

# Archaeological monitoring at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UF

July-August 2018



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**commissioned by Natalie Harris,  
Lawson Planning Partnership Ltd  
on behalf of OMC Investments Ltd**

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**CAT Report 1348**  
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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new boundary wall with associated landscaping and services, to provide an enclosed private parking area. Located between East Hill House (an 18th-century grade I listed building) and The Minories (a 16th-century grade II\* listed building), the development site is also within Insulas 31/32 of the Roman walled town. Monitoring revealed modern layers sealing 19th-century brick walls and brick and cobbled floors from buildings present on the OS map of 1875. Evidence suggests that these buildings were likely to be stables. Possible medieval and Roman occupation layers (L9 and L14) were also present.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out during 24th July-17th August 2018. The work was commissioned by Natalie Harris of Lawson Planning Partnership Ltd, on behalf of OMC Investments Ltd, during groundworks for a new boundary wall with associated landscaping and services, to provide for enclosed private parking area ancillary to East Hill House. All work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2018).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the main archaeological publications for Colchester, the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer:

East Hill House is an 18th-century grade I listed building (list entry 1168783; CHER MCC3368) and the development site is located adjacent to The Minories, a 16th-century grade II\* listed building (list entry 112360; MCC159/MCC3366).

The proposed development site is also located within the southeast part of the walled Roman town of Colonia Victricensis (scheduled monument NHLE 1003772; MCC9314), specifically within Insulas 31/32, with a Roman east/west street to the north of the site following the course of the High Street (CAR 6, 15).

Archaeological evaluation has previously taken place on the development site in 2009 (CAT Report 520, Trenches 2 and 3) and 2017 (CAT Report 1151; CHER ECC4049).

In 2009, Trench 2 was found to contain a brick surface and associated drainage features associated with East Hill House and interpreted as part of a stable block, with Roman layers sealed underneath. Roman building remains, including part of a tessellated pavement, were identified in Trench 3 at a depth of 1.7m below current ground level. In 2017, test-pits TP1 and TP3 revealed modern and post-medieval made-ground sealing probable Roman accumulation/demolition layers identified at a depth of 0.38-0.45m below current ground level (bcgl). Test-pit TP2 revealed modern and post-medieval contexts, including a cobbled surface, to a depth of 0.55m bcgl.

Beyond the boundary of the development site, a number of significant archaeological investigations have taken place within the southeast angle of the Roman town, within Insulas 31/32, 38b, 39 and 40. These have revealed that the whole area was largely residential. See summary below, or full details see Hull 1958, Richardson 1961, Dunnett 1971 and work by CAT (Crossan 1990; CAR 6; CAT Reports 234, 295, 305, 372, 385, 477, 520).

Evidence for Roman occupation in the grounds of East Hill House include a mosaic pavement found in 1907 (MCC5734). Archaeological evaluation trenching in the same area in 2005 revealed Roman levels at depths of between 0.15m and 0.6m, beneath soils which suggest that the area was, for the most part, open ground from the end of the Roman period. The exposed Roman material consisted mainly of deposits containing destruction debris and included two probable robber trenches and a gravelled area (CAT Report 305).

Excavations at Lewis' Gardens in 1955 and 1958 revealed three Roman buildings with at least two structural phases (Richardson 1961). Two of the houses had hypocausts and from within the demolition and robbing material, painted wall plaster and red, white and grey tesserae were recovered. Later in 1959, a sewer trench dug between the 1955 and 1958 sites showed stretches of wall foundation and a tessellated floor, both on an east-west alignment (*ibid*).

Excavations in 1966 at the rear of 5 Queen Street identified a 2nd-century Roman building with rubble foundations that had at least three structural phases (Dunnett 1971). The latter of these phases incorporated a hypocaust overlaid with a coloured mosaic floor. Observations made during groundworks for the Queen Street multi-storey car park (in 1970), at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre (in 1983-84; CAR 6, 375-8) and the former bus station (in 2003; CAT Report 234) revealed further Roman structural remains. Works at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre also revealed two Roman inhumation burials (CAR 6, 375-6), with evaluation trenches dug by CAT in 1990 (Crossan 1990) revealing a Roman infant burial in a tile-covered grave accompanied by a small beaker.

The presence of at least one principal east-west street is known, extending beneath the former Keddies department store fronting onto Queen Street to the north and crossing the northern wing of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre. Its projected line should cross the southern half of the D-shaped garden of East Hill House. No north-south streets have yet been located by excavation within the grounds of East Hill House or on the site of the former bus station, although Hull suggested that the line of one may lie on or close to the boundary separating the two (Hull 1958, 51).

CAT has conducted several recent archaeological investigations at Firstsite, in the former bus station and in the grounds of the adjacent East Hill House. Investigations in 2003 (CAT Report 234) and 2004 (CAT Reports 295 and 305) in the garden of The Minories and in the bus station confirmed the nature, distribution and depth of the post-Roman layers. In 2006 a watching brief in the bus station (CAT Report 385) revealed late Roman robbing material or demolition debris. Investigations in the area between 2006 and 2008 (CAT Report 477) revealed a metalled street and parts of a Roman building presumed to be a town-house on the southern side of Insulas 31 and 32. In

2009, an evaluation in the gardens of East Hill House found the remains of two Roman town-houses, one with a hypocaust and one with at least one area of tessellated floor (CAT Report 520). Monitoring in 2009/2010 at Firstsite also revealed Roman remains at between 0.45m and 1.10m below modern ground-level (CAT Report 599) including a metalled surface and tessellated floor. Monitoring in 2011 to the east of the Coach House revealed a large well with rubble lining of late medieval or early post-medieval date, a 19th-century cobbled surface sealing a wall foundation, and a few post-medieval/modern brick features (CAT Report 1202). A test-pit evaluation carried out in 2017 within the former Queen Street bus depot, 170m southeast, also revealed significant Roman remains (including street/road metalling and structural remains) at between 0.45-1.65m below current ground level (CAT Report 1106).

#### **4 Aim**

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

#### **5 Results** (Figs 2-4)

This report follows on from three test-pits excavated in 2017 (CAT Report 1151) along the proposed route of the new boundary wall to establish depths of significant archaeological remains.

All groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist.

##### **Test-pits**

Three test-pits were excavated along the standing rear wall of the Coach House/Stables (this wall was numbered F5 in the site notes).

##### **Test pit 1: 1m long, 1m wide, by 1.35m deep**

Modern make-up (L7, c 0.81-0.93m thick) and a layer of post-medieval accumulation (L8, c 0.42m thick) sealed a possible medieval occupation layer (L9, not excavated).

Sealed by L7 and cut into L8 was probable 19th-century floor F4, constructed from unfrogged rectangular yellow and grey bricks, 220mm long by 70mm wide, laid end-on-end in a stretcher pattern.

##### **Test-pit 2: 0.74m long, 0.26m wide**

Modern make up (L7) sealed probable 19th-century floor F6, constructed from blue/black two-block stable bricks, 220mm long by 110mm wide, laid in a stretcher pattern.

##### **Test-pit 3: 5m long by 0.5m wide**

Modern make-up (L7, c 0.4-0.45m thick) sealed brick floors F6 and F8 (equivalent to F4 in TP1) divided by single row of red bricks, likely representing two different rooms perhaps originally with a wooden partition. The bricks forming floor F8 were laid in a stretcher pattern but on several different alignments.



**Photograph 1** Test-pit 1 showing brick floor F4, looking south



**Photograph 2** Test-pit 3 showing brick floor F8, looking south



**Photograph 3** Test-pit 3 showing brick floor F6, looking south

### **Foundation trench**

The foundation trench for the new boundary wall was 66m long by 0.5m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 0.6m to the north of the site deepening to c 1.6m to the south, but varied in places. Most of the trench was excavated through layers of modern concrete and crush (L10, c 0.2-0.4m thick) and post-medieval accumulation (L11, 0.42-0.55m thick). Along the southern boundary of the site the trench was excavated through a thick layer of modern make-up (L12, c 0.70-0.82m thick) and a layer of post-medieval/modern build-up (L13, c 0.55m thick) onto L11.

Two probable 19th-century red brick wall foundations, F7, were aligned east/west and north/south across the trench cutting L11. A cobbled surface identified in 2017 test-pit 2 was not revealed because, identified at a depth of 0.57m below ground level, the current trench did not quite go deep enough.

### **Drainage trench**

The drainage trench was 42m long by 0.5m wide, and 0.4m(N) to 0.6m(S) deep. It was excavated through layers of modern concrete and crush (L10, c 0.25-0.4m thick) and post-medieval accumulation (L11, 0.4-0.55m thick). A possible Roman occupation layer (L14) was identified in the northern half of the drainage trench at c 0.82m below current ground level, sealed by L11.

Probable 19th-century red brick wall foundation F7 was aligned east/west across the trench cut into L11.

### **Tree pits**

The tree pits were not excavated as too many services crossed the proposed locations.



**Photograph 4** Wall foundation trench, looking north



**Photograph 5** Drainage trench, looking north

## 6 Finds (Appendix 2)

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered 18 sherds of Roman and post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 1,480g (Table 1). This material came from the contexts L8, L9, and L11. Most of this material is of Roman CBM (Table 1) with pieces of imbrex (RI), tegulae (RT), and box flue tile (RFT) with combed decoration; there was no Post-Roman CBM. All the Roman CBM came from the context L11 (7, 8).

Apart from one sherd of Roman pottery (fabric KX: black-burnished ware, BB2 types, in pale grey ware) all the pottery is of later medieval and post-medieval date with sherds of medieval sandy greywares (fabric 20), Colchester-type ware (fabric 21A), and post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric 40). This material came from the contexts L8, L9, and L11. There were two sherds of note: a base from a Colchester-type ware (fabric 21) baluster jug (Cotter 2000, 113-118 figs. 71-74) and a red earthenware (fabric 40) cistern or storage vessel (CAR 7 2000, 202 fig. 139 no. 81).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	No. Rim	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
Roman pottery	1	7	7	0	0.00	0
Post-Roman pottery	10	289	29	1	0.13	1
Ceramic building material (CBM)	7	1,184	169	-	-	-
<b>All</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

### 6.2 Glass

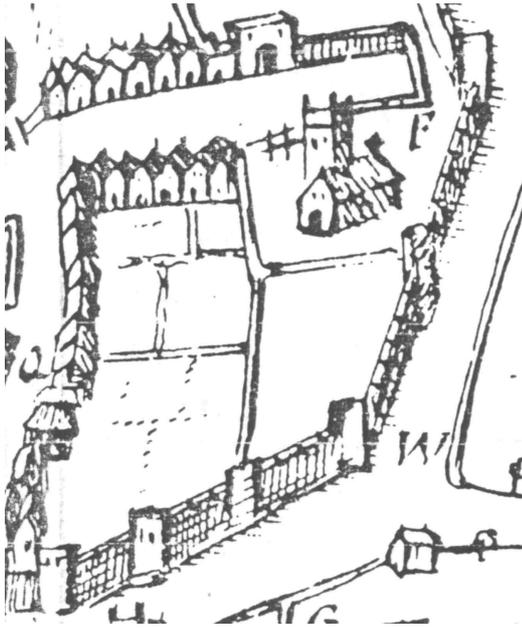
by Laura Pooley

The base of a glass onion wine bottle was found in L11 (finds no. 7). In olive green glass, the bottle is covered in a translucent milky film where the glass is beginning to degrade. 134mm diameter, 420.8g. 17th-18th century.

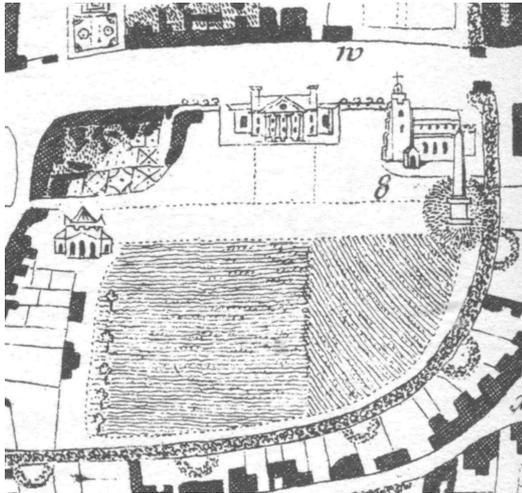
## 7 Discussion

East Hill House was built by George Wegg the Elder, probably in the early 18th century, and it is recorded that nine houses were pulled down to make way for it (VCHE 9, 151) (see Map 1). Illustrated in Morant's *History and Antiquities of the Most Ancient Town and Borough of Colchester in the County of Essex* of 1748 (Derrick 2009), a map shows East Hill House in a spacious garden which extended east to the church and south to the Roman wall (Map 2). To the west, a curved boundary wall marked the edge of the property. This boundary wall was on the site of the present Coach House/Stables, which are thought to have been built in the early to mid 19th century (Derrick 2009; CAR 1202). Therefore, the current development site was probably located just outside of the western property boundary for East Hill House.

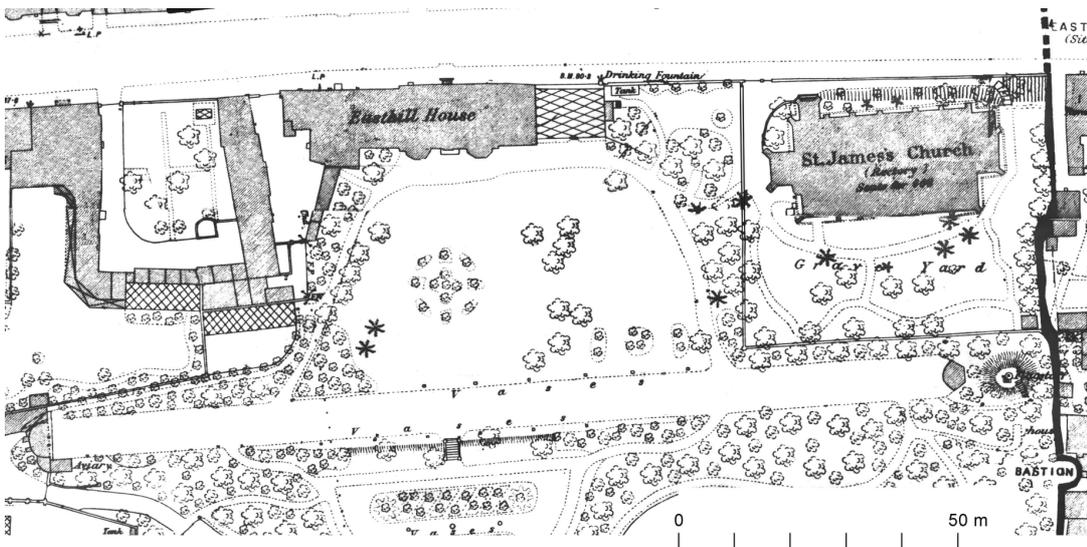
From the 1750s warehouses and counting houses for Isaac Boggis, owner of the Minories, were built on the development site (Derrick 2009). These were demolished c 1815 to create a garden to the east of the Minories, shown on the OS map of 1876 (Maps 3 & 4) with a small range of east-west buildings, including glass houses, crossing the development site with an access route off East Hill. In modern times, the present road was constructed through this plot.



**Map 1** Speed's map of 1610 showing the houses to the west of the church demolished to make way for East Hill House.



**Map 2** Morant's map of 1748 showing East Hill House.



**Map 3** Detailed OS map of 1876

Archaeological monitoring of the development site during the current groundworks and earlier evaluations in 2009 and 2017 have revealed modern layers sealing probable 19th-century brick walls and brick and cobbled floors. In 2009, it was concluded that the use of these particular bricks, the presence of the drainage gully and the map evidence suggested that they were part of a stable block and tack room (CAT Report 520). Figure 5 shows the results of the three phases of evaluation and monitoring overlaid onto Map 4. Brick walls F7 appear to be part of the structure of the stable block, brick floors F6 and F8 are located within the stable block, and brick surface F4 and the cobbled surface (recorded in 2017 test-pit 2) are probably associated with the external yard.

Sealed beneath the 19th-century building remains were post-medieval accumulation layers L8 and L11 where machining usually ceased. In two locations, L8/L11 was recorded sealing possible Roman (L14, identified to the north of the drainage trench at c 0.82m below ground level) and medieval occupation layers (L14, identified in test-pit 1 at a depth of c 1.35m). However, neither layer was fully investigated as machining stopped at the top of these contexts.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Natalie Harris of Lawson Planning Partnership Ltd and OMC Investments Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by S Carter. Figures were prepared by S Carter, E Holloway and L Pooley. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- |                  |      |  |
|------------------|------|--|
| Bensusan-Butt, J | 1972 | <i>The House that Boggis Built</i>   |
| CAR 6            | 1992 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy   |
| CAR 7            | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter  |
| CAR 10           | 1999 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds and S Wade  |
| CAT              | 2014 | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT Report 234   | 2003 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the First Eastern National bus station, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex: May-June 2003</i>  |
| CAT Report 295   | 2004 | <i>An archaeological evaluation and watching brief on the site of a new visual arts facility, East Hill House and Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex – 1 interim results, October 2004</i>                    |
| CAT Report 305   | 2005 | <i>An archaeological evaluation and watching brief in the grounds of East Hill House and the Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex, October 2004. 2: main report</i>   |
| CAT Report 372   | 2006 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Central Clinic, High Street, Colchester, Essex: May 2006</i>  |
| CAT Report 385   | 2006 | <i>Archaeological monitoring at firstsite:newsite and in Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, April 2006</i>   |
| CAT Report 477   | 2011 | <i>Roman houses and streets in Insulas 31/32 of Roman Colchester: excavations in advance of the construction of the Visual Arts Facility, East Hill, Colchester, Essex November 2006-December 2007 and June 2008</i> |
| CAT Report 520   | 2010 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at East Hill House, Colchester, Essex, April-June 2009</i>   |
| CAT Report 599   | 2012 | <i>A watching brief at firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High Street, Colchester, Essex: December 2010-March 2011.</i>   |
| CAT Report 1106  | 2017 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at the former Queen Street bus depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ: April 2017</i>  |

CAT Report 1151	2017	<i>Archaeological test-pit evaluation at Lewis Gardens, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JH: July 2017</i>
CAT Report 1202	2019	<i>An archaeological watching brief at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UF: April 2014-March 2017</i>
CBCAA	2018	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1UF, by J Tipper</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Crossan, C	1990	<i>The archaeological aspects of redevelopment of the Queen Street bus station and car park, unnumbered CAT archive report</i>
Crummy, P	2003	'Colchester's town wall' in <i>The archaeology of Roman towns: studies in honour of John S Wacher</i> , ed by P Wilson
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
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Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
Richardson, K M	1961	'Excavations in Lewis's gardens, Colchester, 1955 and 1958', in <i>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society</i> , 1 (3rd series), part 1, 7-36

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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 c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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 Contents of archive

**Finds:** part of a box

### Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1348)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans and sections)

Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

**Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1348)  
CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation  
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log  
Graphics files  
Survey data

**12 Archive deposition**

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM: 2018.29.

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## Appendix 1 Context list

Numbering follows on from CAT Report 1151

Context Number	Find Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L7	-	Make-up	Firm, dry light grey/brown silt	Modern
L8	5	Accumulation	Firm, dry light grey/brown silt	Post-medieval/modern
L9	6	?Occupation layer	Firm, moist medium orange/grey/brown silty-loam with charcoal and oyster shell flecks	?Medieval
L10	-	Concrete and crush	Concrete surface and associated red brick crush	Modern
L11	7, 8	Accumulation	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with oyster shell and CBM flecks	Post-medieval
L12	-	Make-up	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silt with CBM flecks	Modern
L13	-	Build-up	Soft, moist light grey/brown silt	Post-medieval/modern
L14	-	?Occupation layer	Soft, moist medium orange/grey/brown clay	?Roman
F4	-	Floor	Composed of yellow and grey unfrogged bricks, 220mm long by 70mm wide, laid end-on-end in a stretcher pattern.	19th century
F5	-	Wall	Standing brick wall of the Coach House/Stables	19th century
F6	-	Floor	Composed of blue/black two-block stable bricks, 220mm long by 110mm wide, laid in a stretcher pattern.	19th century
F7	-	Wall foundation	Composed of red unfrogged bricks bonded with mortar	19th century
F8	-	Floor	Composed of yellow bricks, 210mm by 90mm and 240mm by 60mm, laid out in a stretcher pattern on two different alignments	19th century

## Appendix 2 Bulk finds catalogue

Context	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	Discarded	Nr	Weight g	Rim	Handle	Base	Form	Comments	Finds date
L8	5	Pottery	F40	NO	1	9	0	0	0			16th-20th century
L9	6	Pottery	F20	NO	1	33	0	0	0		White mineral deposit	Mid 12th-late 14th century
L11	7	CBM	-	NO	1	710	-	-	-	Roman tile		Roman
L11	7	Pottery	KX	NO	1	7	0	0	0			Roman
L11	7	CBM	-	YES	1	101	-	-	-	Roman tile		Roman
L11	7	CBM	-	NO	1	14	-	-	-	Roman flue tile	Combed decoration	Roman
L11	7	CBM	-	YES	1	104				Roman imbrex		Roman
L11	7	Pottery	F40	NO	3	175	1	0	1		Cistern or storage vessel	16th-20th century
L11	7	Glass	-	NO	1	421	-	-	1	-	Onion bottle	17th-18th century
L11	8	Pottery	F21	NO	2	56	0	0	1		Baluster jug	13th-mid 16th century
L11	8	Pottery	F21	NO	3	16	0	0	0			13th-mid 16th century
L11	8	CBM	-	YES	1	128	-	-	-	Roman imbrex	Burnt	Roman
L11	8	CBM	-	YES	1	34	-	-	-	Roman brick/tile		Roman
L11	8	CBM	-	NO	1	93	-	-	-	Roman flue tile	13 mm thick, combed decoration	Roman

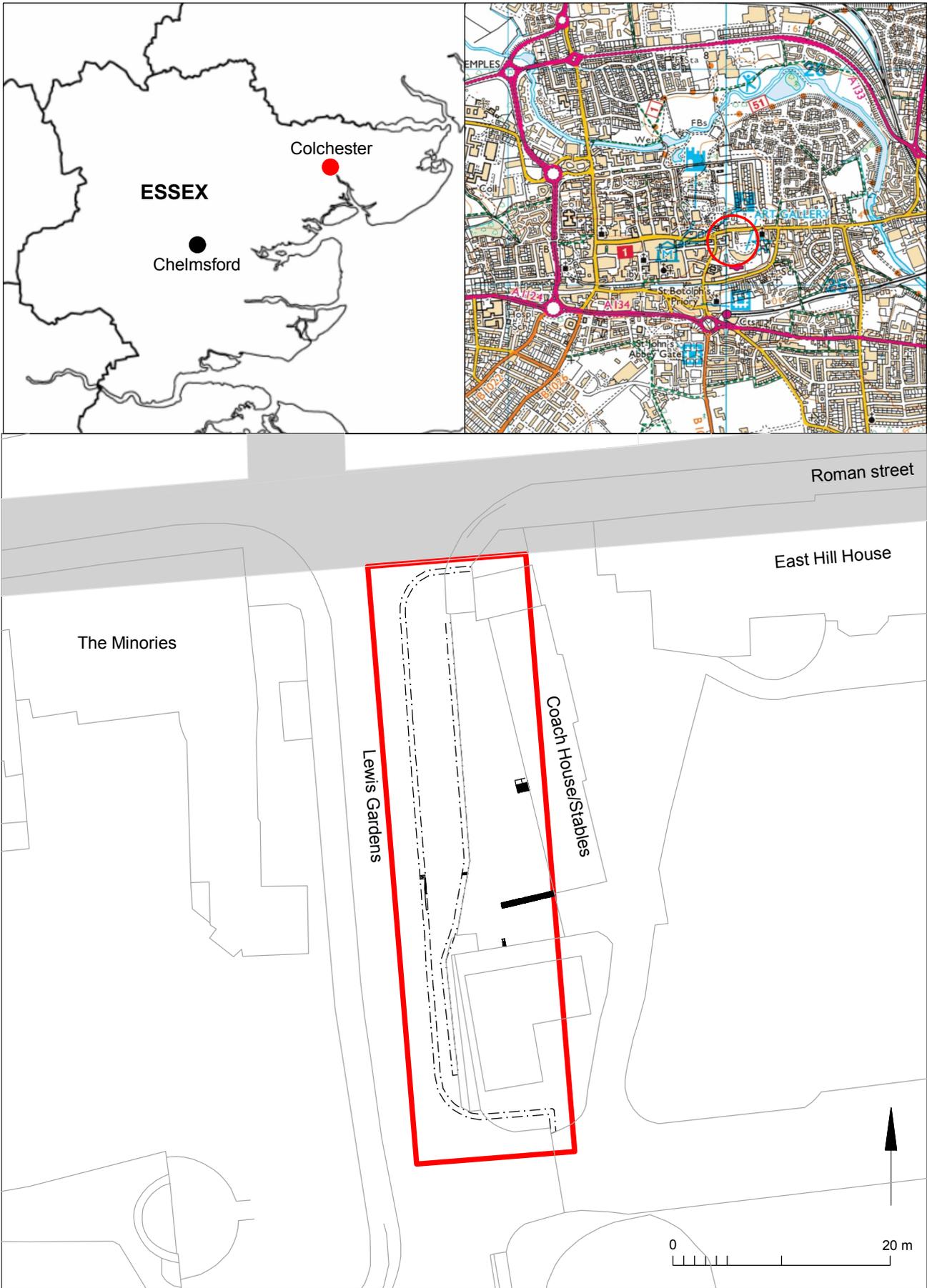


Fig 1 Site location

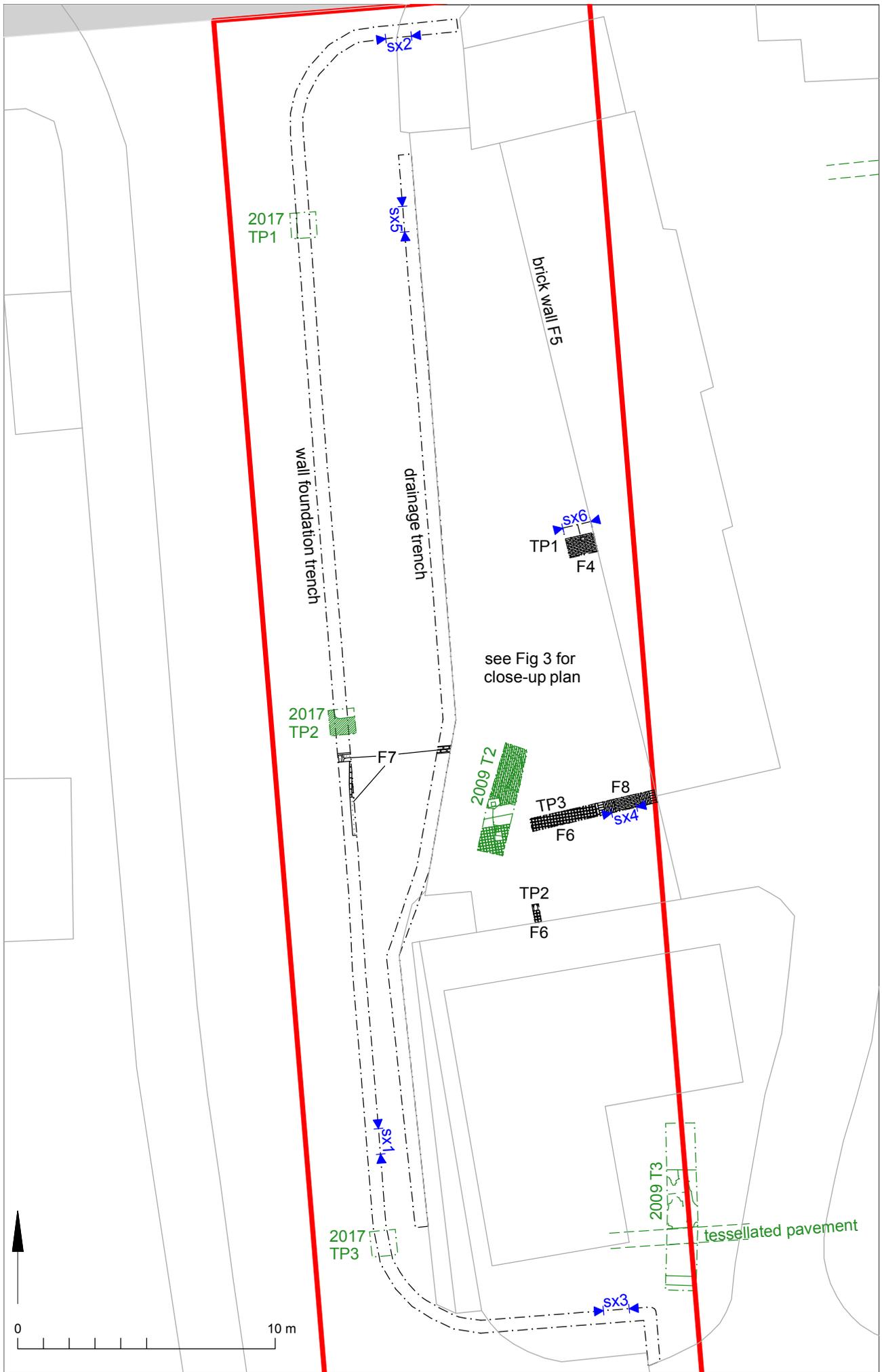


Fig 2 Results, shown in relation to the 2009 and 2017 evaluations

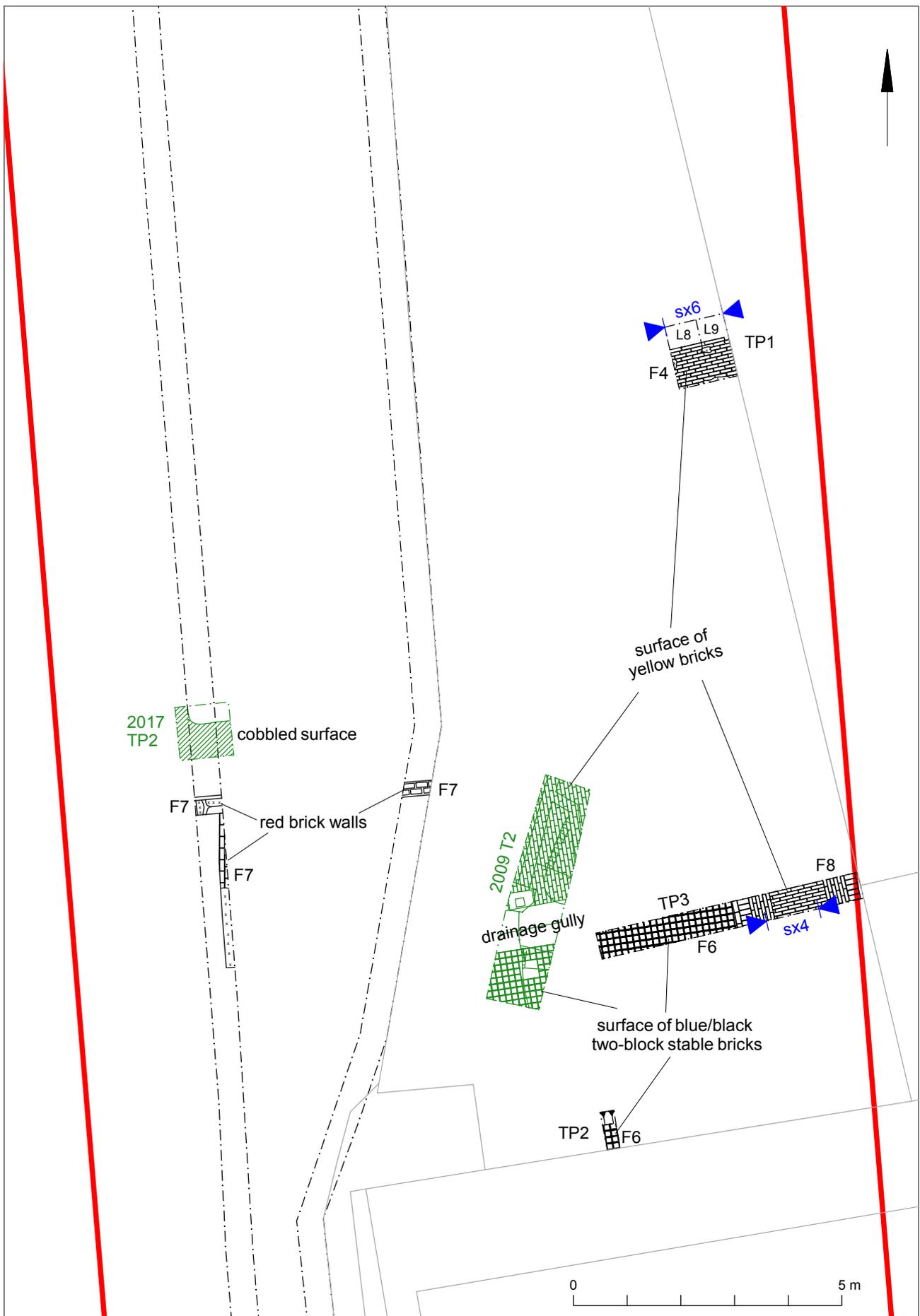


Fig 3 Close-up plan of 19th-century features F4-F8, shown in relation to similar features in the 2009 and 2017 evaluation.

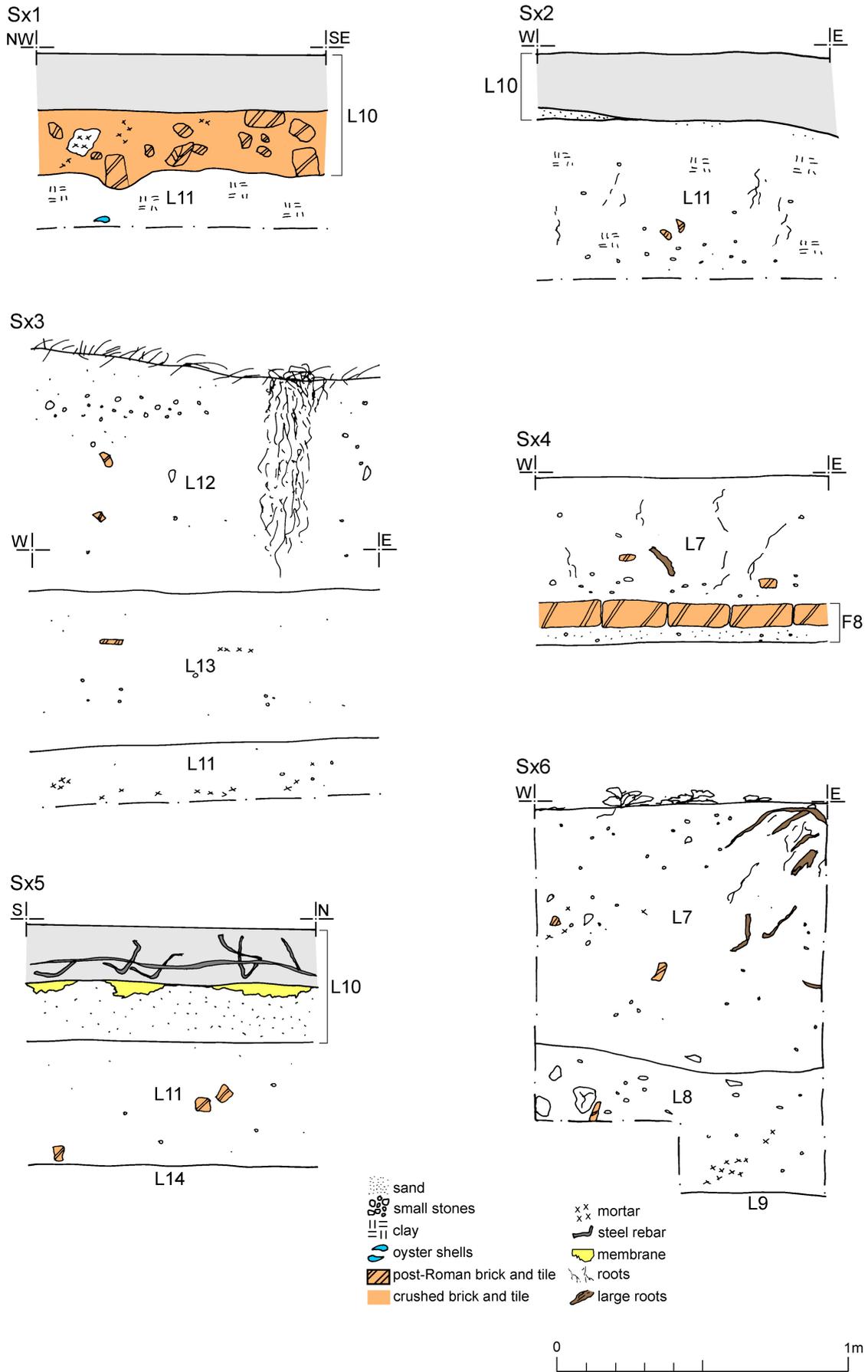
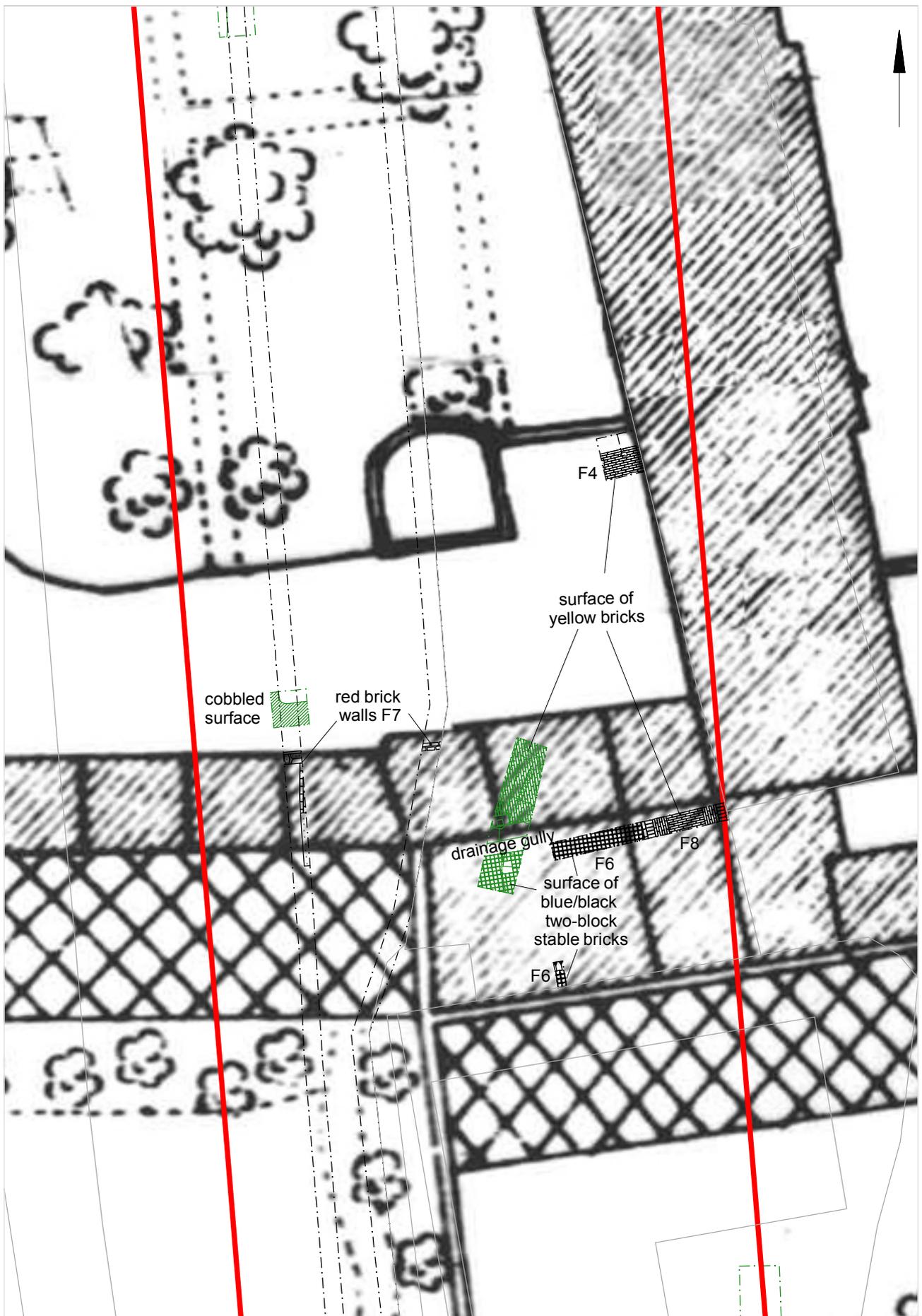


Fig 4 Representative sections.



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Fig 5 Results of archaeological investigations in 2009, 2017 and 2018, showing the 19th-century building remains overlaid on the 1876 OS map.



# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UF	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 00036 25213 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2018/03o CHER ref: ECC4168 OASIS ref: colchest3-312579
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 24th July-17th August 2018	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.08 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.29	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC159, MCC3366, MCC3368, MCC5734, MCC9314; ECC4049
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1348	
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern, ?medieval, ?Roman	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Archaeological monitoring was carried out at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new boundary wall with associated landscaping and services, to provide an enclosed private parking area. Located between East Hill House (an 18th-century grade I listed building) and The Minories (a 16th-century grade II* listed building), the development site is also within Insulas 31/32 of the Roman walled town. Monitoring revealed modern layers sealing 19th-century brick walls and brick and cobbled floors from buildings present on the OS map of 1875. Evidence suggests that these buildings were likely to be stables. Possible medieval and Roman occupation layers (L9 and L14) were also present.</p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 520 & 1151	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> East Hill House, The Minories	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> May 2019

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for continuous archaeological monitoring and  
recording at East Hill House, 76 High Street,  
Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UF**

**NGR:** TM 00036 25213 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 180565

**Commissioned by:** Natalie Harris, Lawson Planning Partnership Ltd

**Client:** OMC Investments Ltd

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** [tbc](#)

**CHER event number:** ECC4168

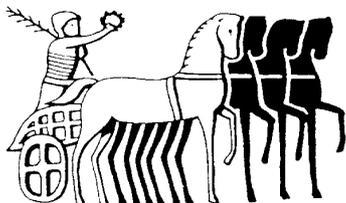
**CAT project code:** 18/03o

**OASIS project id:** colchest3-312579

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 26.3.2018



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located on land at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, and specifically alongside Lewis Gardens (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TM 00036 25213.

## Proposed work

The development comprises alterations to and part demolition of existing boundary wall and erection of new boundary walling with associated hard and soft landscaping and ancillary works, to provide for enclosed private parking area ancillary to East Hill House.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the main archaeological publications for Colchester, the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer:

East Hill House is an 18th century grade I listed building (list entry 1168783; CHER MCC3368) and the development site is located adjacent to The Minories, a 16th century grade II\* listed building (list entry 112360; MCC159/MCC3366).

The proposed development site is located within the southeast part of the walled Roman town of *Colonia Victricensis* (scheduled monument NHLE 1003772; MCC9314), and specifically within Insulas 31/32, with a Roman east/west street to the north of the site following the course of the High Street (CAR 6, p15).

Three test-pits were excavated on the site in 2017 in advance of the current proposed work (CAT Report 1151; CHER ECC4049). Test-pits TP1 and TP3 revealed modern and post-medieval made-ground sealing probable Roman accumulation/demolition layers identified at a depth of 0.38-0.45m below current ground level (bcgl). Test-pit TP2 revealed modern and post-medieval contexts, including a cobbled surface, to a depth of 0.55m bcgl.

A number of significant archaeological investigations have taken place within the southeast angle of the Roman town, within Insulas 31/32, 38b, 39 and 40. These have revealed that the whole area was largely residential. See summary below, or full details see Hull 1958, Richardson 1961, Dunnett 1971 and work by CAT (Crossan 1990; CAR 6; CAT Reports 234, 295, 305, 372, 385, 477, 520).

Evidence for Roman occupation in the grounds of East Hill House include a mosaic pavement found in 1907 (MCC5734). Archaeological evaluation trenching in the same area in 2005 revealed Roman levels at depths of between 0.15m and 0.6m, beneath soils which suggest that the area was, for the most part, open ground from the end of the Roman period. The exposed Roman material consisted mainly of deposits containing destruction debris and included two probable robber trenches and a gravelled area (CAT Report 305).

Excavations at Lewis' Gardens in 1955 and 1958 revealed three Roman buildings with at least two structural phases (Richardson 1961). Two of the houses had hypocausts and from within the demolition and robbing material, painted wall plaster and red, white and grey tesserae were recovered. Later in 1959, a sewer trench dug between the 1955 and 1958 sites showed stretches of wall foundation and a tessellated floor, both on an east-west alignment (*ibid*).

Excavations in 1966 at the rear of 5 Queen Street identified a 2nd century Roman building with rubble foundations that had at least three structural phases (Dunnett 1971). The latter of these phases incorporated a hypocaust overlaid with a coloured mosaic floor. Observations made during groundworks for the Queen Street multi-storey car park (in 1970), at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre (in 1983-84; CAR 6, 375-8) and the former bus station (in 2003; CAT Report 234) revealed further Roman structural remains. Works at the Mulberry Tree Family Centre also revealed two Roman inhumation burials and a third displaced skull (CAR 6, 375-6), with evaluation trenches dug by CAT in 1990 (Crossan 1990) revealing a Roman infant burial in a tile-covered grave accompanied by a small beaker.

The presence of at least one principal east-west street is known, extending beneath the former Keddies department store fronting onto Queen Street to the north and crossing the northern wing of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre. Its projected line should cross the southern half of the D-shaped garden of East Hill House. No north-south streets have yet been located by excavation within the grounds of East Hill House or on the site of the former bus station, although Hull suggested that the line of one may lie on or close to the boundary separating the two (Hull 1958, 51).

CAT has conducted several recent archaeological investigations at Firstsite, in the former bus station and in the grounds of the adjacent East Hill House. Investigations in 2003 (CAT Report 234) and 2004 (CAT Reports 295 and 305) in the garden of The Minories and in the bus station confirmed the nature, distribution and depth of the post-Roman layers. In 2006 a watching brief in the bus station (CAT Report 385) revealed late Roman robbing material or demolition debris. Investigations in the area between 2006 and 2008 (CAT Report 477) revealed a metalled street and parts of a Roman building presumed to be a town-house on the southern side of Insulas 31 and 32. In 2009, an evaluation in the gardens of East Hill House found the remains of two Roman town-houses, one with a hypocaust and one with at least one area of tessellated floor (CAT Report 520). Monitoring in 2009/2010 at Firstsite also revealed Roman remains at between 0.45m and 1.10m below modern ground-level (CAT Report 599) including a metalled surface and tessellated floor. A test-pit evaluation carried out in 2017 within the former Queen Street bus depot, 170m southeast, also revealed significant Roman remains (including street/road metalling and structural remains) at between 0.45-1.65m below current ground level (CAT Report 1106).

## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2018 (application no. 180565) for alterations to and part demolition of existing boundary wall and erection of new boundary walling with associated hard and soft landscaping and ancillary works, to provide for enclosed private parking area ancillary to East Hill House.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

As stated in the brief:

*For all groundworks where the development is no deeper than c 0.4m below current ground level:* groundworks will be undertaken by the building contractor and continuously monitored and recorded by CAT staff.

*For all groundworks where the development is deeper than c 0.4m, in particular the four tree pits which are 0.6m in depth:* archaeological excavation and recording will be undertaken by the archaeologist (rather than the building contractor).

In unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. Amendments to the brief and this wsi may be required by the CBCAA to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

## **Monitoring methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

## **Site surveying**

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Processing of samples will be carried out by trained CAT staff and flots sent to VF/LG for analysis and reporting. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

### **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

### **Photographic record**

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

### **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade/Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum/Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

## Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- The results of the evaluation will be related to the impact of the groundworks on the archaeology.
- All specialist reports or assessments.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

## Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

## Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

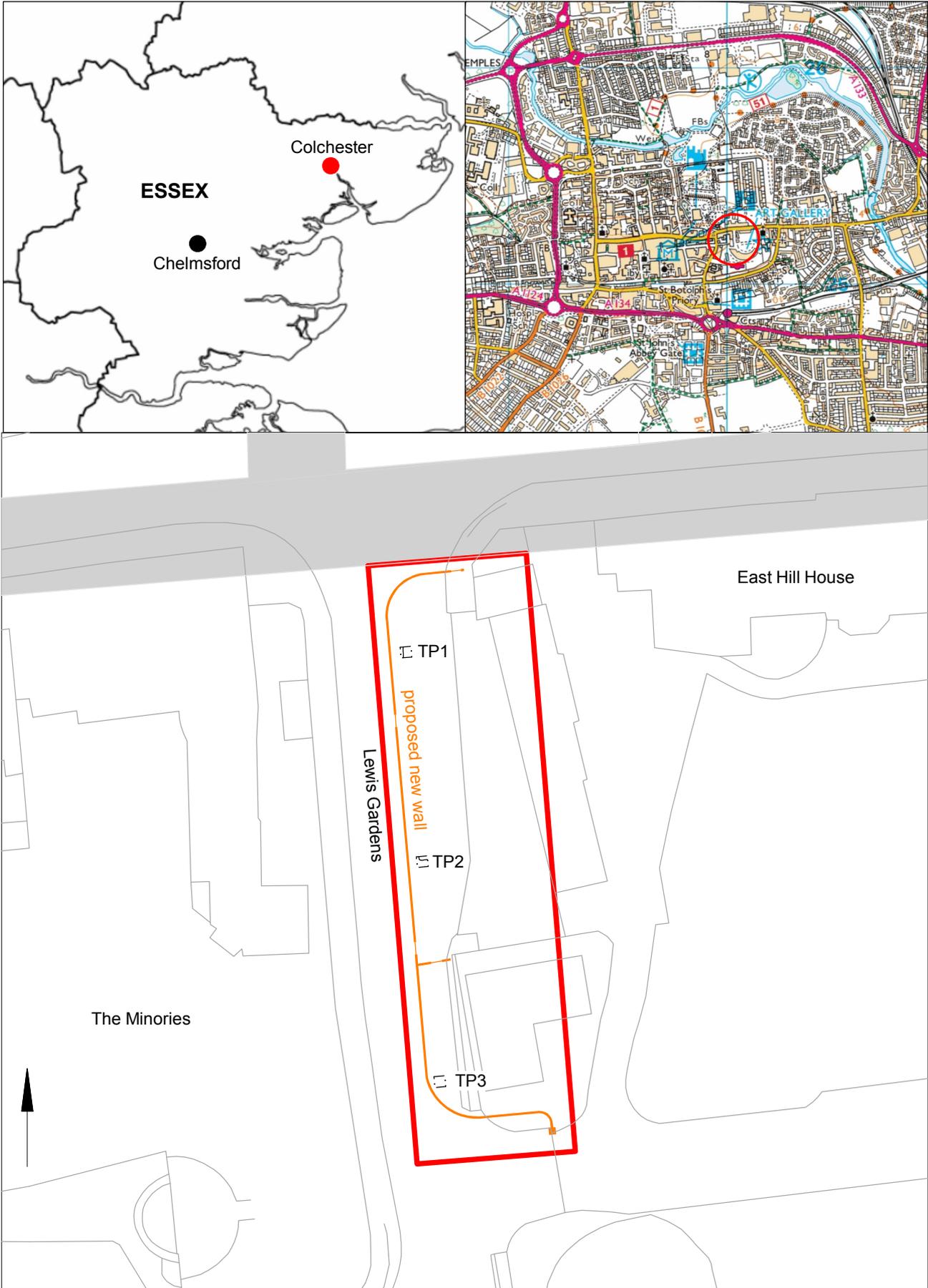
- CAR 6 1992 *Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85*, by P Crummy
- CAT 2014 *Health & Safety Policy*
- CAT Report 234 2003 *An archaeological evaluation at the First Eastern National bus station, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex: May-June 2003*
- CAT Report 295 2004 *An archaeological evaluation and watching brief on the site of a new visual arts facility, East Hill House and Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex – 1 interim results, October 2004*
- CAT Report 305 2005 *An archaeological evaluation and watching brief in the grounds of East Hill House and the Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex, October 2004. 2: main report*
- CAT Report 372 2006 *An archaeological evaluation at the Central Clinic, High Street, Colchester, Essex: May 2006*
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- CAT Report 477 2011 *Roman houses and streets in Insulas 31/32 of Roman Colchester: excavations in advance of the construction of the Visual Arts Facility, East Hill, Colchester, Essex November 2006- December 2007 and June 2008*
- CAT Report 520 2010 *An archaeological evaluation at East Hill House, Colchester, Essex, April-June 2009*
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Laura Pooley



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Fig 1 Site location showing 2017 test pits.

Roman street layout

0 20 m

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-312579**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UF
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new boundary wall with associated landscaping and services, to provide an enclosed private parking area. Located between East Hill House (an 18th-century grade I listed building) and The Minories (a 16th-century grade II* listed building), the development site is also within Insulas 31/32 of the Roman walled town. Monitoring revealed modern layers sealing 19th-century brick walls and brick and cobbled floors from buildings present on the OS map of 1875. Evidence suggests that these buildings were likely to be stables. Possible medieval and Roman occupation layers (L9 and L14) were also present.
Project dates	Start: 24-07-2018 End: 17-08-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/03o - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	180565 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4168 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.29 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	BRICK FLOORS Post Medieval
Monument type	COBBLE FLOORS Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER East Hill House, 76 High Street
Postcode	CO1 1UF
Study area	0.08 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 00036 25213 51.888996869947 0.90722914547 51 53 20 N 000 54 26 E Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Sarah Carter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.29
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.29
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.29
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at East Hill House, 76 High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UF: July-August 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1348
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html</a>
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	9 May 2019

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