

**Archaeological watching brief at  
Roman House (former bus station),  
Queen Street, Colchester,  
Essex  
November-December 2013, May-July 2014**



**report prepared by Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks  
on behalf of CBC Commercial Services (Mr Howard Davies)**

CAT project ref.: 13/10e  
NGR: TL 99992 25093(centre)  
Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code: 2015.53



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**CAT Report 780**  
July 2015

## Essex Historic Environment Record Summary sheet

### Archaeological watching brief at Roman House (former Bus Station), Queen Street, Colchester, Essex

<b>Address:</b> Roman House (Former Bus Station), Queen Street, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9999 2509 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code – 13/10e
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colch Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> November/December 2013, May/July 2014	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> approx 0.75 ha
<b>Curating museum accession:</b> Colchester & Ipswich: 2015.53	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 780	
<b>Periods represented:</b> post-medieval / modern	
<b>Pictures</b>	
	
<p><b>Pictures:</b> <u>cover</u> - watching service trench.  <u>Left</u> -made ground south of VAF.  <u>Above:</u> the eastern boundary wall, looking south into Vineyard St car park over the top of the Roman wall (here capped with post-medieval brickwork).</p>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results</b>	
<p>The former Bus Station site, on the eastern side of Queen Street, is immediately west of the new Visual Arts Facility (VAF: for archaeology of which, see Johnson <i>et al</i> 2003), and is adjacent to the southern wall of the Roman walled town (Historic England Listing: 1003772). It also coincides with three Roman streets and two <i>insulae</i> (town blocks) numbers 38b and (mostly) 39. There have been many archaeological interventions in this part of town (for summaries, see Hull 1958, and CAT Report 599).</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out in November- December 2013 and May to July 2014.</p>	

Contractors' work was principally the construction of fences along the eastern site boundary wall (ie, western edge of VAF), and adjacent to the site southern boundary (ie, the Roman town wall capped by later brick walling), and the laying of services, and boreholes.

On the southern site edge, fence post-holes revealed but did not damage the top of the Roman town wall. In other places, topsoil was not penetrated (in some parts of the site, services/fence posts were cut through made ground dumped during the construction of Firstsite - see picture below). No archaeological finds or features were revealed. The boreholes were the deepest intrusions - although direct observation was impossible, some finds were observed in the cores. In Borehole 8, sealed by 1.3 - 1.5m of post-medieval topsoil was a layer containing fragments of Roman tile and oysters (a layer consisting of the demolished remains of Roman structures, and possibly overlying more solid structures such as floors), and a possible mortar floor. BH2 and BH5 revealed the same sequence. BH1 revealed at 1.2m a possible *opus signinum* (pink mortar) floor, and BH3 the remains of an *opus signinum* floor at 1.2m. BH2, 4 and 9 revealed clay with *op sig* fragments, suggesting demolished Roman buildings and floors.

**Previous summaries/reports:** CAT Report 599, Hull 1958

**CBCAO Monitor:** Martin Winter

**Keywords:** modern / post-medieval

**Significance:** neg

**Author of summary:**  
Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks

**Date of summary:**  
July 2015

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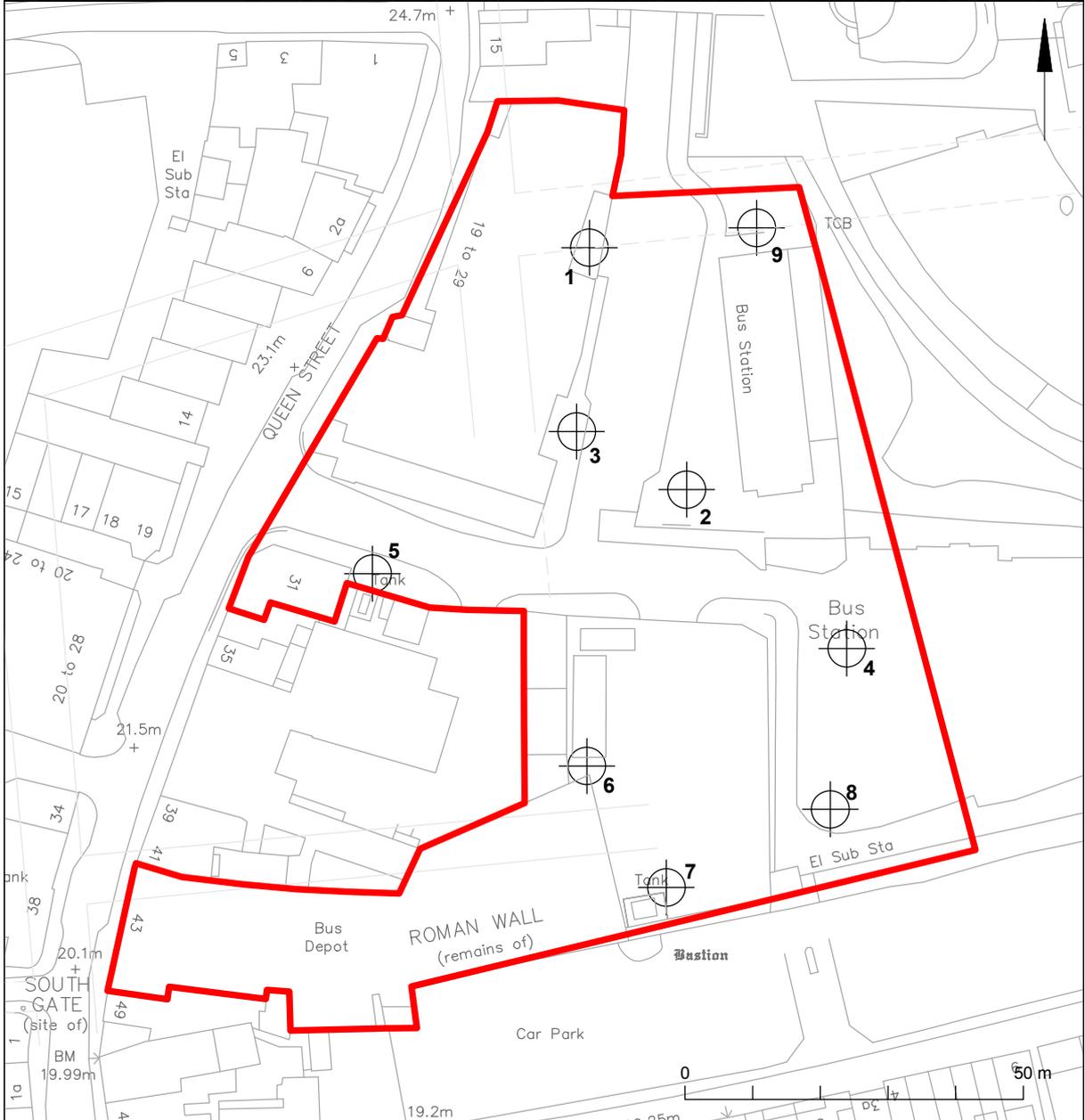
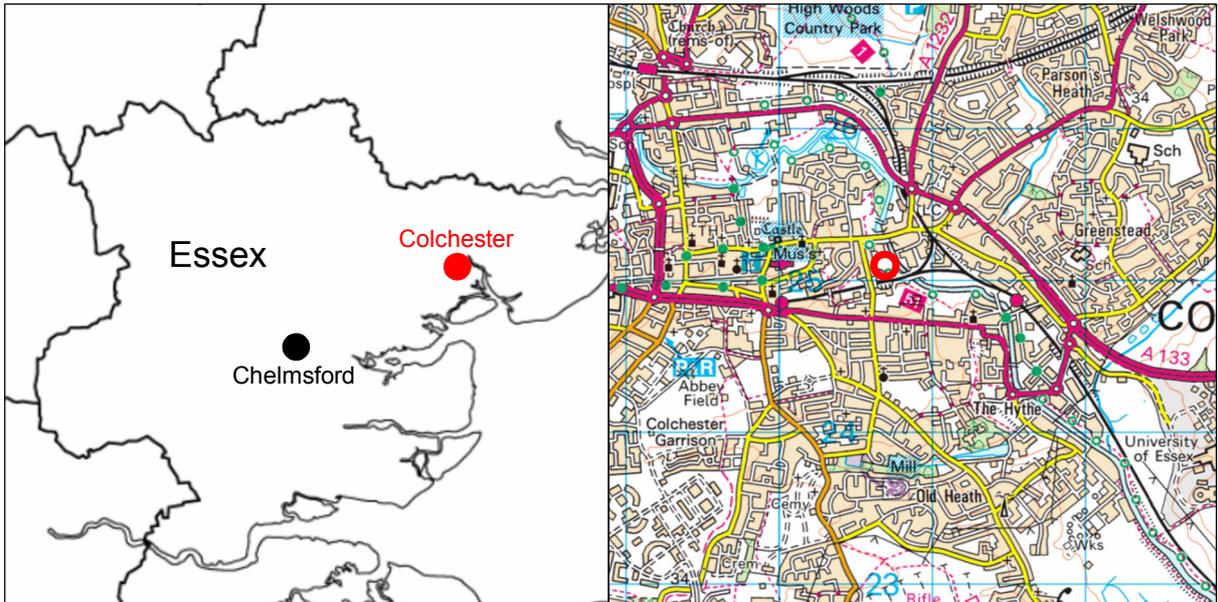
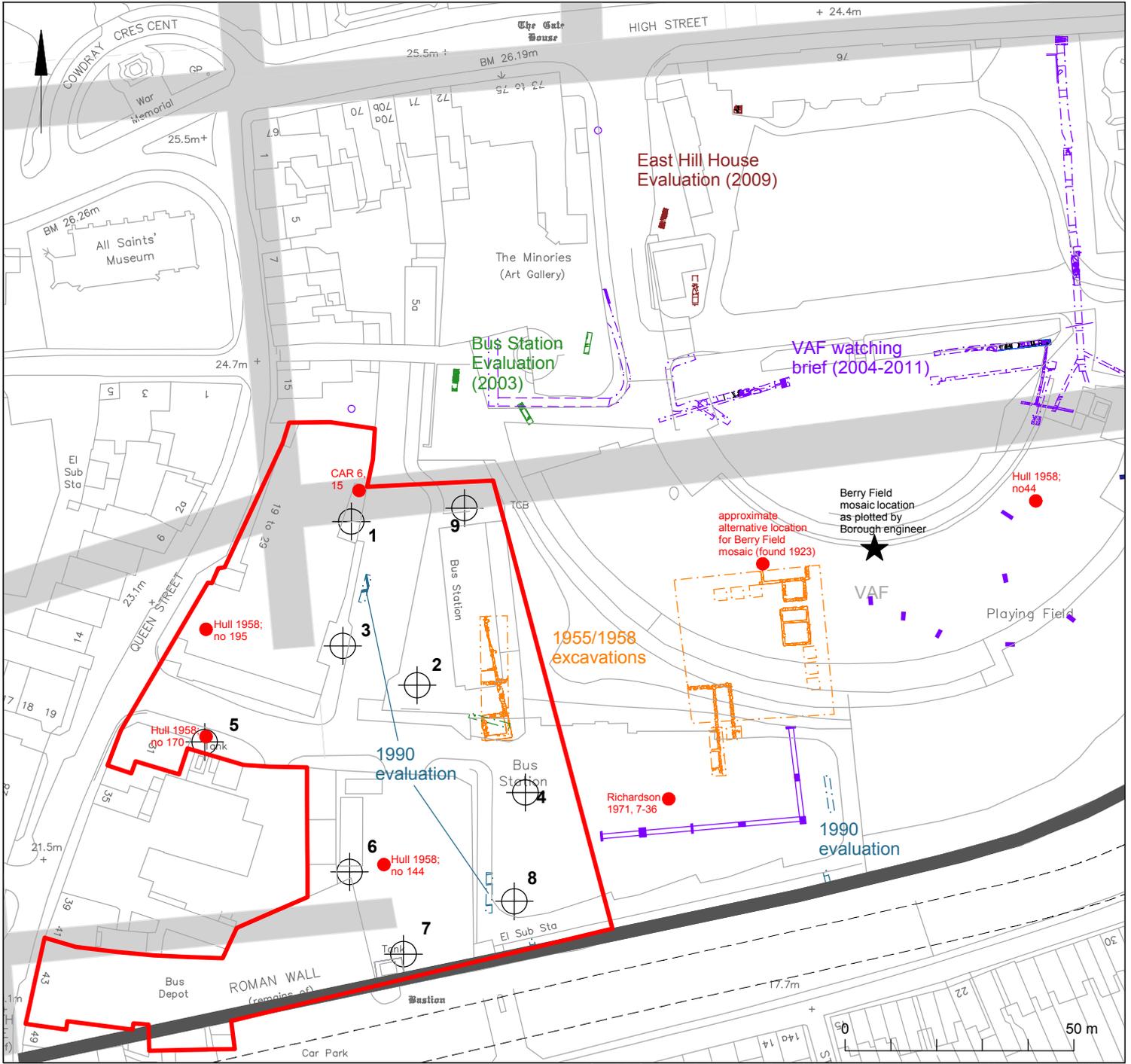


Fig 1 Site location (red outline), with location of Boreholes 1-8.  
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Fig 2 Site (red outline), showing previous excavation, evaluation and monitoring.

town wall Roman street