

Archaeological monitoring at 23 Margaret Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1RZ March-August 2021



by Sarah Veasey

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton, Laura Pooley and Alec Wade
figures by Chris Lister and Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Mark Baister and Alexander Smith

**commissioned by Invent Architecture & Design
on behalf of the homeowner**

NGR: TL 99550 25923 (centre)
Planning ref.: 201834
CAT project ref.: 2021/03c
ECC code: ECC4650
OASIS ref.: colchest3-417845



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CAT Report 1703
September 2021

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 23 Margaret Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a single-storey extension to the rear of the property. The site is located 500m north of Colchester Castle in an area of Roman burials. Three features were uncovered during the groundworks, a metalled surface and two modern service trenches.

Although the site is located outside of the Roman town walls, it is close to small area of occupation on the banks of the river Colne. It is possible the metalling uncovered during this monitoring could be associated with this area of Roman activity.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 23 Margaret Road, Colchester, Essex from 23rd March until the 11th August 2021. The work was commissioned by Invent Architect & Design on behalf the homeowner and took place during groundworks for a single-storey rear extension. This work was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Richard Hoggett 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 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Investigation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Hoggett (CBCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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 brief* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site is located to the north of Colchester Castle Park and the River Colne and close to where a number of Roman burials have been found. These include a grave group at 22 Mercers Way in 1939 during the construction of an air-raid shelter (MCC1902/MCC8494). Three burials were found at the junction of Serpentine Road and Margaret Road including an urned cremation (MCC2516), tile tomb (MCC2515) and a burial with 11 beads (MCC2517). A scatter of Roman urned cremations was also recorded between Kings Meadow and the railway (MCC7690).

Little archaeological work has been undertaken in this area, but there are a number of recorded find spots. Close to the current site the CHER has records of ?Iron Age and Roman pottery found when a trench for a water main was cut (MCC1899). Other nearby find spots include Roman coins found at 1 Mercers Way (MCC1208) and 18 Cowdray Avenue (MCC1252). A quantity of Roman pot was recorded from around the

junction of Serpentine Walk and Margaret Road, this is thought to be from a site Hull refers to as a possible pottery kiln site (MCC1341). There are pottery kilns within this area as a kiln was discovered in the former Strowgler's Ground nursery gardens (MCC2305). Roman pottery was recorded during construction of the Colchester Fire Station on Cowdray Avenue (MCC1332) and two civil war cannon balls were found in the garden at 14 Mercer Way (MCC2524).

Work carried out by CAT nearby includes an archaeological evaluation to the west of the site in the car-park of the Globe Hotel on North Station Road in 2003 (CAT Report 248). Two phases of Roman building were recorded. The later Roman phase featured a large building, the evidence for which was four robbed-out walls running on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment, which appear to match up with other Roman buildings excavated along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appeared to have been of high status, having evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls. The watching brief was required to locate more of these features, particularly the robbed-out walls and also the course of the Roman road.

An evaluation to the east at Jarmin Road revealed at least two Roman ditches and pits containing domestic waste (CAT Report 409, MCC2923). A further watching brief on the site revealed a spread of burnt daub and Roman brick/tile, this was interpreted as deriving from a Roman tile kiln on or near the site (CAT Report 604, kiln MCC2305).

4 Aims

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

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

The groundworks consisted of excavation of foundation trenching and a soakaway. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

Foundation trenches

Approximately 15m of foundation trenching was excavated at 0.50m wide and between 1.75m and 2.10m deep. The northern foundation trench was excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.29-0.31m thick), subsoil (L2, c 0.21-0.50m thick) and a make-up layer (L4, c 0.69-0.70m thick) into the natural (L3, encountered c 1.88-1.90m below current ground level [bgcl]).

The southern foundation trench was excavated through an area of made ground (L5, c 0.53-0.56m thick) and L1 (c 0.46-0.50m thick). L1 and L5 sealed L4 (c 0.78-0.80m thick), which in turn sealed a metallised surface (F3, c 0.14-0.17m thick). Below the metallised surface was an interface layer (L6, c 0.11-0.16m thick) and then natural (L3, encountered 1.13-1.65m bgcl).

Three features were uncovered in the foundation trenches – two modern service cuts (F1 and F2) and the metallised surface (F3).

The metallised surface, F3, was located in the southern foundation trench. It covered an area of approximately 1.5 square meters and was truncated by service trench F1. A large assemblage of finds were recovered from the layer of clayey-silt on the surface.

F1 was located in both foundation trenches while F2 was only present in the northern foundation trench (Fig 2). Both contained a modern service.



Photograph 1 Foundation trench – view E



Photograph 2 F3 – view N



Photograph 3 Site shot – view NW

Soakaway

The soakaway was 1.5m by 1.0m and 1.1m deep. It was excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.50m thick) into subsoil (L2, dug to 1.1m). No archaeological finds or features were uncovered in the soakaway.



Photograph 4 Soakaway – view S

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic and pottery finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered a small modest assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with 37 sherds of pottery with a weight of 3,351g and 0.50 vessels according to the rim EVE (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is 91g.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
Pottery	16	371	23	0.50
CBM	21	2,980	142	-
All	37	3,351	91	0.50

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

This material was recovered from just two features and one layer, although most of the material came from metallised surface F3 (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F2	Cut for service	2	590	295	0.00
F3	Metallised surface	33	2,756	84	0.50
L4	Make-up layer	2	5	3	0.00
Total		37	3,351	91	0.50

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM by features and layers

Roman pottery

The metallised/cobbled surface F3 produced a small assemblage of Roman pottery with 13 sherds with a weight of 360g and EVE of 0.50. Notable sherds included a Baetican Dressel 20 olive oil amphora (EVE: 0.28), a Nene valley colour-coated (fabric EA) bowl (HPM 84/Cam 39) (0.11) dating to c AD225/250-425, and a possible Cam 270B storage vessel (EVE: 0.11) in fabric GX (Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares) dating to c AD 43-200/300.

Post-Roman pottery

Post-Roman pottery was rare and consisted of a sherd of 19th-20th century Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric 48D) which came from the modern F2, while from the make-up L4 there was one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) dating to c 1500-19th/20th century and a sherd of modern English porcelain (fabric F48B).

Ceramic building material (CBM)

CBM consists of just 21 sherds with a weight of 2,980g most of which dates to the Roman period and includes pieces of brick, imbrex, and tegula including one with a lower cut-away of type D16 dating to AD 240-380. A small fragment of modern brick (26g) was also recovered from the metallised/cobbled surface F3.

Conclusion

Table 3 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which produced dateable ceramic finds. Features F2 and F3 date to the 19th/20th century although the former contained a large assemblage of Roman pottery. Layer 4, make-up, also dates to the 19th/20th century.

Context	Feature type	Roman	Post-Roman	CBM	Overall date Approx.
F2	Service trench	-	F48D	RT (LCA D16)	19th/20th century

Context	Feature type	Roman	Post-Roman	CBM	Overall date Approx.
F3	Metalled surface	BAET (DR20), CZ, DJ, GB, EA (HPM 84/Cam 39), GX (Cam 270B?)	-	RB, RI, RT, BR	19th/20th century
L4	Make-up layer	-	F40 F48B	-	19th/20th century

Table 3 Approximate dates for the individual features and layers

Stone building material

Three pieces of roofing slate (242g) dating to the 19th/20th century came from modern pipe F2 and make-up L4.

6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Fragments of post-medieval/modern clay tobacco pipe, glass and ironwork came from L4, F2 and F3 along with fragments of iron nail, copper-alloy, clinker/coke and a roughly squared fragment of septaria.

Context	Finds no.	Description
L4	4	Glass: Two fragments of glass, 2.7g, modern. Nail: Iron nail, 6.1g.
F2	2	Clay tobacco pipe: Fragment of stem, 3.2g, post-medieval. Iron: Decorative iron hinge and strap probably from a gate, 207.0g, post-medieval.
F3	3	Glass: Three fragments of window glass, 9.5g, modern. Iron: Fragment of an iron disc, 109.8g, post-medieval/modern. Clinker/coke: Fragment, 3.4g. Septaria: Roughly squared fragment, 1.3kg.
	5	Copper-alloy: Small unidentifiable fragment of copper-alloy, 1.2g.

Table 4 Miscellaneous finds by context

6.3 Animal Bone

By Alec Wade

The watching brief produced sixteen pieces of animal bone from the metalling F3 weighing a total of 624g. The bone was in poor condition, discoloured and slightly abraded.

All the material is likely to be cattle. Most of the pieces were scapulae fragments from at least two mature individuals that displayed butchery marks consistent with filleting.

Context	Find no.	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F3 metalled surface	3	10	570g	Cattle	Single teeth (upper molar and lower M3), a maxilla fragment with molar (1) and seven fragments of scapula. At least two scapulae are represented with fine cut marks on four of the pieces. The cuts include both longitudinal and transverse marks across the blade associated with filleting.
		6	54g	Large sized mammal	Maxilla/skull fragment (1), rib (1), tibia? (1) and scapula fragments (3).
Total		16	624g		

Table 5 Animal bone by context

7 Conclusion

Monitoring at 23 Margaret Road revealed a small area of metalling and two modern services. A good assemblage of finds was recovered from the layer sealing the metalling. Unfortunately they were dated from both the Roman and modern period making it hard to accurately date the surface. It is possible that the surface is Roman and the modern finds are intrusive from the truncation by modern services and the modern make-up layer (L4).

The development site is located outside of the Roman town walls but close by to a small area of occupation on the banks on the river Colne (Fig 4). Although the surface cannot be closely dated, if Roman in origin, it is likely to be part of a gravelled area next to a Roman building or part of Roman road joining either road to the east or west of the site. However, further investigation would be required to confirm this conclusion.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by M Baister and A Smith. Figures were prepared by C Lister and S Carter. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Dr Richard Hoggett and Dr Simon Wood.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--|
| Baker, P & Worley, F | 2019 | <i>Animal bones and archaeology: recovery to archive</i> |
| Brown, D | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</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 |
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at 23 Margaret Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1RZ</i> . By C Lister |
| CAT Report 248 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, October 2003</i> . By K Orr |
| CAT Report 322 | 2009 | <i>Archaeological investigations at Turner Rise, Colchesster, Essex, 1996-99</i> By D Shimmin |
| CAT Report 355 | 2 | <i>Watching brief report: 71 North Station Road (the former Globe Hotel), Colchester, Essex</i> By K Orr |
| CAT Report 409 | 2007 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at Jarmin Road, Colchester, Essex, January 2007</i> , by L Pooley |
| CAT Report 604 | 2011 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at the former CBC depot, Jarmin Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2008</i> . By D Shimmin |
| CBCAA | 2021 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at 23 Margaret Road, Colchester, CO1 1RZ</i> , by R Hoggett |
| CifA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Revised June 2020 |
| CifA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated October 2020 |
| CifA | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised October 2019 |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14) |
| Hilson, S | 2016 | <i>Mammal bones and teeth: an introductory guide to methods of identification</i> |
| Historic England | 2015 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> |

Medlycott, M	2011	(MoRPHE) <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Schmid, E	1972	<i>Atlas of animal bones</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigati S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1703)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (plan/sections)

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1703)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The 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 reference number ECC4650.

Distribution list

Homeowner

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

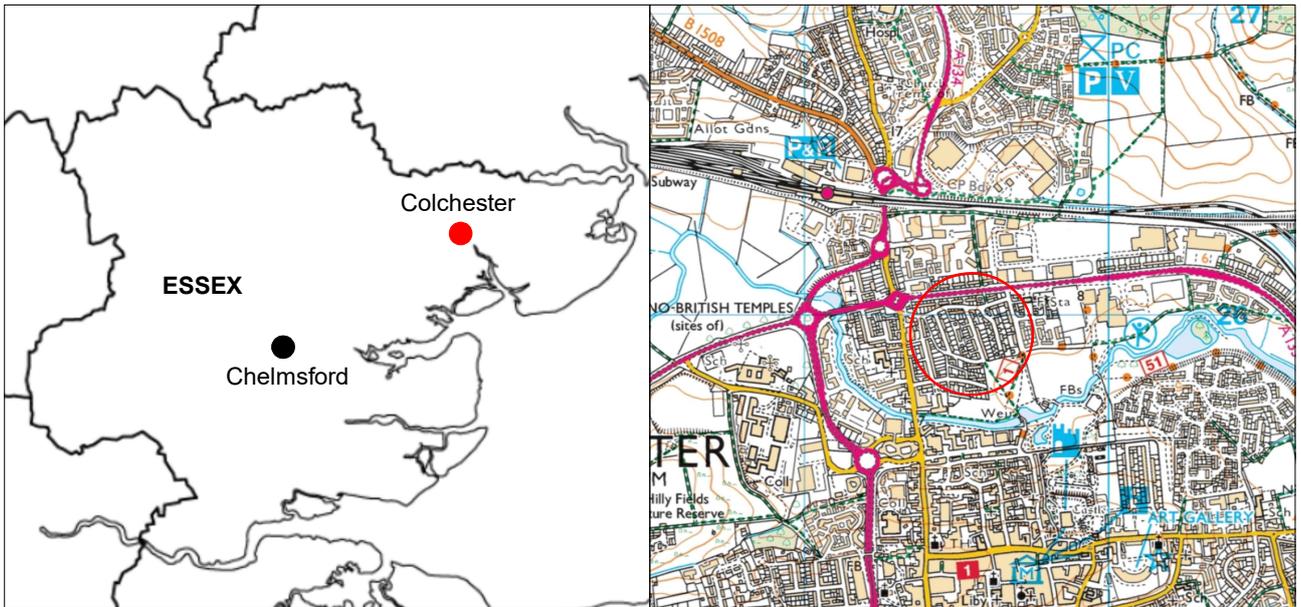
email: sv@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 05/10/2021

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	friable dark grey/brown clay silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: gravel 3%	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	friable moist medium/dark grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: gravel 5%	Undated
L3	-	Natural	soft moist medium yellow/orange clayey sand and inclusions of: gravel 1%	Post-glacial
L4	4	Make-up	firm moist dark grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: gravel 1%	19th/20th century
L5	-	Made ground	friable moist dark grey/brown sandy clay with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: gravel 2% tile/brick 2%	Undated
L6	-	Interface	soft moist light green/grey/brown sand	Undated
F1	1	Service trench	firm moist medium/dark grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks, tile flecks	19th/20th century
F2	2	Service trench	friable moist dark grey/brown clay sand	19th/20th century
F3	3, 5	Metalled surface	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay	19th/20th century



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

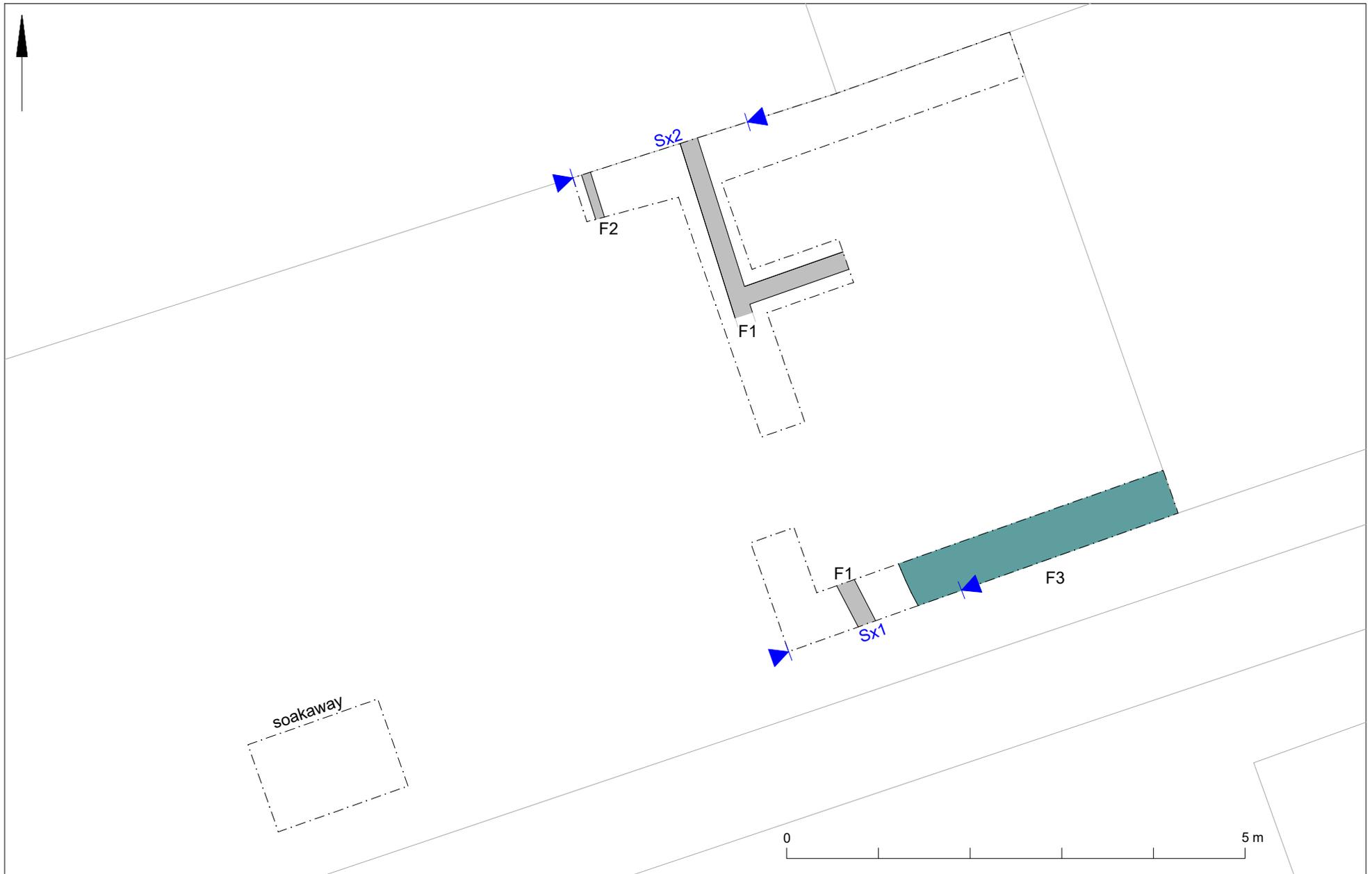


Fig 2 Results. Modern services in grey and metalled-surface in green.

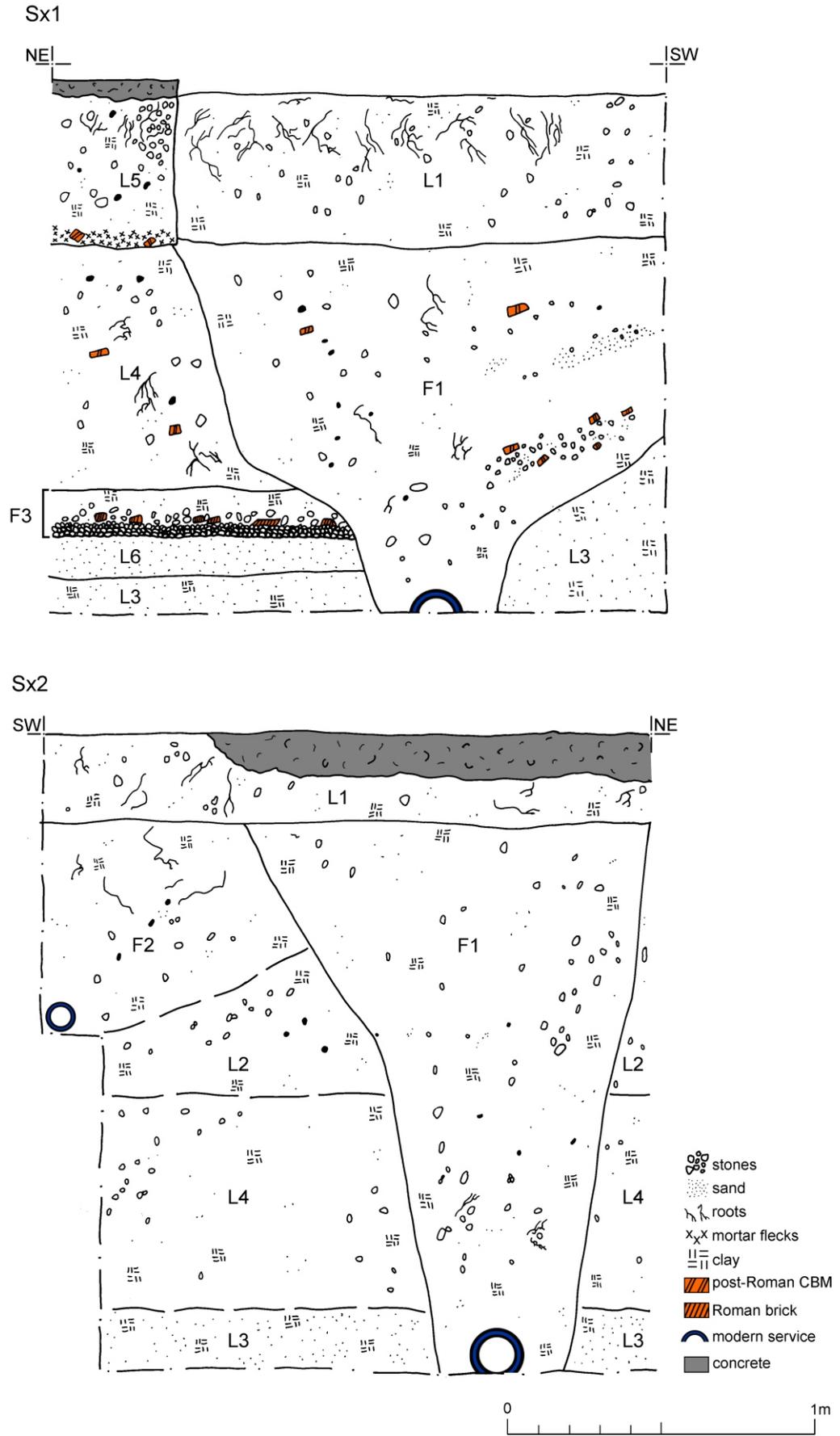


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

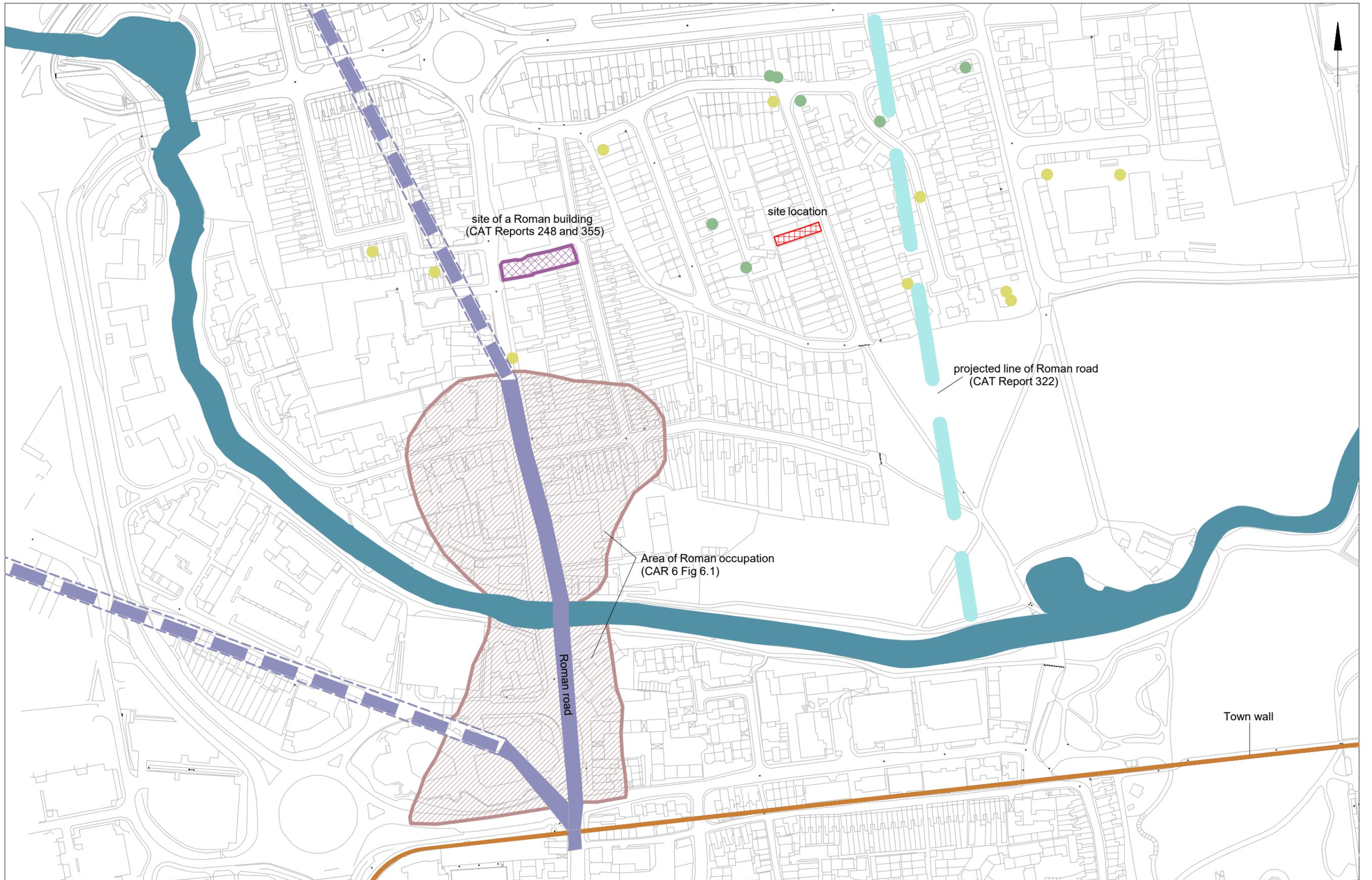


Fig 4 Site location in relation to nearby archaeological discoveries.

- Roman burial
- Roman find spot

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Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 23 Margaret Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1RZ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99550 25923 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2021/03c CHER ref: ECC4650 OASIS ref: colchest3-417845
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd March-11th August 2021	Size of area investigated: 0.02ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 1703	
Periods represented: Modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 23 Margaret Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a single-storey extension to the rear of the property. The site is located 500m north of Colchester Castle in an area of Roman burials. Three features were uncovered during the groundworks, a metalled surface and two modern service trenches.</p> <p>Although the site is located outside of the Roman town walls, it is close to small area of occupation on the banks of the river Colne. It is possible the metalling uncovered during this monitoring could be associated with this area of Roman activity.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: N/A	
CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett and Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: *
Author of summary: Sarah Veasey	Date of summary: September 2021

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at 23 Margaret Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1RZ.

NGR: TL 99550 25923 (centre)
District: Colchester

Planning references: 201834

Client: Mr & Mrs Day

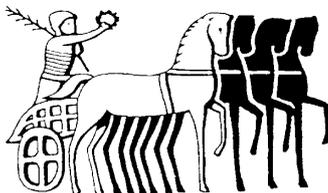
Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: tbc
CAT project code: 2021/03c

OASIS project number: colchest3-417845

Site manager: Chris Lister
CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett

This WSI written: 22.03.2021



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tel: 01206 501785
email: cl@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 800m north of the of the main historic centre of Colchester at 70 Margaret Road, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99550 25923.

Proposed work

The development comprises a proposed single storey rear extension.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECC/MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)

The site is located to the north of Colchester Castle Park and the River Colne and close to the location of a number of Roman burials. Nearby burials include a grave group found at 22 Mercers Way in 1939 during the construction of an air-raid shelter (MCC1902/MCC8494); at the junction of Serpentine Road and Margaret Road there are three recorded burials on the HER, including an urned cremation (MCC2516), tile tomb (MCC2515) and a burial with 11 beads (MCC2517); A scatter of Roman urned cremations is recorded between Kings Meadow and the railway (MCC7690).

Little archaeological work has been undertaken in this area, but there are a number of recorded find spots. Close to the current site the CHER has records of ?Iron Age and Roman pottery found when a trench for a water main was cut (MCC1899). Other nearby find spots include a Roman coins found at 1 Mercers Way (MCC1208) and 18 Cowdray Avenue (MCC1252). A quantity of Roman pot was recorded from around the junction of Serpentine Walk and Margaret Road, this is thought to be from a site Hull refers to as a possible pottery kiln site (MCC1341). There are pottery kilns within this area as a kiln was discovered in the former Strowgler's Ground nursery gardens (MCC2305). Roman pottery was recorded during construction of the Colchester Fire Station on Cowdray Avenue (MCC1332) and two civil war cannon balls were found in the garden at 14 Mercer Way (MCC2524).

Work carried out by CAT nearby includes an archaeological evaluation to the west of the site in the car-park of the Globe Hotel on North Station Road in 2003 (CAT Report 248). Two phases of Roman building were recorded. The later Roman phase featured a large building, the evidence for which was four robbed-out walls running on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment, which appear to match up with other Roman buildings excavated along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appeared to have been of high status, having evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls. The watching brief was required to locate more of these features, particularly the robbed-out walls and also the course of the Roman road.

An evaluation to the east at Jarmin Road revealed at least two Roman ditches and pits containing domestic waste (CAT Report 409, MCC2923). A further watching brief on the site revealed a spread of burnt daub and Roman brick/tile, this was interpreted as deriving from a Roman tile kiln on or near the site (CAT Report 604, kiln MCC2305).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in August 2020 (application No. 201834) for a *single storey rear extension*.

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). This was for archaeological monitoring of

the groundworks during construction and is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological investigation of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021).

Specifically:

The investigation is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and/or exceptional burnt remains related to the Boudiccan destruction of AD 60/61, and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

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 2020)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

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

Investigation 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. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

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), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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.

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

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

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. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

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 or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the investigation.

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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the 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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Robin Mathieson/Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,
Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /
Gwladys Monteil
Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
small finds: Nina Crummy
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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

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* (HE 2015b).

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 the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site 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).
- 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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

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

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

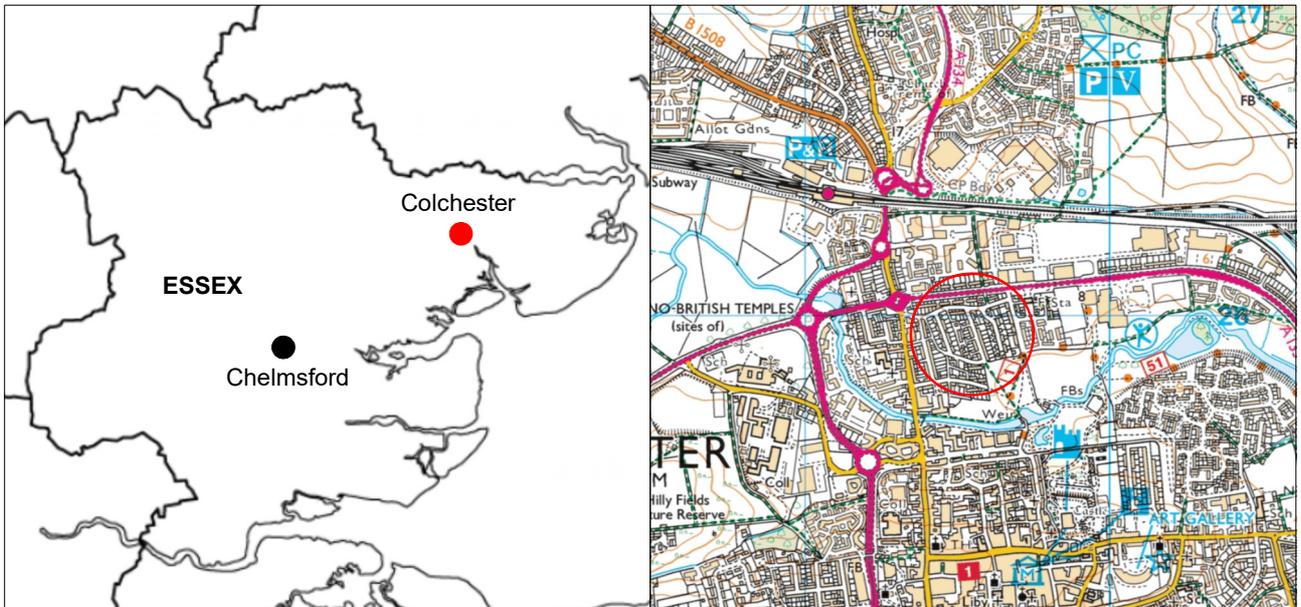
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . 2nd Edition
CAT	2020	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 248	2003	<i>An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, October 2003</i> . By Kate Orr
CAT Report 409	2007	<i>An archaeological evaluation at Jarmin Road, Colchester, Essex, January 2007</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 604	2011	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the former CBC depot, Jarmin Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2008</i> . By D Shimmin
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Investigation at 23 Margaret Road, Colchester, CO1 1RZ</i> . By Dr. R Hoggett
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

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OASIS ID: colchest3-416991

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ
Short description of the project	A six-trench archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at the University of Essex (Parkside phase 3a), Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of two 4-storey university buildings with associated ground-works and landscaping. The development site is located within an area of significant archaeological remains including a prehistoric barrow cemetery and areas of Late Iron Age/Roman and medieval activity. This phase of evaluation uncovered 20 features, however these were either all post-medieval/modern, undated or natural.
Project dates	Start: 20-04-2021 End: 22-04-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2021/03b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	192457 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4607 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Post Medieval
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	TREE THROW Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	HALF-PENNY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park
Postcode	CO4 3SQ
Study area	1.04 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 02512 24313 51.880016609034 0.942635023692 51 52 48 N 000 56 33 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 Ben Holloway

Type of sponsor/funding body University of Essex

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Service

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4607

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological evaluation at Parkside Phase 3a, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ: April 2021

Author(s)/Editor(s) Veasey, S.

Other bibliographic details Cat Report 1661

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