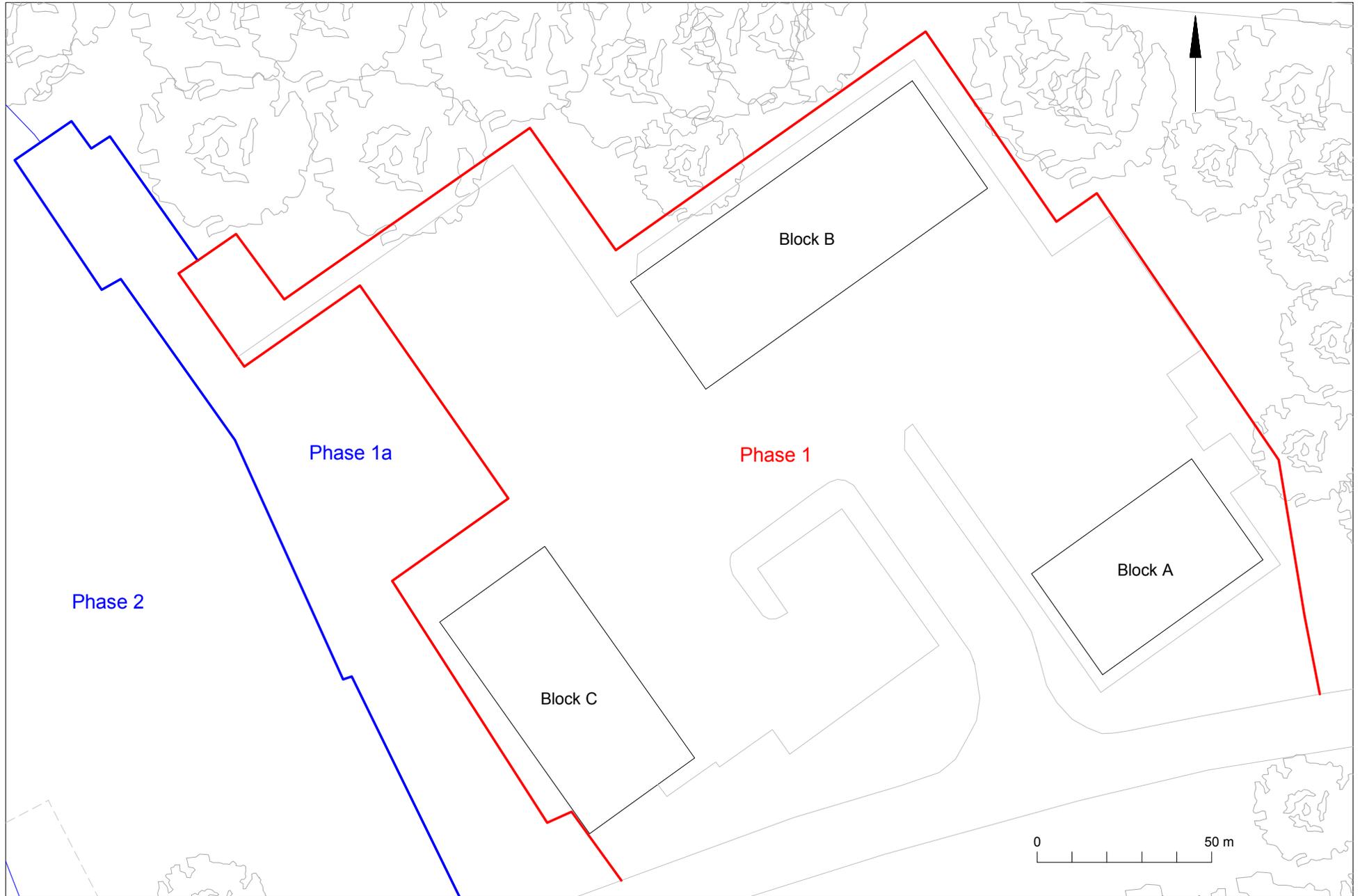


Fig 2 Site plan.