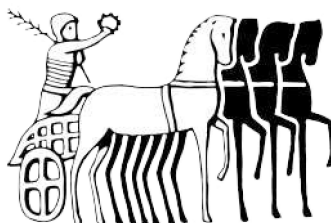


# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2140  
issued February 2025**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at the  
Colchester Royal Grammar School playing field,  
Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TN:  
February 2025**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/07b  
CHER code: ECC 4862**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at the  
Colchester Royal Grammar School playing field,  
Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TN:  
February 2025**

**NGR: TL 98254 24490 (centre)**

**Planning district: Colchester  
Planning ref.: 240459**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/07b  
CAT Report 2140**

**CHER code: ECC4862  
OASIS id: colchest3-527000**

**Report prepared by Xander Smith**

**Fieldwork by Xander Smith**

**Commissioned by Juan Martinez, Barker Associates Ltd  
On behalf of Colchester Royal Grammar School**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Xander Smith	Senior Site Assistant
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Laura Pooley MCIfA	Post-excavation Manager
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Howard Brooks MCIfA	Senior Associate
<b>Issued:</b>	/02/25	

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Fig 1 Site location.

Fig 2 Results.

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the installation of an electronic scoreboard. Despite being located in an area of high archaeological potential there were no archaeological remains.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring and recording at the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing field, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 12th February 2025. The work was commissioned by Juan Martinez of Barker Associates Ltd on behalf of the school and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during groundworks for the installation of an electronic scoreboard.

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 City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

All work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Grammar School Playing Field, Athelstan Road, Colchester, CO3 3TN* written by the CCCAA (CCC 2024). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT (2024) in response to the brief and agreed with the CCCAA in advance of the groundworks.

In addition to the project brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2025).



### 3 Archaeological and geological background

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

The site is situated within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum*, to the south-west of the Roman walled town and just outside of an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing) leading out of Balcerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). A number of Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in CAR 9. Of particular note are the remains of a Roman temple tomb excavated within the main grounds of the Colchester Royal Grammar School in 2005 (CHER MCC2791, CAT Report 345) and the Altnacealgach estate to the northwest where an amphora burial was recorded to the west of Altnacealgach House (MCC7676).

The site is located within an area of cropmarks recorded through aerial photography (ECC348). The cropmarks of the playing field revealed evidence of the site of a substantial Roman temple complex immediately to the east north-east of the development site (Temple 6, MCC1959/MCC1962 and MCC8407). The temple was partly excavated in 1947 by AF Hall (ECC869). It is located east of the site, in the playing fields of the Colchester Royal Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of war and hunting (Crummy 1997, 107). To the north-east of the development site Hall also investigated a 100ft wide oval hollow (ECC1784). Hull notes that it was undated and of unknown purpose, however this may have been a Roman pit for the extraction of sands and gravels.

Archaeological work undertaken by CAT within this area of the Sports Ground have been negative. In 1999 a drainage trench from Athelstan Road to the pavilion and the base of a temporary portacabin were monitored. The layers comprised of 0.4m of topsoil over 0.2m of pale brown clay (CAT Report 1000, 99/3e). A single evaluation trench c 80m to the south-east of the current site was excavated in 2002 prior to an extension to the groundworker's building. The trench revealed 0.1m of topsoil sealing 0.5m of yellow/brown sandy soil with frequent stones and peg-tile fragments, onto an orange/brown sandy natural gravel. No features or finds were found (CAT Report 180, ECC2623). Three trial-trenches c 75m north-west were excavated in 2019 in advance of the construction of a new Sports Hall and associated facilities. A single natural linear feature, one sherd of medieval pottery and some modern pottery, clay pipe and slate, were found (CAT Report 1501, ECC4402).

Approximately 250m south-east of the site is the line of a Roman road running between Gosbecks and the town centre (MCC2529). A Roman ditch or wall trench was uncovered at the southern edge of playing field 1266 on the Royal Grammar School Playing Fields (MCC2054). The wall trench or ditch contained building material in a straight line of tile and stone debris. Other find spots include Roman coins (MCC1991) recovered at the Romano-Celtic Temple (MCC1959) recorded in 1947 on the playing field.

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site comprises Thames Group (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of cover sand. Coversands are periglacial aeolian blanket deposits of lowland areas comprising fine- to very fine-grained sand, usually horizontally bedded although they may form subaerial dunes with large-scale cross-bedding.

## 4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify and record any archaeological contexts revealed during the works.

## 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two post-holes and a cable trench were hand-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist, covering an area of approximately 0.88m<sup>2</sup>. The post-holes were both 0.3 x 0.3m and roughly 1m deep cutting through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.4-0.44m thick), subsoil (L2, c 0.42m thick) and into natural (L3). The cable trench was 0.2m wide and 3.5m long, running between the easternmost post and the existing building. It was cut to a depth of 0.4-0.44m through modern path material and topsoil (L1). There were no archaeological features or finds.

Context	Finds no.	Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Friable moist dark grey/brown clayey silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1%	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Friable moist medium grey/brown clayey silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Undated
L3	-	Natural	Firm moist medium yellow/brown clay and inclusions of: stone 2%	Post-glacial

**Table 1** Context list

<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>



**Photograph 1** Working shot of post-hole excavations. Photograph taken facing north-east.



**Photograph 2** Working shot of trench excavations. Photograph taken facing south-west.





**Photograph 3** Trench and post-holes fully excavated. Photograph taken facing south-east.



**Photograph 4** Representative section. Photograph taken facing north-east.

## 6 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area highlighted as having a high archaeological potential, monitoring at Colchester Royal Grammar School playing field identified no archaeological remains.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Juan Martinez of Barker Associates Ltd and Colchester Royal Grammar School for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by X Smith. The project was monitored for CCC by Dr Richard Hoggett.

## 8 References

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

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## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	the period from 800 BC to AD 43
Late Iron Age	the period from 100 BC to AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
Medieval	the period from AD 1066 to 1540
modern	the period from AD 1901 to current
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity

NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
Roman	the period from AD 43 to 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 10 Archive deposition

**Digital record:** This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, ws, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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### Distribution list:

Juan Martinez, Barker Associates Ltd  
Colchester Royal Grammar School  
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council  
Colchester Historic Environment Record



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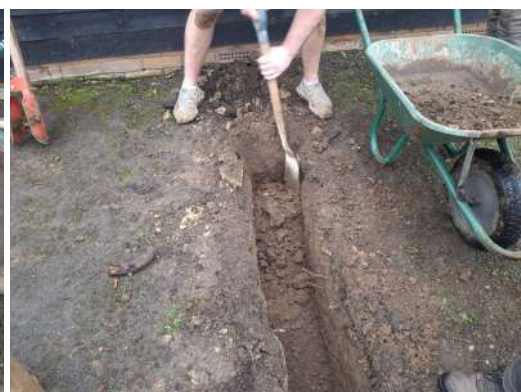




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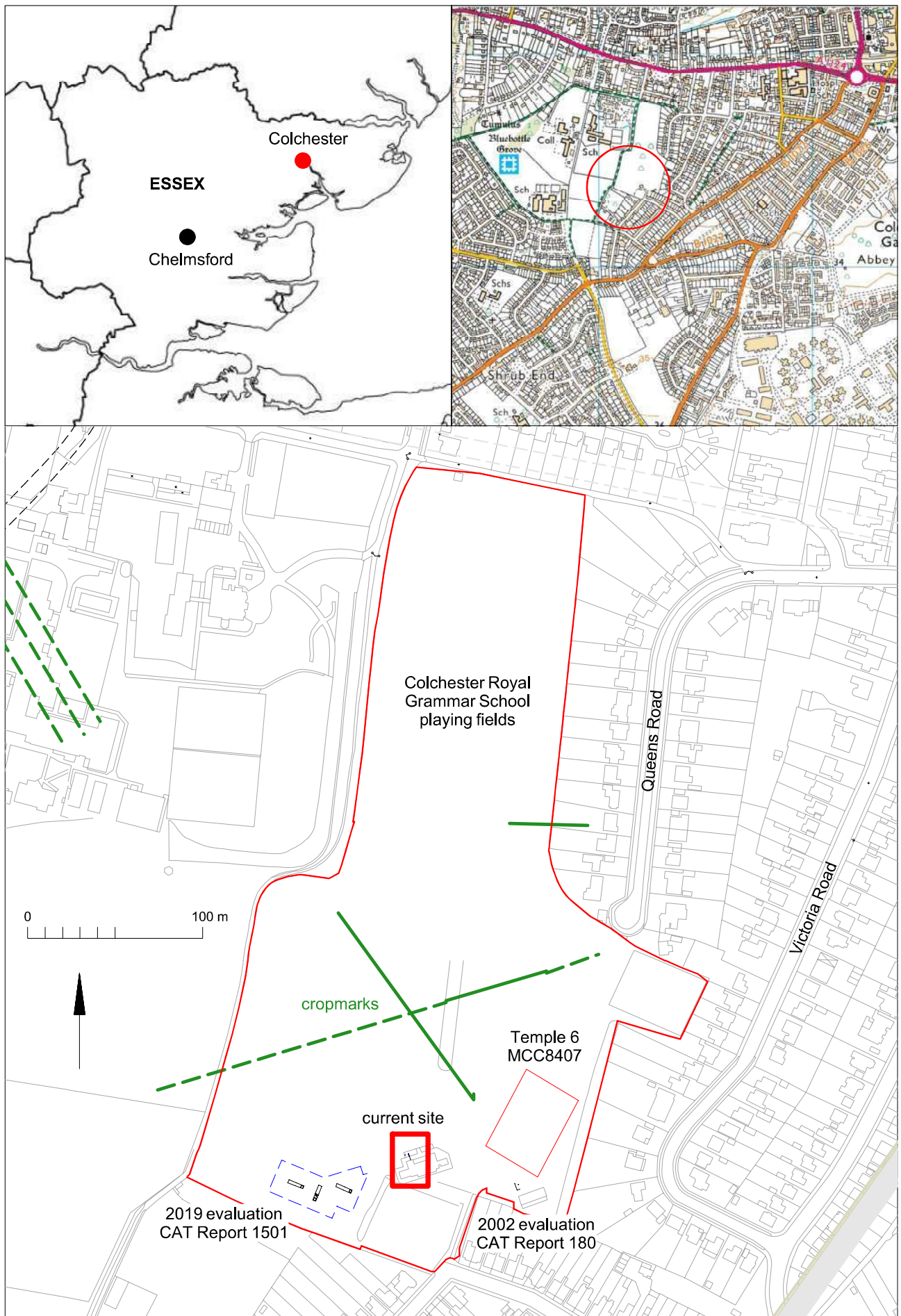
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ECC4862\_Phograph\_070 Post excavati... ECC4862\_Phograph\_071 Post excavati... ECC4862\_Phograph\_072 Bulk section ...







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Fig 1 Site location.





Fig 2 Results.

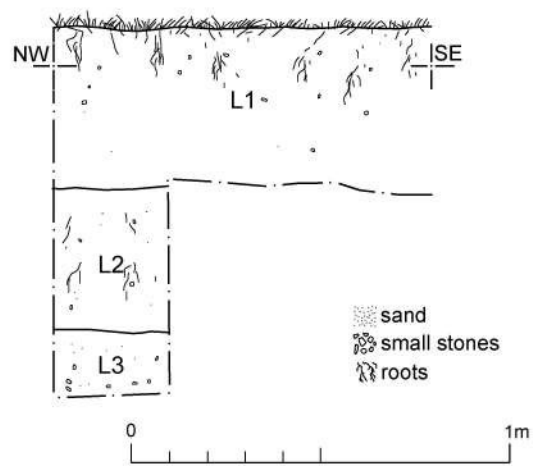


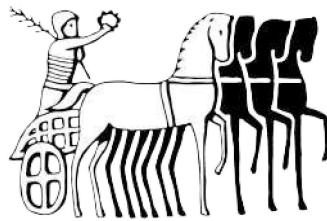
Fig 3 Representative section.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Field, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TN	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 98254 24490 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2024/07b CHER ref.: ECC4862 OASIS ref.: colchest3-527000
<b>Type of work:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 12th February 2025	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.88m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> OASIS	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> MCC7525-9, MCC7647
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 2140	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the installation of an electronic scoreboard. Despite being located in an area of high archaeological potential there were no archaeological remains.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> n/a	
<b>CCC monitor:</b> Dr Richard Hoggett	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Xander Smith	<b>Date of summary:</b> XX/02/2025

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for archaeological monitoring and recording at  
Grammar School Playing Field, Athelstan Road,  
Colchester, CO3 3TN**

**July 2024**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/07b  
CHER code: [tbc](#)**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
archaeological monitoring and recording at  
Grammar School Playing Field, Athelstan Road,  
Colchester, CO3 3TN**

**July 2024**

**NGR: TL 98254 24490 (centre)**

**Planning district.: Colchester  
Planning ref.: 240459**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/07b**

**CHER code: [tbc](#)  
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett  
OASIS id: colchest3-527000**

**WSI prepared by: Chloé Hill  
Figure by: Chris Lister**

**Commissioned by: Juan Martinez (Barker Associates Ltd)  
On behalf of: CRGS**

Prepared by:	Chloé Hill	Senior Post Excavation Assistant
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Director, Business Operations
Issued:	24/07/2024	

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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 1.5km south-west of the centre of the historic core of Colchester at the Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Field, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98254 2449.

## Proposed work

The proposed development comprises the installation of new electronic cricket scoreboards.

## Archaeological and geological background

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

The site is situated within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the south-west of the Roman walled town and just outside of an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing) leading out of Balcerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). A number of Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in CAR 9. Of particular note are the remains of a Roman temple tomb excavated within the main grounds of the Colchester Royal Grammar School by CAT in 2005 (CHER MCC2791, CAT Report 345) and the Altnacealgach estate to the northwest where an amphora burial was recorded to the west of Altnacealgach House (MCC7676).

The site is located within an area of cropmarks recorded through aerial photography (ECC348). The cropmarks of the playing field revealed evidence of the site of a substantial Roman temple complex immediately to the east north-east of the development site (Temple 6, MCC1959/MCC1962 and MCC8407). The temple was partly excavated in 1947 by AF Hall (ECC869). It is located east of the site, in the playing fields of the Colchester Royal Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of war and hunting (Crummy 1997, 107). To the north-east of the development site Hall investigated a 100ft wide oval hollow (ECC1784). Hull notes that it was undated and of unknown purpose, however this may have been a Roman pit for the extraction of sands and gravels.

Archaeological work undertaken by CAT within this area of the Sports Ground have been negative. In 1999 a drainage trench from Athelstan Road to the pavilion and a temporary portacabin 0.2m wide and 0.6m deep was monitored. The layers comprised of 0.4m of topsoil over 0.2m of pale brown clay (CAT Report 1000, 99/3e). A single evaluation trench c 80m to the south-east was excavated in 2002 prior to an extension to the groundworker's building. The trench revealed 0.1m of topsoil sealing 0.5m of yellow/brown sandy soil with frequent stones and peg-tile fragments, onto an orange/brown sandy natural gravel. No features or finds were found (CAT Report 180, ECC2623). Three trial-trenches c 75m north-west was excavated in 2019 in advance of the construction of a new Sports Hall and associated facilities. A single natural linear feature, one sherd of medieval pottery and some modern pottery, clay pipe and slate, were found. (CAT Report 1501, ECC4402).

Approximately 250m south-east of the site is the line of a Roman road running between Gosbecks and the town centre (MCC2529). A Roman ditch or wall trench was uncovered at the southern edge of the playing field 1266 on the Royal Grammar School Playing Fields (MCC2054). The wall trench or ditch contained building material in a straight line of tile and

stone debris. Other find spots include Roman coins (MCC1991) recovered at the Romano-Celtic Temple (MCC1959) recorded in 1947 on the playing field.

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site comprises Thames Group (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of cover sand. Coversands are periglacial aeolian blanket deposits of lowland areas comprising fine- to very fine-grained sand, usually horizontally bedded although they may form subaerial dunes with large-scale cross-bedding.

## Planning background

A planning application (240459) was made to Colchester City Council in March 2024 proposing the installation of new electronic cricket scoreboards.

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 City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

## Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CCCAA (CCC 2024).

*Specifically*, the monitoring is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CCCAA will be informed immediately and the CCCAA 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 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 CCCAA 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 2020, 2022 & 2023a-b).
- 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 2024).
- The archaeological brief (CCCAA 2024)

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

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<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>



Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to the CCCAA 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CCCAA 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.

## **Monitoring and recording methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' groundworks 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), at least 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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be at least 40 litres in size (assuming 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.
- 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 process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or 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 the CCCAA.

The CCCAA 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.

Following Historic England guidance (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 CCCAA 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.



Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT staff under the supervision and direction of Adam Wightman (Director of Archaeology) 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/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)  
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley  
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley  
flint: Adam Wightman  
environmental processing: Bronagh Rae-Quinn  
osteology: (human remains): Megan Beale

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:  
Historic England 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 the ECCHEA.

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 CCCAA 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 the CCCAA as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- 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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- 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 CCCAA.

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 City 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.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museum *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

**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 the CCCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the CCCAA. 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 CCCAA 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 CCCAA for integration into the HER.

### **Monitoring**

The CCCAA 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 the CCCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

The CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

### **Public outreach**

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking,



sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

## Events, activities and social media

In addition, the CAT website ([www.catuk.org](http://www.catuk.org)) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

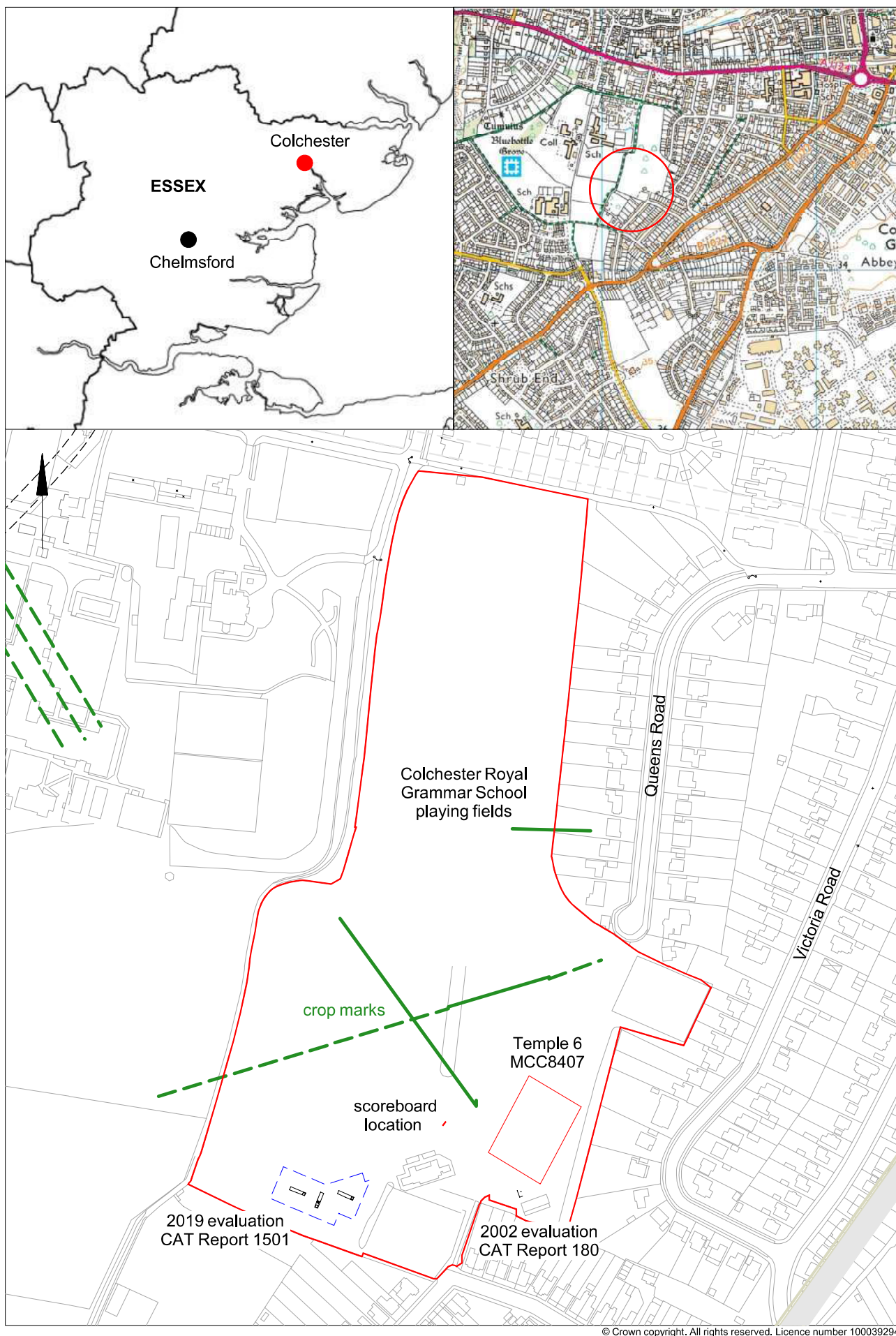
## References

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 ed.	
Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8).
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971- 85,</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2024	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy.</i>
CAT Report 180	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation on Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road), Colchester, Essex</i> by B Holloway
CAT Report 345	2005	<i>Roman Temple-Tomb at Colchester Royal Grammar School, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex</i> by H Brooks
CAT Report 1000	2017	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</i> (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997) by H Brooks
CAT Report 1501	2019	<i>An archaeological evaluation on the Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Fields</i> by P Parmenter
CCCAA	2024	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording at Grammar School Playing Field, Athelstan Road, Colchester CO3 3TN</i> By Dr R Hoggett
CIfA	2020	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2020
CIfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2022
CIfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording</i>
CIfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording</i>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0.</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	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> , by S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> .
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> , by S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCASL, <b>20</b>
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	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.





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Fig 1 Site location.

0 100 m

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-531892

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-531892
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing field, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TN: February 2025 School Playing Field
Sitename	Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Field
Sitecode	2024/07b
Project Identifier(s)	AMR, Sterile
Activity type	Archaeological Intervention
Planning Id	240459
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	12-Feb-2025 - 12-Feb-2025
Location	Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Field NGR : TL 98254 24490 LL : 51.88370998644965, 0.879211137433456 12 Fig : 598254,224490
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' groundworks 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), at least 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 proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.



Project Results	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at the Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the installation of an electronic scoreboard. Despite being located in an area of high archaeological potential there were no archaeological remains.
Keywords	
Funder	Educational institution Colchester Royal Grammer School
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Report generated on: 26 Feb 2025, 14:24