

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1916  
issued March 2023**

**Archaeological excavation at Duncan's Gate, Upper  
Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex,  
CO1 1UN: June 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/02d  
ECC code: ECC4775**

**Archaeological excavation at Duncan's Gate, Upper  
Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex,  
CO1 1UN: June 2022**

**NGR: TM 00013 25556**

**Scheduled Monument number: HA 1003772**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/02d  
CAT Report 1916**

**ECC code: ECC4775  
OASIS id: colchest3-504491**

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**commissioned by Frank Hargrave,  
Colchester Museums  
for Colchester City Council**

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<b>Issued:</b>	25/04/2023	

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological excavation was carried out at Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex in advance of the consolidation and conservation of a stretch of Roman drain. The work comprised the cleaning and recording of a Roman drain and the investigation of an adjacent sunken feature. The section of the drain recorded was roughly 6m in length. It was constructed of Roman brick with a tiled base and an opening in the western wall. The sunken feature was excavated through two layers, both of which were modern in date, and is likely to be the result of tree removal.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological excavation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex on the 21st-30th June 2022. The work was commissioned by Frank Hargrave of Colchester Museums and funded by Colchester City Council, and took place in advance of the consolidation and conservation of the Roman drain.

In response to consultation with Dr Jess Tipper, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England (HEIAM), it was advised that as the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHLE No. 1002217) that archaeological excavation would be required to clean and record the exposed drain and sunken feature prior to consolidation and conservation. The recommendation was given based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the recommendation and agreed with HEIAM (CAT 2022).

In addition to the 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 excavation* (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 Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)).

Duncan's Gate is located on the north-east corner of the Roman Town Wall (scheduled monument NHLE no. 1003772). The wall was built around the town c AD 65-80, following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with courses of septaria and brick. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT Report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Much of the width of the wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

A detailed historical and archaeological background on Duncan's Gate exists in a Historic Building Record, carried out by CAT in 2016 (CAT Report 1022). It is summarised below:

*"The gate was discovered by Dr P M Duncan (after which it was named), in 1853 while he was following the line of a Roman drain (or cloaca) running from what was later known as the mithraeum to the town ditch (Duncan 1858, 210-28). Duncan notes that during the excavation of the gate several human bones, horse bones, charred wood and remains of weapons were uncovered. He goes on to suggest that this evidence of "fire and violence" is directly associated with the destruction of the gate.*

*The gate was next investigated in 1927-9 by the Colchester Excavation Committee, overseen by M. R. Hull (Hull 1958, 36-41). He observed that Duncan's excavation had removed all archaeological layers directly adjacent to the sides of the gate and "across the whole south face of the gate". He began his own investigation by completely emptying Duncan's trenches.*

*The collapsed masonry to the south of Duncan's Gate are the remains of a gate tower or turret that has fallen and been preserved in situ adjacent to the remains of the gate. It is extremely fragile and has deteriorated in recent years, and now requires conservation (although it has been conserved in the past).."*

Monitoring was undertaken in 2017 during conservation of collapsed masonry to the south of the gate, thought to have been the remains of the gate tower. The cleaning of the collapse prior to the reattachment of several tile courses allowed a section be recorded, providing for the first time an accurate depth of the collapsed masonry. Also recorded were two layers of loose soil associated with the construction of the modern retaining wall around the collapse (CAT Report 1171).

The Roman drain (also known as a cloaca) was originally discovered in 1853 by Duncan, and then re-excavated during Hull's investigations in the 1920s. Hull (1958) describes the route the drain takes:

*It begins at the NE. corner of the 'Mithraeum' and after a vaulted and serpentine length, extending to the limits of the 'Mithraeum' enclosure, it ran other along the west side of the street, nearly straight, to the NE. Gate. There it suddenly turns under the street and runs out through the gate, to curve sharply to the left and empty itself, apparently, into the town ditch.*

The drain is over 180m long. It starts in *Insula* 14 and continues through *Insula* 7 where it exits the town through Duncan's Gate. Several lengths of the drain are recorded to have a vaulted ceiling while the rest is sealed with large flat tiles (although Hull claims to have found no evidence of these tiles). The purpose of the drain, apart from the initial function of draining water from the Mithraeum, seems to be a common drain or sewer, as indicated by the several openings in its west wall and the large one at the bottom of the slope of the street on the east. However, the lack of sewer-related detritus indicates its use was flood-water rather than sewage. While the connections to the west likely served private houses, they could nevertheless have been restricted to rainwater (Hull 1958).

#### **4 Aims**

The aims of the archaeological excavation were to clean and record the Roman drain and to investigate and record the cause of the sunken feature.

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

Archaeological investigations at Duncan's gate comprised the cleaning and recording of a stretch of Roman drain and the excavation of a sunken feature.

The stretch of drain recorded is approximately 6m long and accessed via a concrete inspection chamber. The walls are 1.4m at their tallest and are constructed from Roman bricks (brick

dimensions: 210-420 x 290 x 40mm) bonded with mortar. The base of the drain is laid with large red tiles (tile dimensions: 280 x 450mm). At the northern end, the drain is 0.63m wide while at the southern end it is only 0.48m wide. In the western wall of the drain is an opening, measuring roughly 0.45m by 0.55m, and located 0.56m from the base of the drain. See Figs 3-4 for images of the eastern and western walls of the drain.



**Photograph 1** Interior of drain, looking north north-east.



**Photograph 2** Interior of drain, looking south south-east.

The sunken feature was dug to a depth of roughly 2m before excavations ceased due to health and safety concerns. It was excavated through a layer of modern topsoil (L1, dry, mid grey/brown sandy silt) into a layer of modern made-ground (L2, dry, mid grey/brown sandy silt with occasional stones). The fill was extremely loose with frequent rooting. A number of modern finds were observed throughout the removed soil.



**Photograph 3** Sunken feature excavation, looking south-east.



**Photograph 4** Sunken feature excavation, looking north-west.

## 6 Finds

Modern CBM, corrugated metal and other modern detritus (including crisp packets and a football) were observed in L2 but not collected.

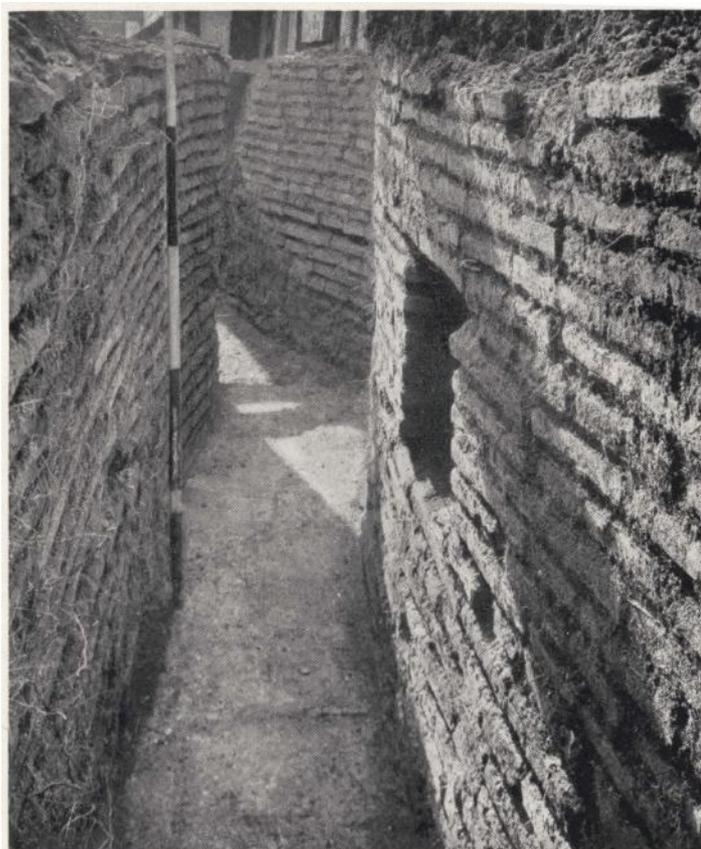
## 7 Conclusion

The Roman drain cleaned and recorded for this report was first excavated by P M Duncan in the mid-19th century and then re-excavated in the early 20th century by Hull. The walls of the drain are constructed from Roman bricks and the base laid in large tiles.

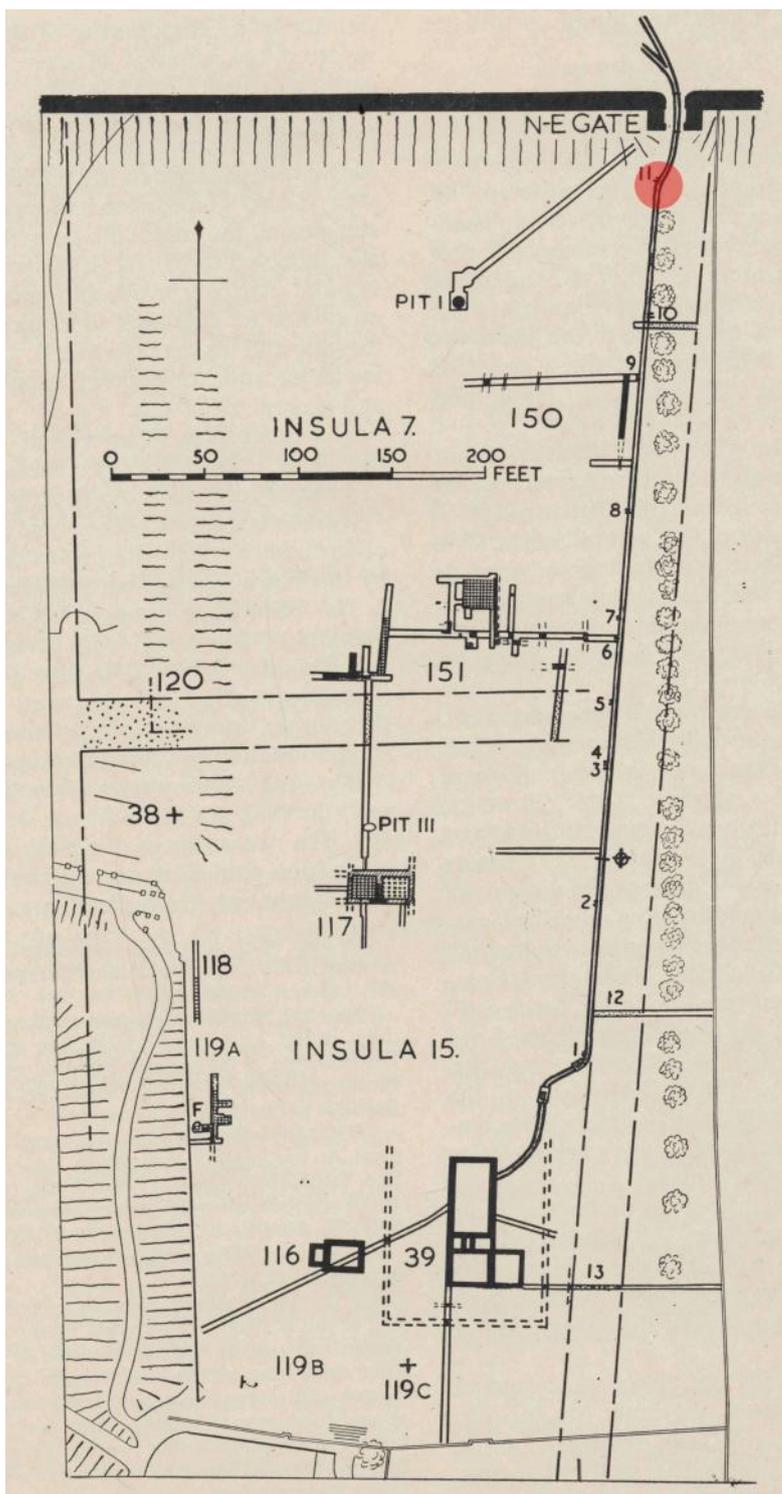
On the western wall of this stretch of the drain is a rectangular opening. It is one of several openings on the western wall of the drain that were previously identified by Hull. His description is as follows:

*"No. 11 is the last opening and occurs at the angle where the drain is deflected to run under the street by the gateway. Its position shows that it was intended to convey the surface water, trapped by the rampart at the bottom of the slope, into the drain. It is 18in square, in the upper west wall, and there is, at the upper right corner, an iron staple fixed in the wall, with the mark of a corresponding one at the other corner. These were for an iron grill. The position is 40ft from the inner face of the wall."*

It is assumed the openings are junctions where smaller culverts (possibly from private residences) emptied in to the larger drain, but previous excavations have found no evidence of the direction or nature of the conduit employed for these off-shoots. No evidence of the iron staple identified by Hull remained.



**Photograph 5** Excavation of the same stretch of drain in the 1920's, looking south. The opening in the west wall visible (reproduced from Hull 1958, plate XVIIId).



**Plate 1** Hull's plan of *Insulas* 7 and 14. The rough location of the site highlighted in red (reproduced from Hull 1958, fig 37).

The sunken feature was investigated to a depth of 2m but only modern layers were encountered. Using historic imagery (courtesy of Google Earth) a tree can be seen in the location of the sunken feature on images from 2006 and earlier. After 2009, the tree has been removed. The most plausible explanation for the sunken feature is a backfilled modern tree-throw and as the earth has settled a depression has formed.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Frank Hargrave (Colchester Museum) and Colchester City Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, and fieldwork was carried out by C Lister, A Wightman and H Furniss with Z Eksen, A Wade, M Seehra and W Bateson. Figures are by S Veasey and A Wade. The project was monitored for Historic England by Dr Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

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

CAT	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological excavation at Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN</i> by E Holloway
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006</i>
CAT Report 1022	2016	<i>Historic building recording and test-pit evaluation at Duncan's Gate, Colchester, CO1 1UN, July 2016</i> , by M Baister
CAT Report 1171	2017	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at Duncan's Gate, Castle Park, Colchester, CO1 1UN: September 2017</i> , by M Baister
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation</i> . Updated June 2020.
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> . Updated June 2020.
CIfA	2014c	<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 Oct 2022
Crummey, 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
Duncan, P M	1858	'The Roman cloca at Colchester; its discovery and description' in <i>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society</i> , Volume 1, 210-28.
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, 20
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.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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 digital archive**

CAT Report 1916  
Digital photographs  
Site data  
Survey data

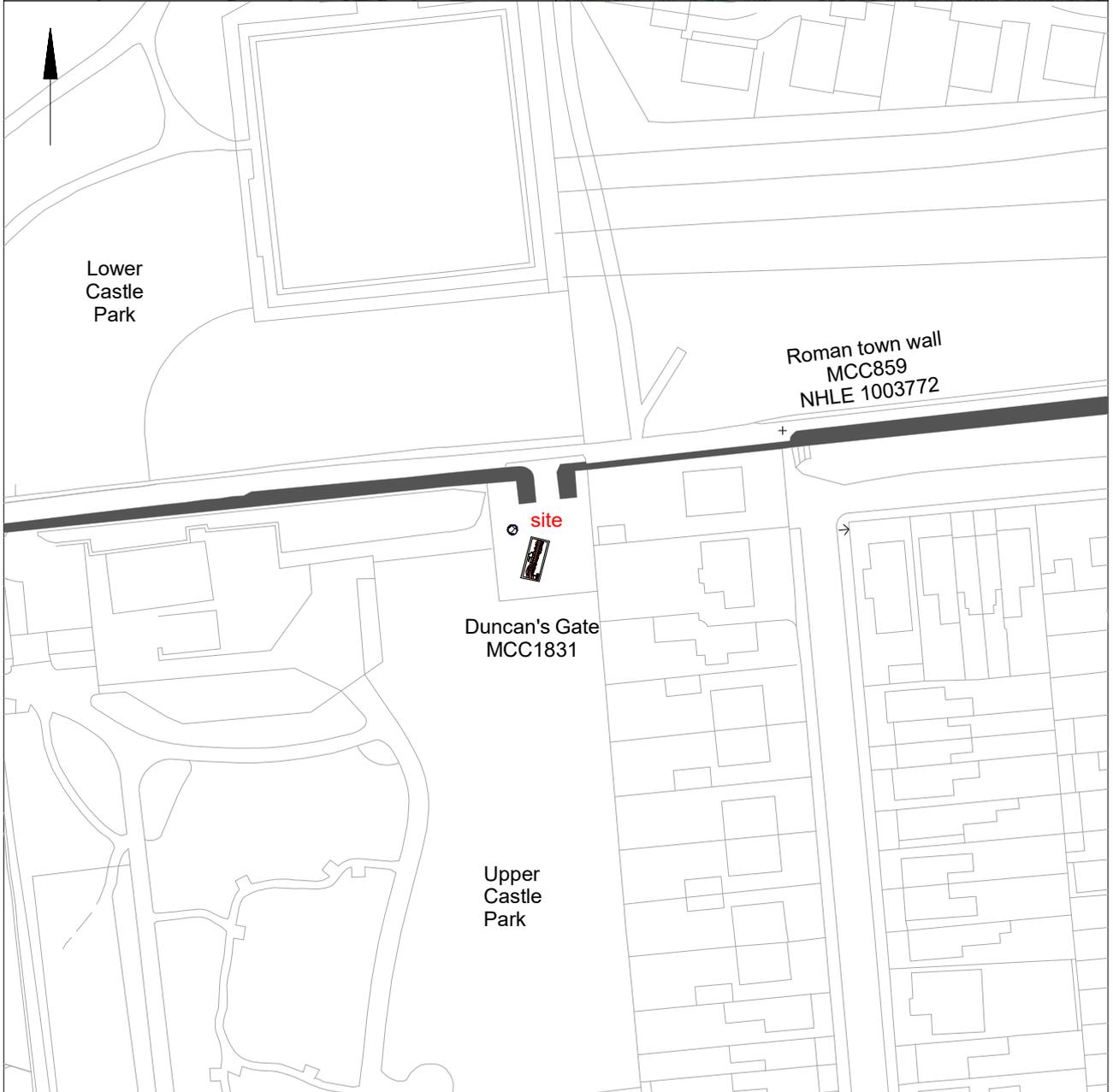
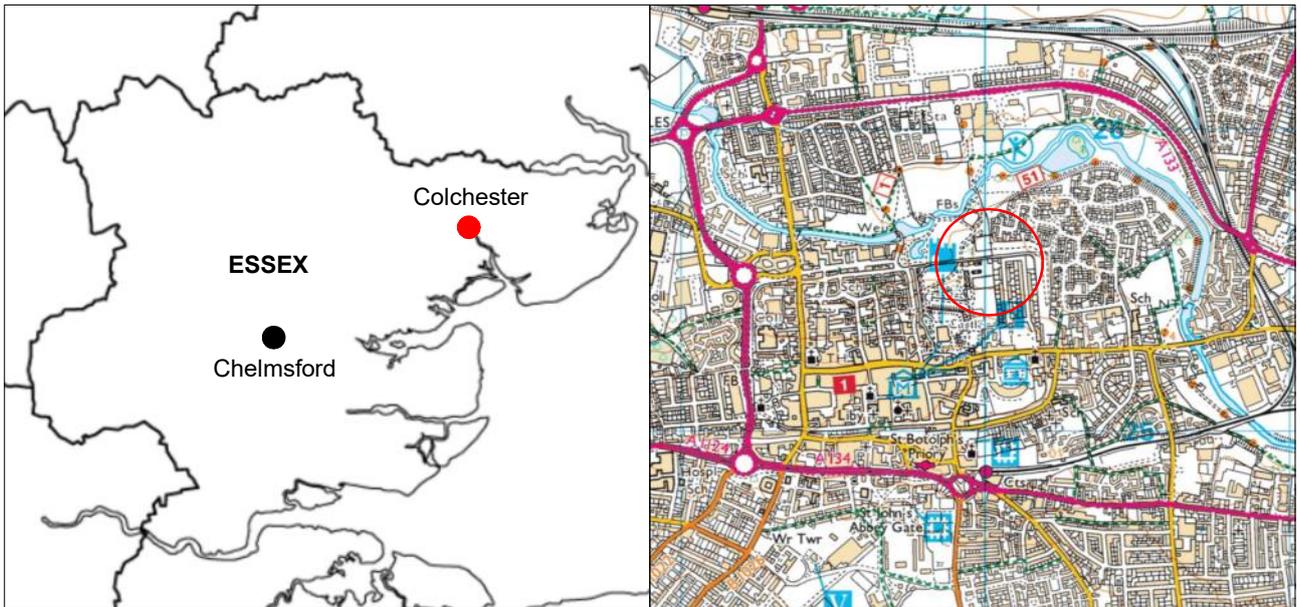
## **12 Archive deposition**

The 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

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### **Distribution list:**

Frank Hargraves, Colchester Museums  
Colchester City Council  
Dr Jess Tipper, Historic England  
Essex Historic Environment Record



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

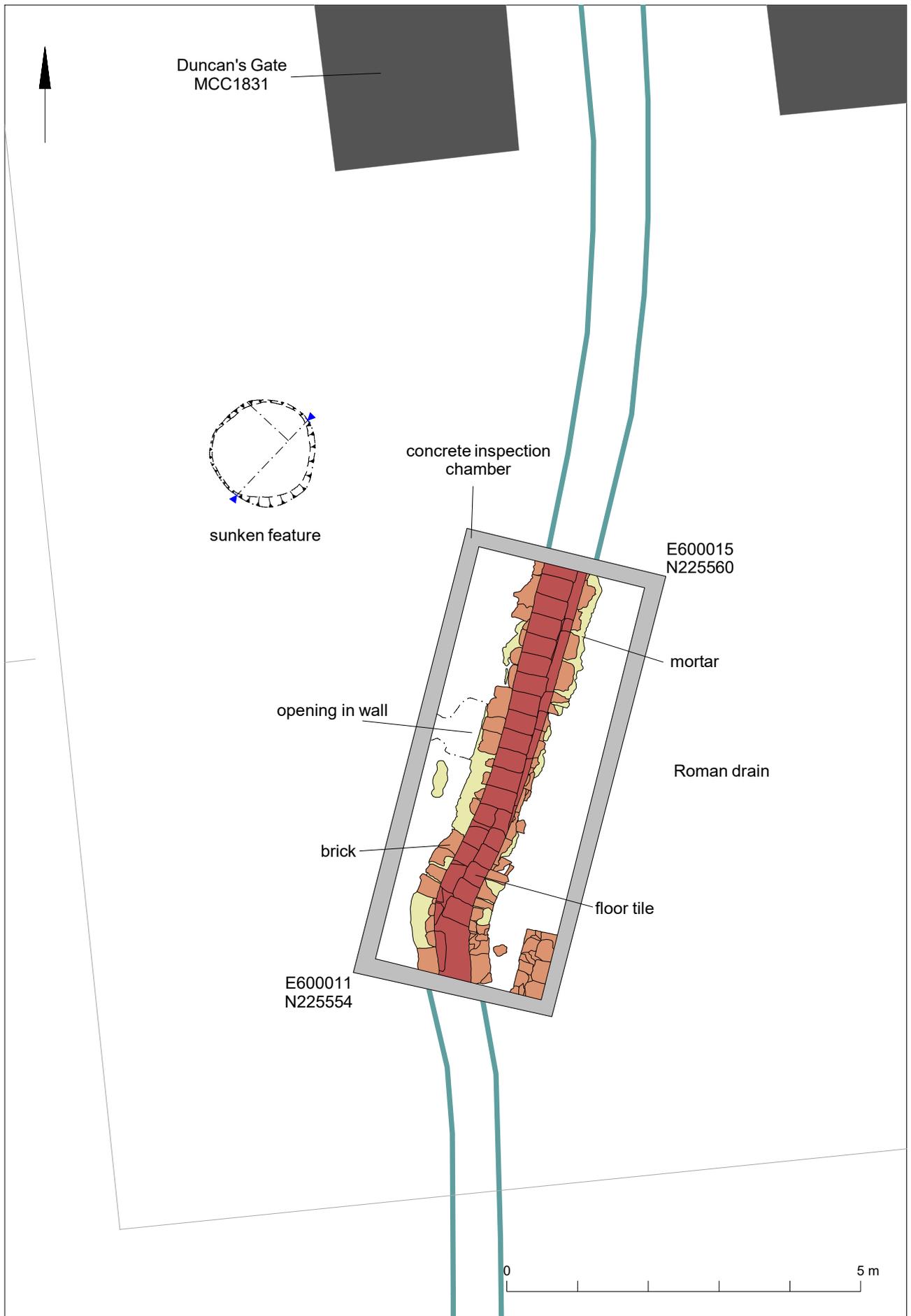


Fig 2 Results. Line of the Roman drain, as recorded by Hull (1958), in blue.



Fig 3 Eastern wall of drain.





Fig 4 Western wall of drain.



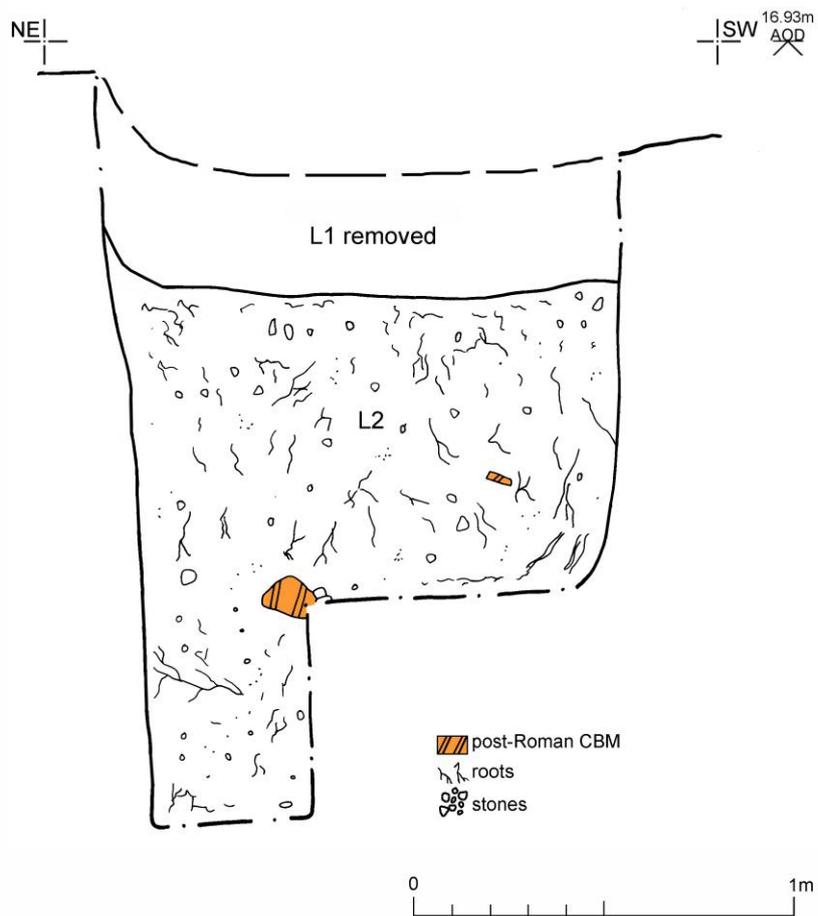


Fig 5 Representative section of sunken feature.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 00013 25556 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2022/02d CHER ref.: ECC4775 OASIS ref.: colchest3-504491
<b>Type of work:</b> Excavation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 21st-30th June 2022	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.17h
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Archaeological Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> HA 1003772
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1916	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Romano-British, modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>An archaeological excavation was carried out at Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex in advance of the consolidation and conservation of a stretch of Roman drain. The work comprised the cleaning and recording of a Roman drain and the investigation of an adjacent sunken feature. The section of the drain recorded was roughly 6m in length. It was constructed of Roman brick with a tiled base and an opening in the western wall. The sunken feature was excavated through two layers, both of which were modern in date, and is likely to be the result of tree removal..</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 1022, CAT Report 1171	
<b>Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments:</b> Dr Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> Colchester Roman Drain	<b>Significance:</b> ***
<b>Author of summary:</b> Sarah Veasey	<b>Date of summary:</b> March 2023

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological excavation at Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN**

**NGR:** TM 00013 25556 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** Colchester

**Scheduled Monument number:** HA 1003772

**Scheduled Monument consent case number:** tbc

**Commissioned by:** Frank Hargrave (Colchester Museums)

**Commissioned by:** Colchester Borough Council

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** tbc

**CAT project code:** 2022/02d

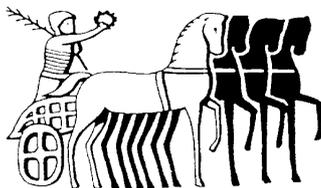
**OASIS project number:** colchest3-504491

**Contracts manager:** Chris Lister

**Fieldwork manager:** Adam Wightman

**Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments:** Dr Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 04/03/2022 (revised)



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## Site location and description

Duncan's Gate is a partially-ruined Roman gateway on the northeastern corner of Colchester's town wall (Scheduled Ancient Monument NHLE number 1003772), Upper Castle Park, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1) The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 00013 25556.

## Proposed work

The project comprises of the cleaning, consolidation and conservation of a stretch of Roman drain.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

Duncan's Gate is located on the north-east corner of the Roman Town Wall (scheduled monument NHLE no. 1003772). The wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with courses of septaria and brick. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT Report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

A detailed historical and archaeological background on Duncan's Gate exists in a Historic Building Recording report, carried out by CAT in 2016 (CAT Report 1022). It is summarised below:

*"Duncan's Gate is located on the north-east corner of the Roman Town Wall. The wall was built around the town in the later 1st-century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar with coursed septaria and tile on each face.*

*Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Some sections are in relatively good condition, with large areas of intact facing surviving (such as around Balcerne Gate to the west of the town). The majority of what is standing, however, has been refaced or completely rebuilt in brick and stone.*

*The collapsed masonry to the south of Duncan's Gate are the remains of a gate tower or turret that has fallen and been preserved in situ adjacent to the remains of the gate. It is extremely fragile and has deteriorated in recent years, and now requires conservation (although it has been conserved in the past).*

*The gate was discovered by Dr P M Duncan (after which it was named), in 1853 while he was following the line of a Roman drain (or cloaca) running from what was later known as the mithraeum to the town ditch (Duncan 1858, 210-28). Duncan notes that during the excavation of the gate several human bones, horse bones, charred wood and remains of weapons were uncovered. He goes on to suggest that this evidence of*

*“fire and violence” is directly associated with the destruction of the gate.*

*The gate was next investigated in 1927-9 by the Colchester Excavation Committee, overseen by M. R. Hull (Hull 1958, 36-41). He observed that Duncan's excavation had removed all archaeological layers directly adjacent to the sides of the gate and “across the whole south face of the gate”. He began his own investigation by completely emptying Duncan's trenches.*

*Like Duncan, Hull found evidence of burning within the gateway. He was more detailed in his recording, describing two distinct layers of charcoal with a layer of road metalling between them. He postulated that this is evidence of two distinct incidents of fire at the gate.*

*Unlike Duncan, Hull recovered no evidence of animal bones, human bones or any remains of weapons – but still agreed with Duncan's assessment that the gate had been destroyed, and the tower collapsed, by fire. Hull did observe (in section) “very black earth” beneath the collapsed masonry to the south of the gate, noting that neither he nor Duncan disturbed it, and that if it were ever to be moved its contents would be of great interest.*

*It seems likely from the descriptions of these two previous excavations that the earth beneath the collapsed masonry contains the only remaining intact stratigraphic sequence on the site although, as neither Hull nor Duncan recorded the exact location or extent of their excavations, it is difficult to be certain.*

*Although not discussed in the Hull's report (save for one photograph), after the excavations of 1927-9 the gate and collapsed masonry was the subject of significant conservation.”*

Monitoring of the gate was undertaken in 2017 during conservation of collapsed masonry to the south of the gate, thought to have been the remains of the gate tower. The cleaning of the collapse prior to the reattachment of several tile courses allowed a section be recorded, providing for the first time an accurate depth of the collapsed masonry. Also recorded were two layers of loose soil associated with the construction of the modern retaining wall around the collapse (CAT Report 1171).

## **Project background**

In response to consultation with Dr Jess Tipper, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England (HEIAM) it was advised that as the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHLE no. 1002217) that archaeological excavation will be required to clean and record the exposed drain and sunken feature prior to consolidation and conservation. The recommended archaeological work 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 excavation. The excavation will comprise of two main parts, 1) cleaning and recording of a stretch of surviving Roman drain and 2) the investigation of the sunken feature (see Fig 2).

The length of drain to be cleared is c 6.5m. It is covered by a concrete access chamber which is c 6.5m long x 2m wide. The top of the drain structure is located c 2m below the external ground level and the base of the drain is c 3m below ground level. The chamber has a concrete cover with a metal grill in the centre. Access to the chamber is through a hatch in the metal grill at the southern end of the chamber. There is a metal ladder attached to the southern wall of the chamber. However, the ladder is in poor condition so an aluminium ladder will be required to ensure safe access.

Specifically:

The investigation is being undertaken to clean, identify and record the monument during conservation. The list of tasks include:

- The drain has been cleared out in the past. The current project will remove wind-blown litter and vegetation material, loose mortar and brick/tile fragments from the drain to uncover the brick/tile surface which forms the base.
- Remove of the wind-blown vegetation material from the uppermost bricks/tiles that form the walls of the drain.
- Removal of the plants that are growing in the base of the drain, on the inside faces of the walls of the drain, and on the ground surface either side of the drain. Any plants that are cut off will be 'spot' treated by the Park Rangers.
- Investigation of the sunken feature to try to establish the reason for the hollow (such as the result of burrowing or a hollow from an earlier tree). The hollow is approximately 1m long by 0.8m wide and 0.35m deep at present. CAT will dig down into the hollow to establish if it is being caused by a void. The investigative hole will not exceed 1m in depth and it is likely the cause of the hollow be reached before that depth. The hole will be backfilled with topsoil.

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

## **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-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- Scheduled Monument consent

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 HEIAM 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 and one archaeologist for four days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner/Harvey Furniss

## **Excavation methodology**

- Remove the wind-blown litter, vegetation material, loose mortar and brick/tile fragments from the drain to uncover the brick/tile surface which forms the base. There appears to be between 50mm and 150mm of debris in the base of the drain. A deeper deposit of material (c 300mm in depth) is located next to a large hole in the western wall of the drain. The material from the base of the drain will be carefully removed using trowels and hand shovels. Where appropriate, a shovel may be used to remove the upper part of deeper deposits that have accumulate. This work will proceed with care to ensure that the walls and base of the drain are not damaged.
- Remove of the wind-blown vegetation material from the uppermost bricks/tiles that form the walls of the drain. The soil will be carefully removed from surface of the uppermost bricks/tiles using trowels, stiff brushes and hand shovels. There will be no reduction of the current ground level outside of the walls of the drain.
- Removal of the plants that are growing in the base of the drain, on the inside faces of the walls of the drain, and on the ground surface either side of the drain. Small, shallow-rooted plants will be carefully removed by hand, bringing the roots with the plant when possible. If the removal of a plant may cause damage to the drain structure, in particular the mortar which binds the bricks/tiles together, the plant will be cut as close to the root system as possible. Larger plants with deeper root systems (for example buddleias) will be cut as close to the root system as possible. Any root systems which are left in place will be spot treated with chemicals by the Park Ranger team to prevent the plants from growing back. Ivy growing up the walls of the concrete chamber covering the drain will also be removed, as will the moss which grows on the top of the concrete cover covering the chamber.

All materials removed from the chamber will be placed into buckets and carefully passed to another member of CAT staff outside of the chamber. This material will then be transferred into a wheelbarrow and transported to a skip located in the yard of the Park Rangers Office for disposal off site. No tools or upcast soil will be stored on the concrete slab which covers the chamber to ensure that no additional weight is placed on the cover.

A conversation regarding any repairs or consolidation work that may be required will be held once the clearance work is complete. No repairs or consolidation will be undertaken as part of the clearance work.

Investigation of the sunken feature will be excavated by hand. 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.

Once the clearance work is complete, photogrammetry will be attempted to record the condition of the drain. If the lighting conditions are too dark to record the drain will be drawn manually.

### **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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological 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 HEIAM.

The HEIAM will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the monitoring.

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 Historic England guidance (2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remains *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 HEIAM 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 (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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). 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: 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

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

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: Tom Lawrence

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / 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 HEIAM.

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 HEIAM 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* (Historic England 2015b).

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

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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

### **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 if any artefacts are retained 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.

If there are no retained artefacts a full digital archive will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and HEIAM) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to HEIAM.

The HEIAM 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**

HEIAM 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 HEIAM one week in advance of its commencement.

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

HEIAM will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of HEIAM 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>

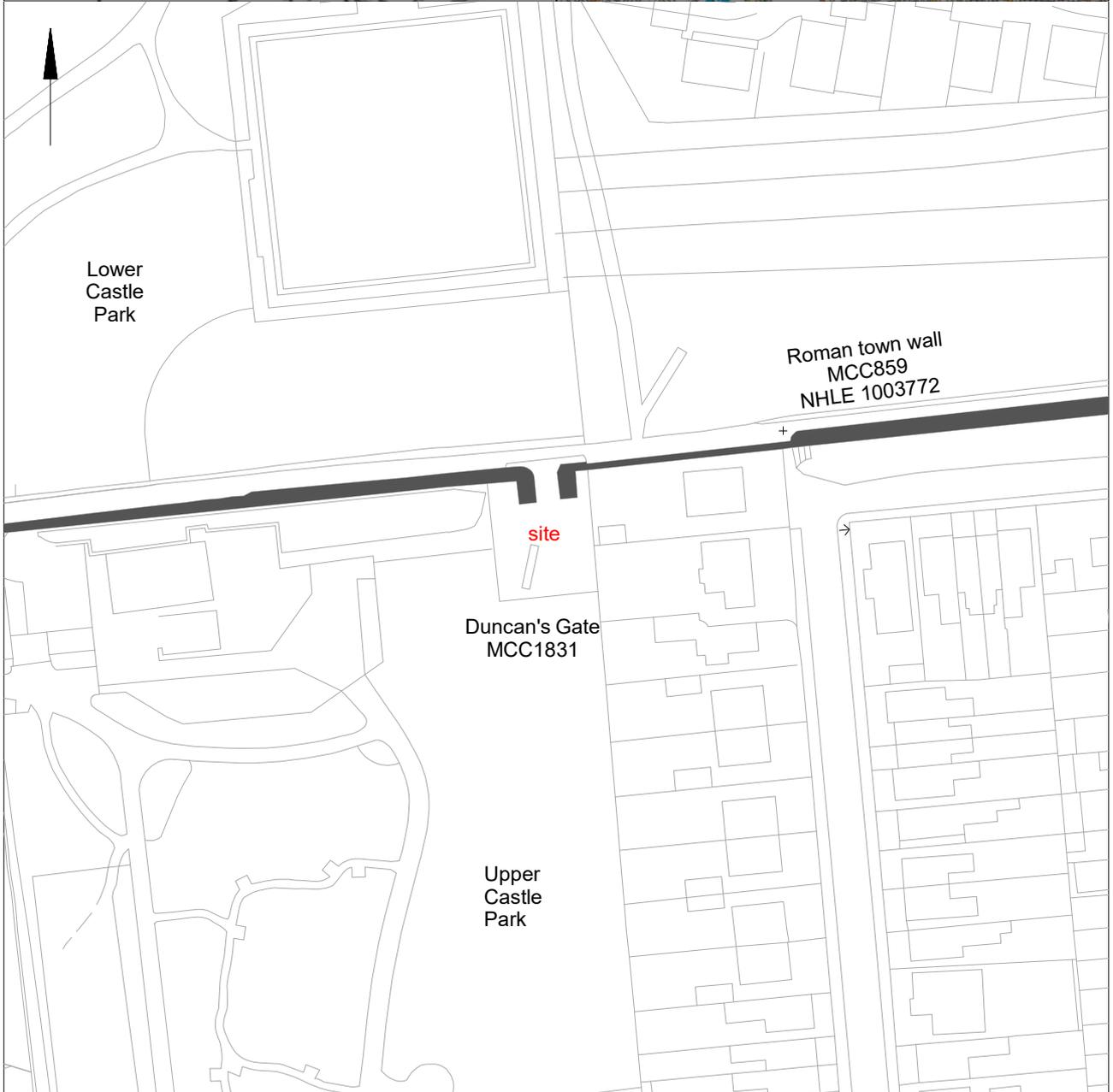
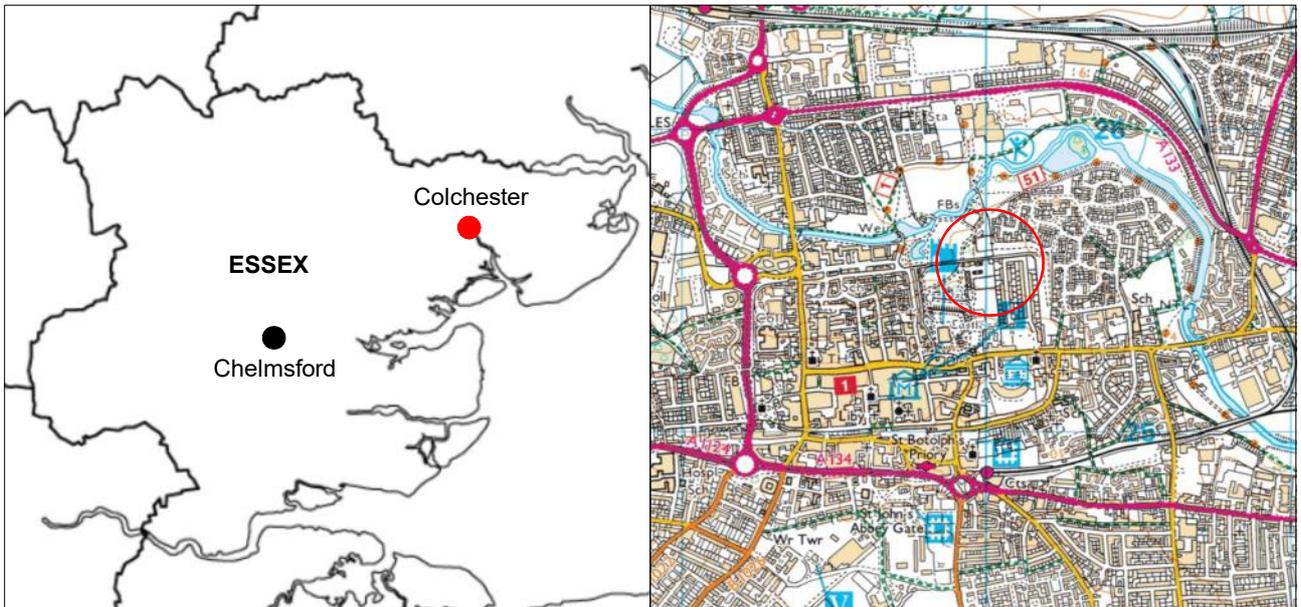
- |                               |        |  |
|-------------------------------|--------|--|
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| CAT                           | 2nd ed |  |
| CAT                           | 2021   | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
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| CAT Report 1022               | 2016   | <i>Historic building recording and test-pit evaluation at Duncan's Gate, Colchester, CO1 1UN, July 2016</i> , by M Baister   |
| CAT Report 1171               | 2017   | <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at Duncan's Gate, Castle Park, Colchester, CO1 1UN: September 2017</i> , by M Baister   |
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| CifA                          | 2014b  | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020   |
| CifA                          | 2014c  | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2021  |
| Crummy, P                     | 2003   | 'Colchester's town wall' in <i>The archaeology of Roman towns: studies in honour of John S Wachter</i> , ed by P Wilson  |
| Digital Curation Centre (DCC) | 2013   | Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0  |
| Duncan, P M                   | 1858   | <i>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society vol 1, pgs 210-28: The Roman cloca at Colchester; its discovery and description</i>  |
| Gurney, D                     | 2003   | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).  |
| 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   |
| Hull, M R                     | 1958   | <i>Roman Colchester</i>  |
| Medlycott, M                  | 2011   | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )  |
| MHCLG                         | 2019   | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.   |

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Fig 1 Site location.



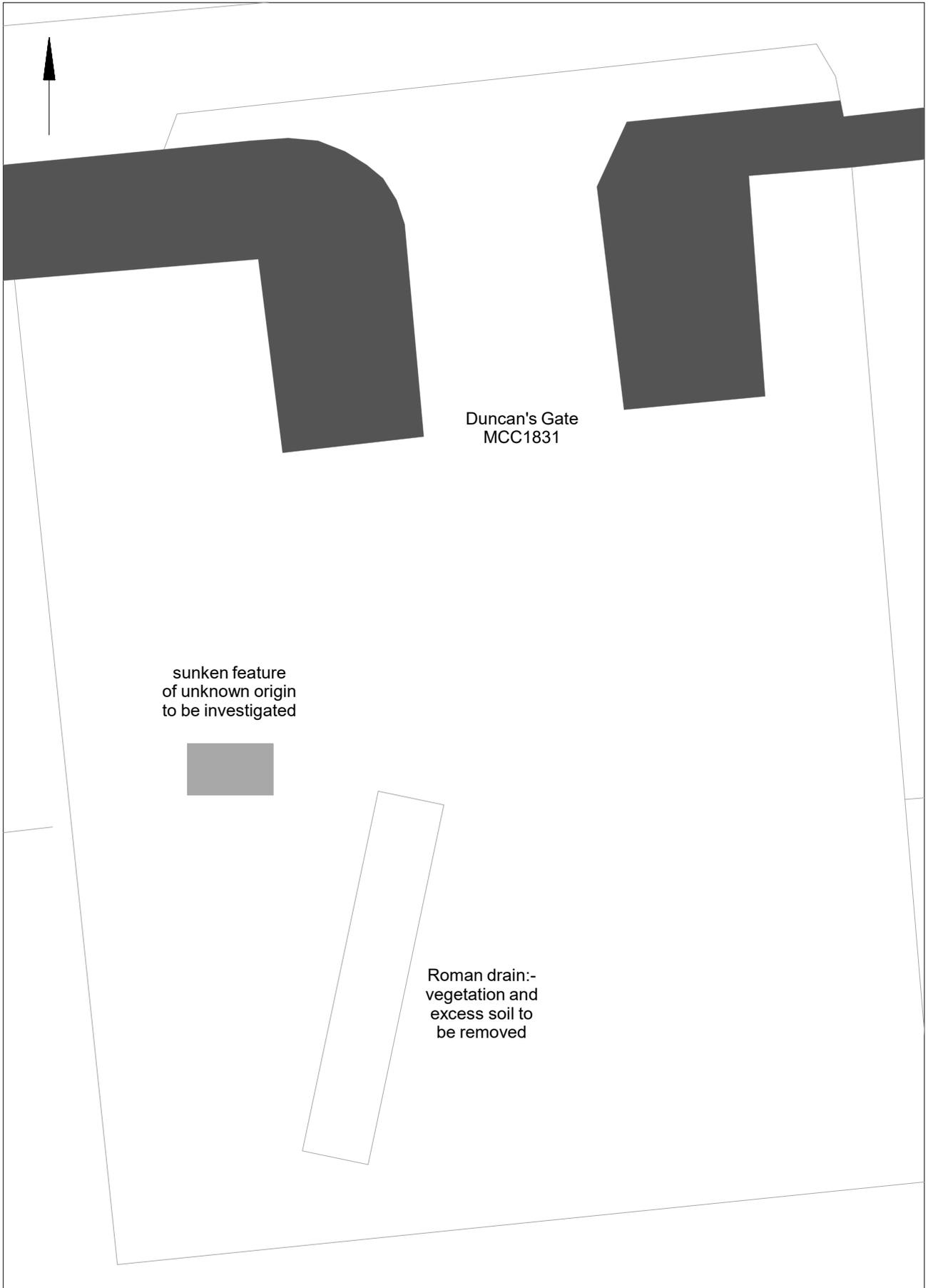


Fig 2 Proposed work.

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# Summary for colchest3-504491

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-504491
Project Name	Excavation at Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN
Sitename	Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN
Activity type	Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/02d
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Scheduled monument consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	21-Jun-2022 - 30-Jun-2022
Location	Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN NGR : TM 00013 25556 LL : 51.8926542290372, 0.905351513033273 12 Fig : 600013,225556
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological investigations at Duncan's gate comprised the cleaning and recording of a stretch of Roman drain and the excavation of a sunken feature.
Project Results	An archaeological excavation was carried out at Duncan's Gate, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex in advance of the consolidation and conservation of a stretch of Roman drain. The work comprised the cleaning and recording of a Roman drain and the investigation of an adjacent sunken feature. The section of the drain recorded was roughly 6m in length. It was constructed of Roman brick with a tiled base and an opening in the western wall. The sunken feature was excavated through two layers, both of which were modern in date, and is likely to be the result of tree removal.
Keywords	Drain - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD Historic England review - unRev - STANDARD Scheduled Monument Casework - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;