

**Essex Historic Environment Record/  
Essex Archaeology and History**

**CAT Report 610**

<b>Site address:</b> Town Wall House, 4 Balcerne Hill, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9925 2502	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project - 11/7b Museum accession - COLEM 2011.50
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT)
<b>Date of work:</b> June/July 2011	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 10.5m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Contractor
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER and UAD nos:</b> Essex SAM no 7 (town wall); UAD nos ELM 1247, MON 759 and EVT 3071 cited in CBC brief (CBC 2010)
<b>Final report:</b>	CAT Report 610 (summary sheet and Fig 1)
<b>Periods represented:</b>	post-medieval/modern
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by CAT in June/July 2011 during the replacement of a stretch of water-main on land to the south of Town Wall House, 4 Balcerne Hill, Colchester, Essex. This work followed on from an attempt to repair the water-main in August 2010, which was also monitored by CAT (CAT Report 571). The site is located at the south-western corner of the Roman and medieval walled town close to a surviving stretch of the Roman town wall, which is a scheduled ancient monument.</i></p> <p><i>A CAT employee made four monitoring visits during the excavation of the 22m-long trench. The southern end of the trench was excavated through tarmac, hoggin and dark greyish-brown sandy silt to a depth of 0.65m below modern ground-level. The sandy silt contained modern brick and tarmac fragments and continued below the base of the trench. The trench was increased in depth to approximately 1m below modern ground-level where it crossed the pavement, access road to the car-park and the car-park itself. Layers associated with the modern hardstanding directly overlay natural orange sand at a depth of 0.7m below modern ground-level.</i></p> <p><i>The trench was cut through modern hardstanding and underlying natural sand or the backfill from other modern service-trenches. It was dug across the line of the Roman town wall. However, it was evident that the present ground surface is below the level of the base of the town wall foundation, indicating that the area has been heavily reduced in level at some time.</i></p>	

*No significant archaeological remains were observed and no archaeological finds were recovered.*

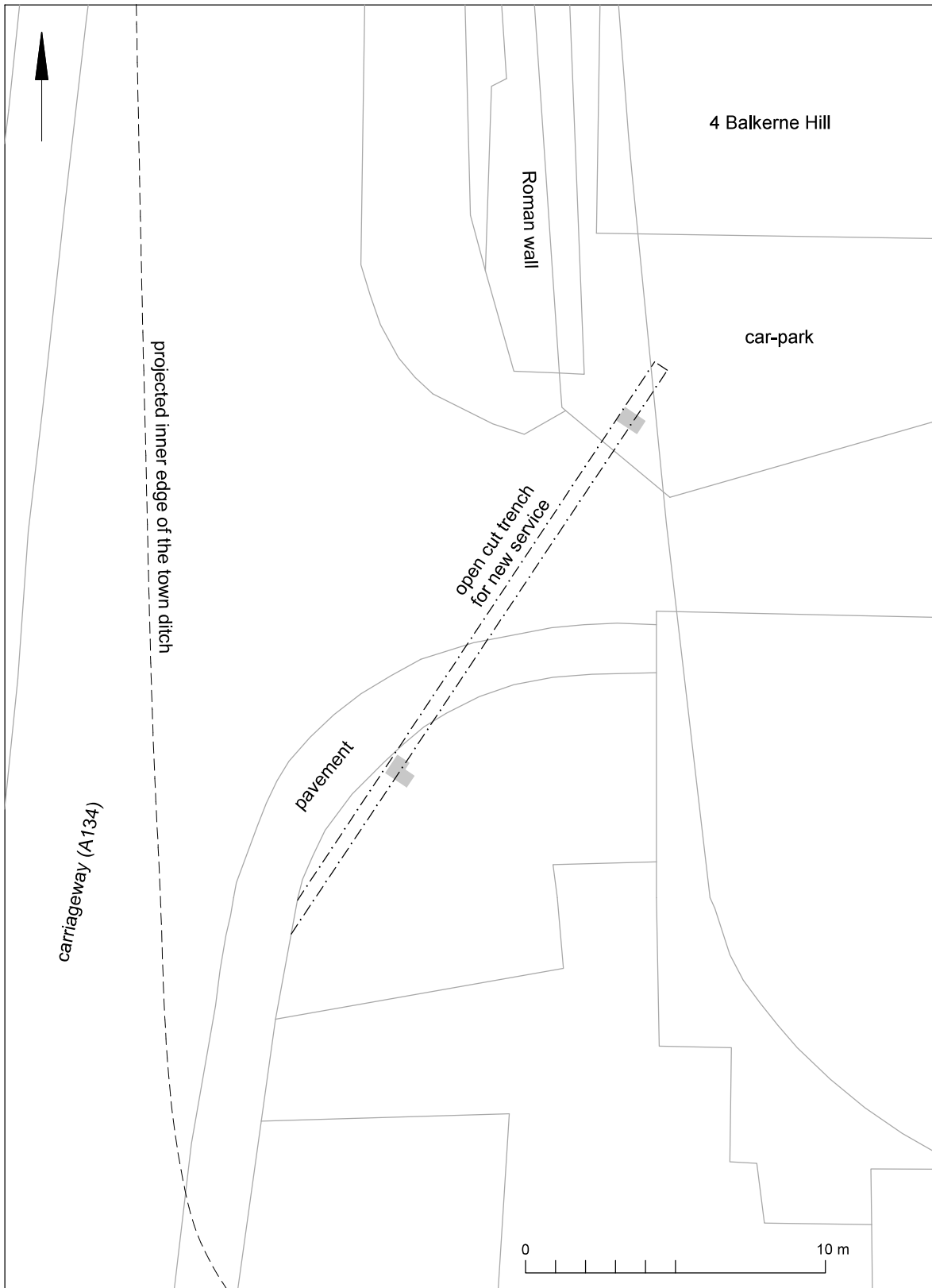
**Previous summaries/reports:** CAT Report 571 (summary sheet and Fig 1)

**Keywords:** town wall, Balcerne Hill

**Significance:** neg

**Author of summary:**  
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**Date of summary:**  
August 2011



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Fig 1 Site plan, showing the location of the service trench (the excavations monitored in 2010 are toned grey).



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Photographic log for Balcerne Hill, Town Wall House WB

Filename	Description
COLEM2011.50_Photoqraph_01.JPG	New pipe trench under excavation, facing north-east
COLEM2011.50_Photoqraph_02.JPG	Trench shot, facing north-east
COLEM2011.50_Photoqraph_03.JPG	Trench shot, facing south-west
COLEM2011.50_Photoqraph_04.JPG	Trench crossing pavement, facing north-east
COLEM2011.50_Photoqraph_05.JPG	Trench crossing pavement, facing south-west
COLEM2011.50_Photoqraph_06.JPG	Site shot, facing south-west
COLEM2011.50_Photoqraph_07.JPG	Trench crossing road, facing north-east
COLEM2011.50_Photoqraph_08.JPG	Trench crossing road, facing north-east