

**Archaeological evaluation at
Sheepen Road car park, Sheepen Road,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 3GT**

March 2016



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**commissioned by Kevin Whyte
on behalf of Colchester Borough Council**

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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Results	2
5	Finds	4
6	Environmental assessment	7
7	Discussion	9
8	Acknowledgements	9
9	References	10
10	Abbreviations and glossary	10
11	Contents of archive	11
12	Archive deposition	11

Figures

after p11

Appendix 1 CAT WSI

Appendix 2 OASIS Summary

List of photographs, figures and tables

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1	Trench, looking N	2
Photograph 2	Trench section, looking W	2
Photograph 3	T1, looking E	3
Photograph 4	T2, looking NE	3
Table 1	Layer descriptions for all fieldwork	3
Table 2	All finds from L5, finds number 1	4
Table 3	Pottery fabrics	4
Table 4	Finds by context	5
Table 5	Plant macrofossils and other remains	8
Fig 1	Site location	
Fig 2	Representative trench sections from 1.3.2016	
Fig 3	Representative trench sections from 16.3.2016	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new office building with associated access, parking and landscaping at the old Sheepen Road car park, Colchester. The development site lies beyond the NW corner of the Roman town wall and to the east of the Roman trading depot and quayside at Sheepen. At the north end of the site modern layers were identified to a depth of 2.60m below current ground level and at the south end to 3.27m bcgl. They possibly sealed a Roman accumulation layer (L6b) but the trench was too deep to enable this to be fully investigated. The modern layers appear to be associated with the modern car park (L1-L4) and late Victorian/early Edwardian rubbish dumping (L5-L6a).

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at the Sheepen Road car park, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out on the 1st and 16th March 2016. The work was commissioned by Kevin Whyte for Colchester Borough Council (CBC), in advance of the construction of a new office building with access and parking, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA), Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trench and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by CBCAA (CBC 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCAA (CAT 2016).

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

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The development site lies beyond the NW corner of the Roman town wall and to the east of the Scheduled Monument at Sheepen (Scheduled Monument no. 1002173). Sheepen was one of two principal centres of *Camulodunum* (a nationally important late Iron Age and Roman fortress) and consisted of a trading depot and quayside. Immediately to the south of the site, the remains of a Roman bathhouse were also identified during the construction of a reservoir in the early 19th century (EHER 12353).

There have been three pieces of formal archaeological work on or near to this development site. The first was a 1996 evaluation on the site (CAT 1996) (EHER 17065). Three test-pits showed modern material to a depth of 1.4 to 2m below modern ground level.

In 1999, a watching brief and excavation 120m south of the development site (ASCL 1999) recorded four phases of archaeological activity dating from the Late Iron Age to the mid-2nd century. The main finding was a rectangular timber structure.

Three further test-pits on the development site in 2014 (CAT Report 808) showed that below modern ground level there was between 2.0 and 2.5m of recent 'made ground' here (ie, no earlier than 19th century). No archaeological horizons were identified.

Boreholes and penetration testing carried out on the site by Delta-Simons (May 2015) confirmed had made ground was encountered from the surface to between 1.6 and 2.3m below ground level across the whole site.

4 Results (Figs 1-2)

All groundworks were carried out by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. CAT staff did not enter any of the trenches after the maximum safe working depth of 1.2m below current ground level (bcgl) had been exceeded. All records and measurements below this depth were taken by looking into the trench from ground level.

4.1 Results of fieldwork dated 1.3.2016

A single trial-trench was excavated across the footprint of the proposed new office building. It measured 25m long by 1.8m wide, and was dug to a maximum depth of 1m bcgl. A small sondage was dug at the western end of the trench to a depth of 1.4m bcgl.

Five layers were identified. Modern tarmac with a concrete sub-base (L1) and associated hoggin (L2) sealed two layers of modern made ground consisting of a horizon of silty clay (L3) overlaying a deposit of sand (L4). Beneath L4, and recorded to the bottom of the trench, was another layer of modern made ground (L5). See **Table 1** below for a full description of all the layers.



Photograph 1 Trench, looking N



Photograph 2 Trench section, looking W

4.2 Results of fieldwork dated 16.3.2016

Two trenches (T1-T2), measuring 4m by 4m, were excavated at each end of the evaluation trench dug on 1.3.2016 (see above). Both trenches were excavated to a depth of 2m bcgl before being stepped in. The stepped trenches measured 2m by 2m, and were excavated down for a further 1-1.4m.

Trench T1 (south end) was excavated to a total depth of 3.40m bcgl. Natural was not identified at this depth but the mechanical excavator could not reach any further and the bottom of the trench began to flood, so excavations ceased. Trench T2 (north end) was excavated to a depth of 3m bcgl, natural was identified at a depth of 2.88m bcgl.



Photograph 3 T1, looking E



Photograph 4 T2, looking NE

Seven layers were identified within the trenches. Modern tarmac with a concrete sub-base (L1) and associated hoggin (L2) sealed four layers of modern made ground (L3, L4, L5 and L6a). Beneath this was a possible layer of Roman accumulation (L6b). Natural (L7) was identified in T2 only. See **Table 1** below for a full description of all the layers.

4.3 Description of layers

Layer	Description	Thickness (mm)	Date
L1	Tarmac with a concrete sub-base.	250-300mm	Modern, 20th century
L2	Hoggin associated with L1.	110-180mm	Modern, 20th century
L3	Made-ground of firm, moist, dark bluish-grey silt, with brick and concrete inclusions.	60-270mm	Modern, 20th century
L4	Make-up horizon of firm, moist, medium green/brown sand, probably sand levelling before construction of car park.	140-240mm	Modern, 20th century
L5	L5a) Made-ground of firm, moist, dark grey/black sandy-clay, contained many fragments of brick, concrete and kerbstones.	1020-	Modern, late 19th – early

	L5b) Made-ground of firm, very moist, dark brown sandy-clay, containing occasional modern brick and peg-tile, with modern flower pot and china identified at a depth of 1.9m bcgl.	1140mm	20th century
L6	L6a) Accumulation deposit of soft, moist to wet, dark brown silty-clay with common stones. Lots of organic, shell, charcoal, oyster, brick and tile inclusions. Contains large quantities of 19th – 20th century material.	820-1340mm	Modern, late 19th – early 20th century, in upper levels.
	L6b) Accumulation deposit of soft, moist to wet, brownish-grey silty-clay with infrequent inclusions of pottery, shell, charcoal and organic matter. The lower part of L6 appears to have contained predominantly Roman material.	300mm	Possibly Roman at lower levels.
L7	Natural sand. Observed in T2 at a depth of 2.88m bcgl.		

Table 1 Layer descriptions for all fieldwork

5 Finds

5.1 Finds from fieldwork dated 1.3.2016

The only finds retained and recorded from this phase of fieldwork were from L5 (finds number 1) and are listed in Table 2.

Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
Peg-tile (11-12mm thick, one piece has two square peg-holes, measuring 11mmx11mm, one mortar on its edges)	2	269g
Frogged brick (19-20th century)	1	698g
Roman brick (corner fragment, 30mm thick, traces of mortar on surfaces and broken edges showing possible reuse)	1	688g
Modern bottle glass (green)	2	21g
Oyster shell	1	15g
Slate	1	3g
<i>Modern finds observed but not retained included concrete, steel re-bar, timber and plastic</i>		

Table 2 All finds from L5, finds number 1

5.2 Finds from fieldwork dated 16.3.2016

by Stephen Benfield

The evaluation produced finds (principally pottery, glass, ceramic building material (CBM) & animal bone) of Roman, medieval-post-medieval/modern and modern date. There is one individually numbered small find (SF) of post-medieval or modern date. All of the finds are listed and described by context in Table 4. The Roman pottery was recorded with reference to the Colchester Roman fabric type series (**CAR 10**) and the modern pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester (Essex) post-Roman fabric series (**CAR 7**). The fabric types recorded are listed in Table 3. Roman pottery forms refer to the Colchester (*Camulodunum*) type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947 & Hull 1958).

Fabric	Fabric description
<i>Roman:</i>	
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian
BSW	Black surface wares
CL	'Rhenish-type' fine wares (Trier fabric)
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares
GA	BB1: Black-burnished ware, category 1
GB	BB2: Black-burnished ware, category 2

Fabric	Fabric description
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
<i>Post-Roman:</i>	
45M	Modern stonewares
47	Staffordshire-type white stonewares
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares
48E	Yellow ware
51B	Modern flower pot

Table 3 Pottery fabrics

Two of the finds bags from two contexts (T1 L6 (3) & T2 L5 (2)) are entirely dominated by modern finds. They include several complete pots and bottles, one or two of which can be closely dated to after the mid 19th century. One pot (T1 L6 (3)) has a date stamp establishing production to after 1881. A complete bone domino with a wooden back (SF1) broadly dating to the period of the 18th-early 20th century was also recovered from L6 (12) in T2. These finds suggest late Victorian or Edwardian period dumping on this area. Similar dumping dated to the Late Victorian period is also known from Westway/Sheepen Place, located a short distance to the northeast (CAT Report 10, 8).

The remaining finds bags from contexts in both trenches (L6(a) & L6(b)) contain significant quantities of Roman pottery with limited quantities of finds of medieval-post-medieval/modern and modern date, while in one instance (T2 L6(a) (10)) the only closely dated finds are Roman. The post-Roman material from these contexts is of small-medium size. It includes sherds from modern flower pots, a piece of modern glass, pieces of coal and of peg-tile. The coal and peg-tiles, while not closely dated could be of modern or relatively modern date, although the peg-tile pieces could date as early as the medieval period, probably after the 13th century. The date range of the more closely dated of the Roman pottery recovered spans the 1st-3rd century. The small numbers of post-Roman finds in some of the contexts (L6(a) & L6(b)) could indicate contamination of Roman levels with later material; although much of the Roman pottery is quite broken-up suggesting it may have been of some age when it entered these contexts.

Context	Find no.	Form/ description	spot date
T1, L6	3	<p>Eight complete pots and a lid, three complete glass vessels: <i>Modern pottery</i> English brown stone ware (Fabric 45M). Small ink? pot, bottle with pouring lip. Ginger beer bottle - GLOBE WORKS (on shoulder) H.W.STEVENS (body below shoulder) above globe with flag symbol EST 1881 (on flag) GLOBE WORKS surrounding globe COLCHESTER (below just above base). Round bottle with flaring neck, orange-brown surface DALTON / LAMBETH in small stamp just above base (date of mark probably mid 19C+).</p> <p>Three white paste pots Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D) / Staffordshire-type white stoneware (Fabric 47) all with groove below lip, one with fluted body (height 50-60mm, internal dia. 45-50mm).</p> <p>Lid from a feeding bottle Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D), gold lettering circling small central aperture/breather hole - THE ALEXANDRA*FEEDING BOTTLE* (outer ring of lettering) S.MAW SON & THOMPSON LONDON. (inner ring)</p> <p><i>Modern glass</i> Complete Cod bottle, blue-green glass G.W. MALL(IN)SON & CO Upper body) COLCHESTER / & / HALESWORTH (above base) J W D B on underside of base. Complete cylindrical bottle, blue-green glass, seamed, raised lettering GOODALL</p>	Modern (late 19th – early 20th century)

Context	Find no.	Form/ description	spot date
		BACKHOUSE & CO (up body) REGISTERED TRADE MARK (around base edge). Complete jar, pale blue-green glass. upper part with seam around jar and seam either side of neck, raised letters around neck STEPHENS GLOUCESTER	
T1, L6	4	<i>Material recovered processing bulk sample</i> Fabric CL 1 (1g) 3C; Fabric CZ 3 (2g) E2-3C; Fabric EA 1 (2g) 3-4C; Fabric GB 1 (3g) 2-4C; Fabric GX 10 (30g). <i>Pottery modern</i> Medium size sherd from a modern flower pot base (Fabric 51B) (19-E20C). <i>CBM</i> Roman - Six small-medium pieces all Roman or probably so (RBT). Post-Roman - 1 small-medium piece of peg-tile (PT) (12/13C-postmedieval). <i>Modern Glass</i> One piece clear glass (18/19-20C) <i>Animal bone</i> Small quantity of medium-large mammal bone, includes pig tooth. <i>Other finds</i> Coal 2 (med/p-med-mod); Slag 1; Nail (Fe) 1; Wood, small water-logged(?) preserved piece	Roman 3rd C (?) with intrusive modern or modern (19th – early 20th century)
T1, L6(a)	5	<i>Pottery Roman</i> Fabric GX 1 (2g) <i>Other</i> Animal bone 1 piece from a large mammal long bone. Coal 1 (med/p-med-modern)	Roman or probably modern
T1, L6(b)	6	<i>Pottery Roman</i> Fabric GX 1 (13g) sherd from a lid-seated jar/bowl; Fabric EA 1 (8g) beaker (3-4C); Fabric DJ 1 (3g) abraded (Rom) <i>CBM</i> Roman - piece from a Roman brick (RB). Post-Roman - small piece of peg-tile (12/13C-postmedieval) (note this appears to be peg-tile rather than thin Rom tile) <i>Other finds</i> Animal bone 1 section (sliver) from a large mammal long bone. Fired clay 1 (abraded)	Roman (?) 3rd – 4th century, with (?) intrusive medieval/post-medieval
T2, L5	2	<i>Pottery modern</i> Four complete pots with sherds from six others, complete glass bottle: Complete English cream stoneware jar (Fabric 45M), on body close to base WESTON & WESTALLS / SUPERIOR / BRITISH TABLE SALT / LONDON (height 130mm, internal dia 90mm). Two complete paste pots, Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D) groove below lip, one with remains of cork/wood lid (height 50mm & 55 mm, internal dia. 35mm & 40 mm). Other sherds from two plates and a bowl Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D) / Staffordshire-type white stoneware (Fabric 47) one with sun face peering over a line of braid/cable and a banner below (legend lettering not clear) in centre of plate upper surface, on back mark in blue REAL IRONSTONE CHINA on belt surrounding coat of arms-type mark with central oval shield (used by G. L. Ashworth & Sons and dating to after 1862) HANLEY (below); another plate transfer print with butterflies. Bowl in yellow ware (Fabric 48E) and sherd from a modern flower pot (Fabric 51B). <i>Glass modern</i> Complete rectangular bottle in pale blue glass (possibly a drug, medicine bottle), angled corners, raised lettering down body on one face W.E.EVERETT / COLCHESTER (height 135mm, width 48mm x 30mm).	Modern (late 19th – early 20th century)

Context	Find no.	Form/ description	spot date
T2, L6	11	<i>Pottery modern</i> Three sherds from a modern flower pot (Fabric 51B).	Modern (19th – early 20th century)
T2, L6	12	SF 1 Complete bone domino in two pieces, base in black stained(?) wood (secured by a small metal rivet at each end of domino) detached from thinner (1mm-1.5mm) upper bone plate which is in light coloured unstained bone, numbers represented by neatly drilled countersunk (dished) holes - represent 2 / 1 - divided by vertical straight groove across face (length. 38mm, width. 18 mm, total thickness 4mm-4.5mm) (see <i>CAR 5</i> , fig 51 2017)	Post-medieval – modern (late 18th – 19th/20th century)
T2, L6(a)	8	<i>Pottery Roman</i> Fabric BASG 1 (5g) Dr 27 cup (M-L1C); Fabric GA 1 (11g) sherds from a Cam 279B jar (M2-M3C); Fabric GB 1 (18) lattice decorated sherd from a bowl (E2-3C); Fabric GX 1 (4g). <i>CBM</i> Roman - piece of Roman brick/tile (RBT). Post-Roman - small piece of peg-tile (PT) (12/13C-postmedieval) (note this appears to be peg-tile rather than thin Roman tile) <i>Other finds</i> Animal bone 1 sliver from a medium-large mammal bone; Shell, piece from a scallop shell	Roman (?) 2nd – 3rd century with (?) intrusive medieval/post-medieval
T2, L6(a)	10	<i>Material recovered processing bulk sample</i> <i>Pottery Roman</i> Fabric GX 8 (45g) inc Cam 108 (M-L1/EC); BSW(?) 1 (8g). <i>CBM Roman</i> Two pieces brick/tile (RBT) <i>Other finds</i> Animal bone, 3 small pieces (medium-large mammal)	Roman

Table 4 Finds by context

6 Environmental assessment

The depths of evaluation trenches T1-T2 meant that environmental samples could not be taken by hand. Instead, samples were taken using the bucket of the mechanical excavator. A column sample and environmental sample was taken from L6a and L6b in T1. Unfortunately both suffered considerable modern contamination during the recovery process and were discarded. A column sample and environmental sample was also taken from L6a and L6b in T2. These did not appear to have suffered from the same severe contamination and were sent to Val Fryer for analysis (see 6.1).

6.1 An evaluation of the plant macrofossils and other remains

by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Exploratory work at the Sheepen Road Car Park, undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT), recorded a deep deposit of highly organic clay-silt within an area which, historically, was known to have been very wet and marshy. A single sample for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from a large block of sediment (containing artefacts of possible Roman date), which was lifted to the surface using a digger bucket. However, it should be stressed that conditions for sampling were far from ideal, as the sediment block was exposed for some time prior to a column sample being taken.

A 3 litre sub-sample of the deposit was bulk floated by CAT, with the flot being collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. Although waterlogged/de-watered plant remains were noted, the flot was air dried prior to sorting to facilitate transportation. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant

macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 5. With very rare exceptions, all plant remains were preserved in a waterlogged/de-watered state.

Results

Although it was hoped to recover material suitable for C14 dating, only one charred barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain and a single spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume base are recorded along with a very low density of small charcoal/charred wood fragments. Because of the manner of excavation, and as the sediment block was exposed for some while prior to sampling, it is thought that the potential of this material to provide a pertinent or accurate date is extremely low. However, the remains have been placed within an individual glass vial should they be required.

The waterlogged/de-watered assemblage is largely composed of root/stem fragments, although a number of seeds of dry land herbs and wetland/aquatic plants are also recorded. Taxa noted most frequently include fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis* sp.), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), chickweed (*Stellaria media*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), sedge (*Carex* sp.), rush (*Juncus* sp.), gipsy-wort (*Lycopus europaeus*) and celery-leaved crowfoot (*Ranunculus sceleratus*). Tree/shrub macrofossils include fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell, bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) 'pips' and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds. Other plant macrofossils occur very infrequently, and other remains are also scarce but do include occasional water flea eggs (Cladoceran ehippia) and waterlogged arthropod remains.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the composition of the waterlogged/de-watered assemblage would appear to indicate that the sampled sediment formed within an area of rough, marshy and somewhat overgrown marginal grassland. The abundance of stinging nettle seeds may indicate that the land was intermittently used for pasture, whilst the presence of seeds of annual weeds (including fat hen) may suggest that land within the near vicinity was disturbed, possibly for agricultural purposes.

On the basis of this evaluation, it is difficult to make recommendations for a future sampling strategy should further interventions be undertaken. It is clear that well-preserved plant material is present within the archaeological horizon, but without secure corroborative dating evidence, any data recovered would be of very little use. In addition, the sampling of such deep deposits could prove extremely difficult and dangerous without the use of shuttering. The surface recovery of material (as was undertaken in this instance) is not recommended because of the high risk of contamination. As stated above, it was hoped that materials suitable for C14 dating would be present within the sediment, but it is the opinion of the author that this is not the case.

Although the current assemblage does contain a sufficient range and density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), further analysis would probably add little to the data already contained within this assessment and, therefore, no further work is recommended.

Sample No.	1		
Finds No.	10		
Context No.	L6a, T2		
Cereals		Wetland/aquatic plants	
Hordeum sp. (grain)	xc	<i>Carex</i> sp.	x
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. (glume base)	xc	<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	x
Dry land herbs			
<i>Carduus</i> sp.	x	<i>Juncus</i> sp.	x
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	x	<i>Lepidium</i> sp.	xcf
		<i>Lycopus europaeus</i> L.	x

<i>C. polyspermum</i> L.	xcf		<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i> L.	x
Chenopodiaceae indet.	xx		<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i> L.	xxx
<i>Cirsium</i> sp.	xcf		Tree/shrub macrofossils	
<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	x		<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	x
<i>Galeopsis</i> sp.	xx		<i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> Wimmer & Grab	
<i>Glebionis segetum</i> (L.)Fourr	xcf		<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	x
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.	x		Other plant macrofossils	
<i>Malva</i> sp.	x		Charcoal <2mm	xx
<i>Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia</i>	x		Charcoal >2mm	x
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	xx		Charcoal >5mm	x
<i>R. acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	xx		Waterlogged root/stem	xxxx
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x		Indet. seeds	x
<i>Solanum</i> sp.	x		Indet. twig frags.	x
<i>Sonchus asper</i> (L.)Hill	x		Other remains	
<i>S. oleraceus</i> L.	x		Black tarry material	x
<i>Stellaria graminea</i> L.	x		Burnt stone	x
<i>S. media</i> (L.)Vill	x		Cledoceran ehippia	x
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	xxx		Vivianite concretions	x
			Waterlogged arthropod remains	x
Sample volume (litres)			3	
Volume of flot (litres)			0.1	
% flot sorted			100%	

Table 5 Plant macrofossils and other remains

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens
 xxxx = 100+ specimens c = charred cf = compare

7 Discussion

At the north end of the site modern layers (L1-L6a) were identified to a depth of 2.60m below current ground level and at the south end to 3.27m bcgl. They possibly sealed a Roman accumulation layer (L6b) but the trench was too deep to enable this to be fully investigated.

Layers L1-L4 appear to be associated with the construction of the modern car park. Layers L5-L6 suggest that the site had been used as a rubbish dump in the Late Victorian or Edwardian period. Similar dumping was also identified in a 1997 evaluation at Westway/Sheepen Place located immediately to the north-east (CAT Report 10). It is thought that the riverside area had been used as a rubbish dump in the later 19th and 20th centuries, and this activity appears to have continued onto the current development site.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Kevin Whyte on behalf of Colchester Borough Council (CBC) for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed C Lister and fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, N Rayner, A Wade and A Wightman. Figures by Mark Baister and Emma Holloway. The project was monitored for CBC by Jess Tipper.

9 References

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

ASCL	1999	<i>An archaeological watching brief on the former sports field, Colchester Institute, Sheepen Lane, Colchester, Essex.</i> Ref ASAC/B/CIC99.1
CBC	2016	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Sheepen Road Carpark, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3GT,</i> by J Tipper
CAR 5	1988	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 5: Post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by N Crummy
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by J Cotter
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86,</i> by R Symonds and S Wade
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	1996	<i>Archaeological evaluation at the Colchester Institute playing field and tennis courts, and at the Colchester Borough Council Car Parks, Sheepen Road, Colchester</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Phase 1, Sheepen Road Car Park, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3GT</i>
CAT Report 10	1997	<i>Westway/Sheepen Place, Colchester, Archaeological Report: November 1997</i>
CAT Report 808	2015	<i>An archaeological evaluation by test-pits in the Sheepen Road car park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
Delta-Simons	2015	<i>Geoenvironmental Report, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Delta-Simons Project Number 14-0729.01</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
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)
Hawkes, C & Hull, M	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39,</i> RRCSAL 14
Hull, M	1958	<i>Roman Colchester,</i> RRCSAL 20
Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles.</i> 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press

10 Abbreviations and glossary

bcgl	below current ground level
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHHER	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 of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800

residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 922)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museum under accession code: 2016.10.

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Distribution list

Kevin Whyte
Jess Tipper, CBC
EHER



Colchester Archaeological Trust

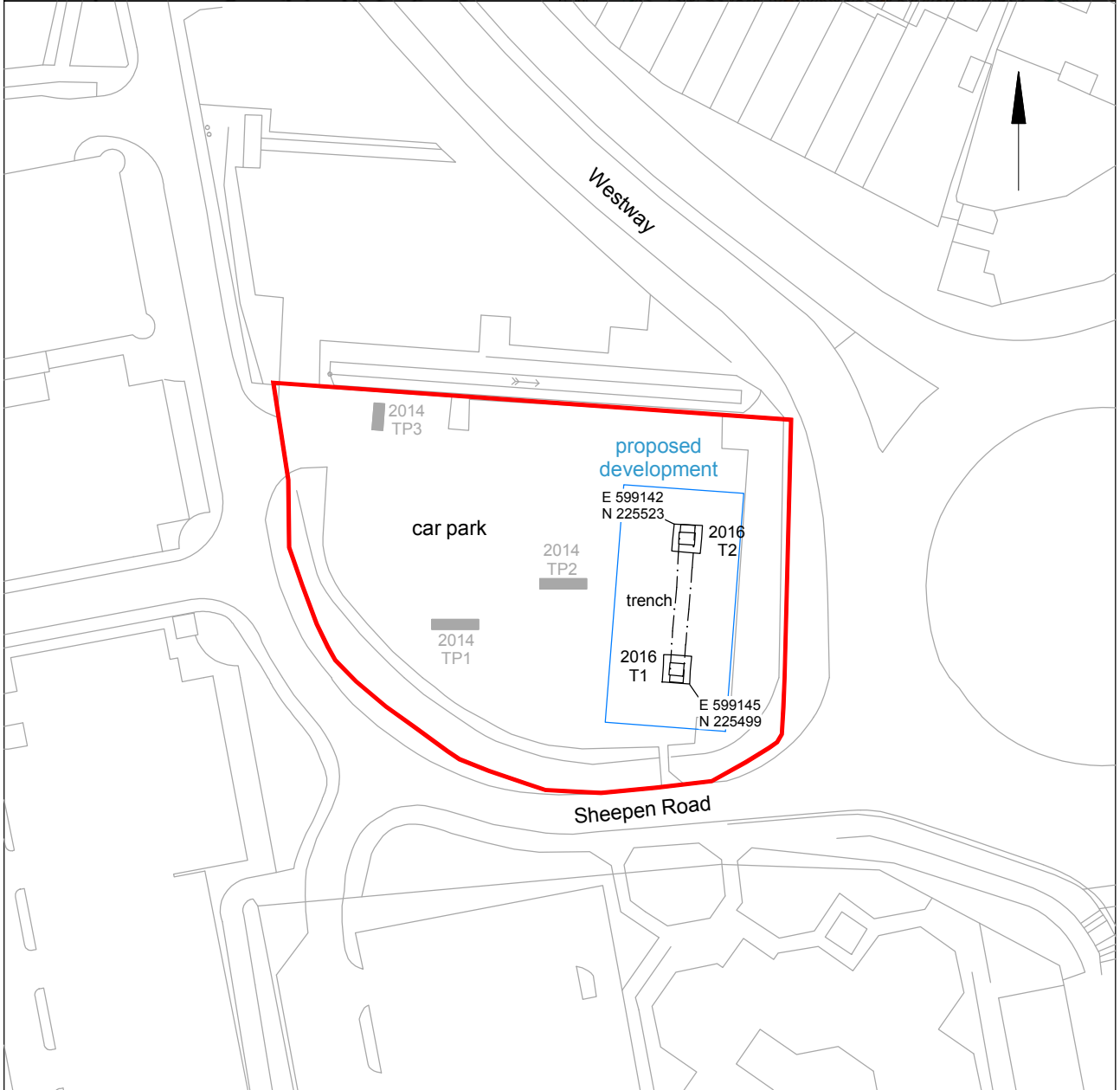
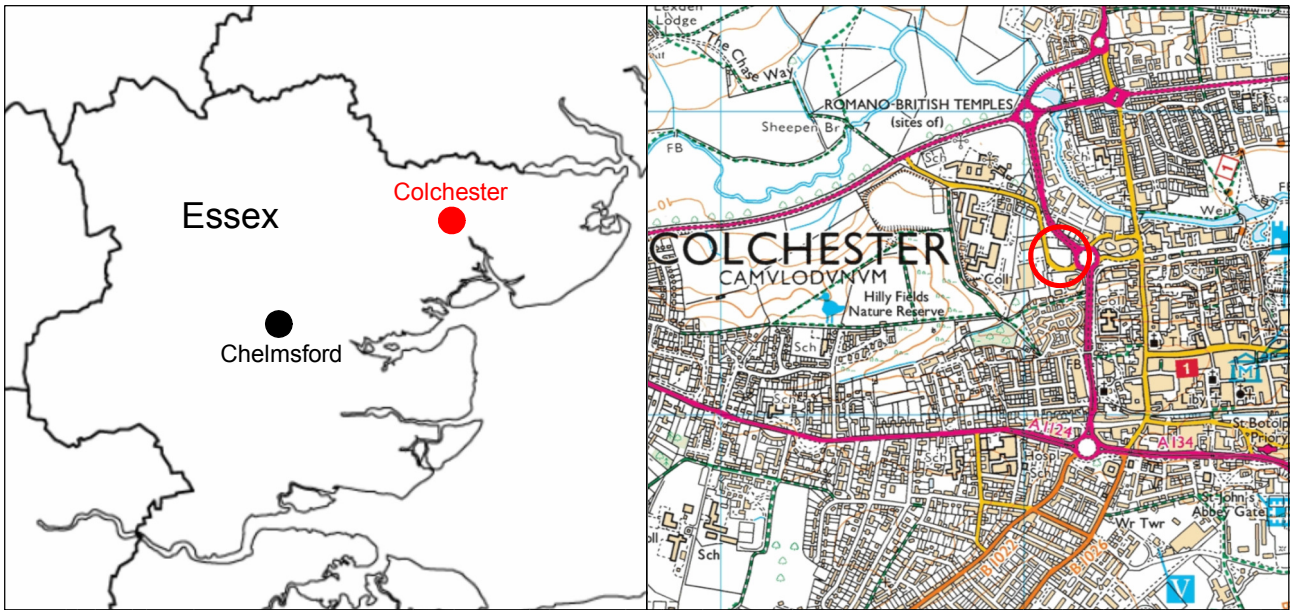
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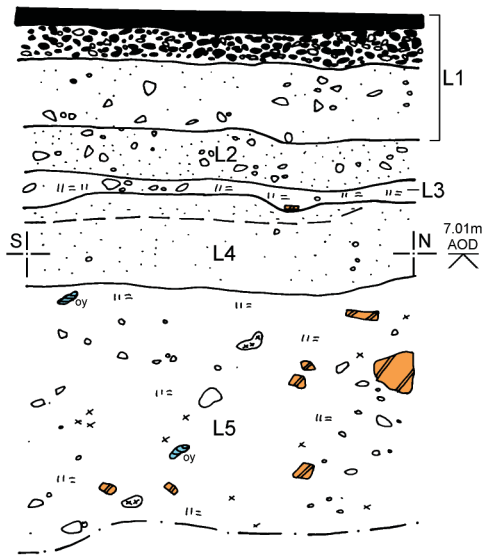


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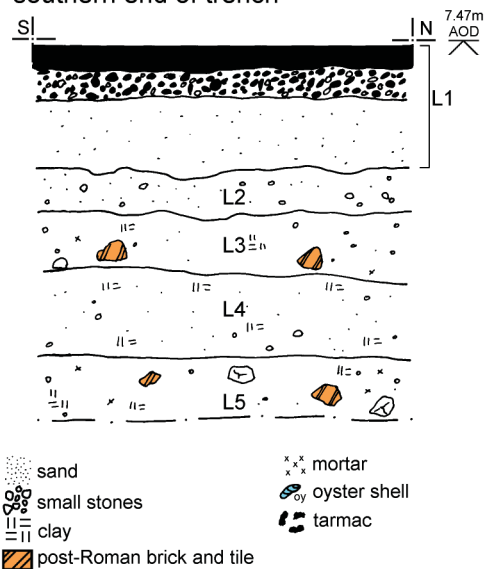
Fig 1 Site location, showing evaluation results and previous test pits.



northern end of trench



southern end of trench



- sand
- small stones
- || clay
- ▭ post-Roman brick and tile
- ××× mortar
- oy oyster shell
- tarmac



Fig 2 Representative trench sections from fieldwork dated 01.03.2016.

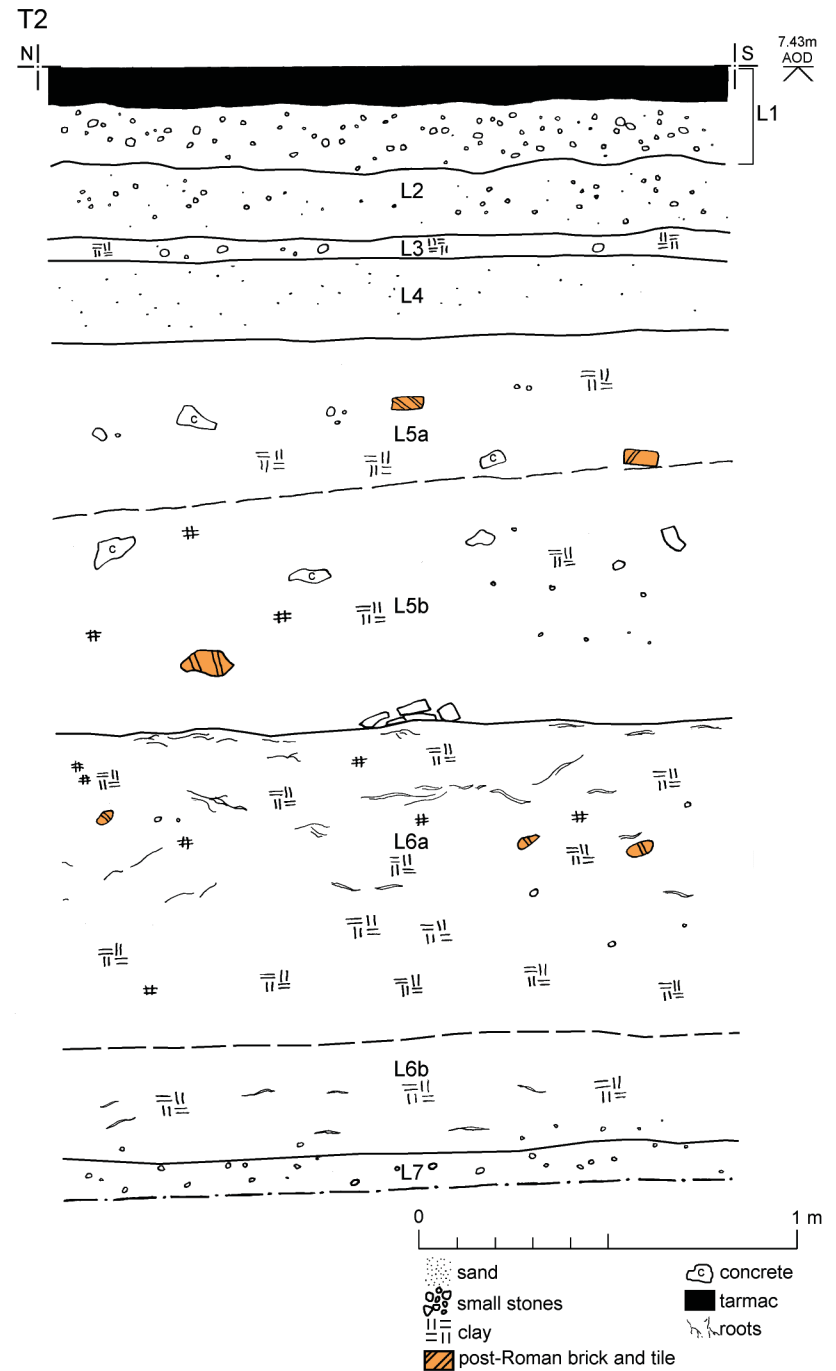


Fig 3 Representative trench sections from fieldwork dated 16.03.2016.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Sheepen Road car park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, C03 3GT	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9914 2551 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/01g UAD event: ECC3657 OASIS ref: colchest3-238837
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 1st March 2016	Size of area investigated: 1 trench - 25m by 1.8m (45m ²) 2 trenches – 4m by 4m, stepped in to 2m by 2m (16m ²)
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code: 2016.10	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 12353, 17065
Final report: CAT Report 922	
Periods represented: Modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new office building with associated access, parking and landscaping at the old Sheepen Road car park, Colchester. The development site lies beyond the NW corner of the Roman town wall and to the east of the Roman trading depot and quayside at Sheepen. At the north end of the site modern layers were identified to a depth of 2.60m below current ground level and at the south end to 3.27m bcgl. They possibly sealed a Roman accumulation layer (L6b) but the trench was too deep to enable this to be fully investigated. The modern layers appear to be associated with the modern car park (L1-L4) and late Victorian/early Edwardian rubbish dumping (L5-L6a).</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 808	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: May 2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for an archaeological evaluation at
Phase 1, Sheepen Road Car Park, Colchester,
Essex, CO3 3GT

NGR: TL 9914 2551 (centre)

Planning reference: 151825

Client: Colchester Borough Council

Agent: Kevin Whyte

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2016.10

UAD Event number: ECC3657

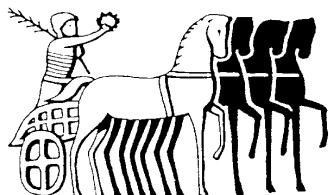
CAT Project code: 16/01g

OASIS Project id: colchest3-238837

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 15.01.2015



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
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Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies just beyond the northwest corner of the Roman town wall between the junctions of Westway and Sheepen Road. The site is centred on NGR TL 9914 2551.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of Office Building 1 with associated parking and landscaping.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The site lies beyond the NW corner of the Roman town wall and to the east of the Scheduled Monument at Sheepen (Scheduled Monument no. 1002173). Sheepen was one of two principal centres of *Camulodunum* (a nationally important late Iron Age and Roman fortress) and was consisted of a trading depot and quayside. Immediately to the south of the development site, the remains of a Roman bathhouse were also identified during the construction of a reservoir in the early 19th century (EHER 12353).

There have been three pieces of formal archaeological work on or near to this development site. The first was a 1996 evaluation on the site (CAT 1996) (EHER 17065). Three test-pits showed modern material to a depth of 1.4 to 2m below modern ground level.

In 1999, a watching brief and excavation 120m south of the development site (ASCL 1999) recorded four phases of archaeological activity dating from the Late Iron Age to the mid-2nd century. The main finding was a rectangular timber structure.

Three further test-pits on the development site in 2014 (CAT Report 808) showed that below modern ground level there was between 2.0 and 2.5m of recent 'made ground' here (ie, no earlier than 19th century). No archaeology was identified.

Boreholes and penetration testing carried out on the site by Delta-Simons (May 2015) confirmed had made ground was encountered from the surface to between 1.6 and 2.3m below ground level across the whole site.

Planning Background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in August 2015 (application No.151825) proposing the erection of Office Building 1 with associated parking and landscaping.

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

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work is for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (CBC 2016).

Specifically a single trench measuring 25m long by 1.8m wide will be excavated across the area of the new building to a depth of 1m as requested by CBCAO. An additional 10m length

of trenching will be excavated should the results of the initial trenching warrant further clarification.

The trial-trenches will:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

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)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

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

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

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

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor and one assistant.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

Evaluation methodology

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

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

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

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

A metal detector will be used to examine the site, 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.

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

One or more column samples will be taken if any waterlogged deposits are encountered. Waterlogged wood will be sent for C14 dating.

Site surveying

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

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

Environmental sampling policy

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

Human remains

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

Photographic record

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

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

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

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

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

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

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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

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

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

Results

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

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

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

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- 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 CBCAO.

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

Archive Deposition

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring

CBCAO 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 CBCAO one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAO prior to them being carried out. CBCAO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

ASCL	1999	<i>An archaeological watching brief on the former sports field, Colchester Institute, Sheepen Lane, Colchester, Essex. Ref ASAC/B/CIC99.1</i>
CBCAA	2016	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Phase 1, Sheepen Road Car Park, Colchester by J Tipper</i>
CAT	1996	<i>Archaeological evaluation at the Colchester Institute playing field and tennis courts, and at the Colchester Borough Council Car Parks, Sheepen Road, Colchester</i>
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 808	2015	<i>An archaeological evaluation by test-pits in the Sheepen Road car park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
Delta-Simons	2015	<i>Geoenvironmental Report, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Delta-Simons Project Number 14-0729.01</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

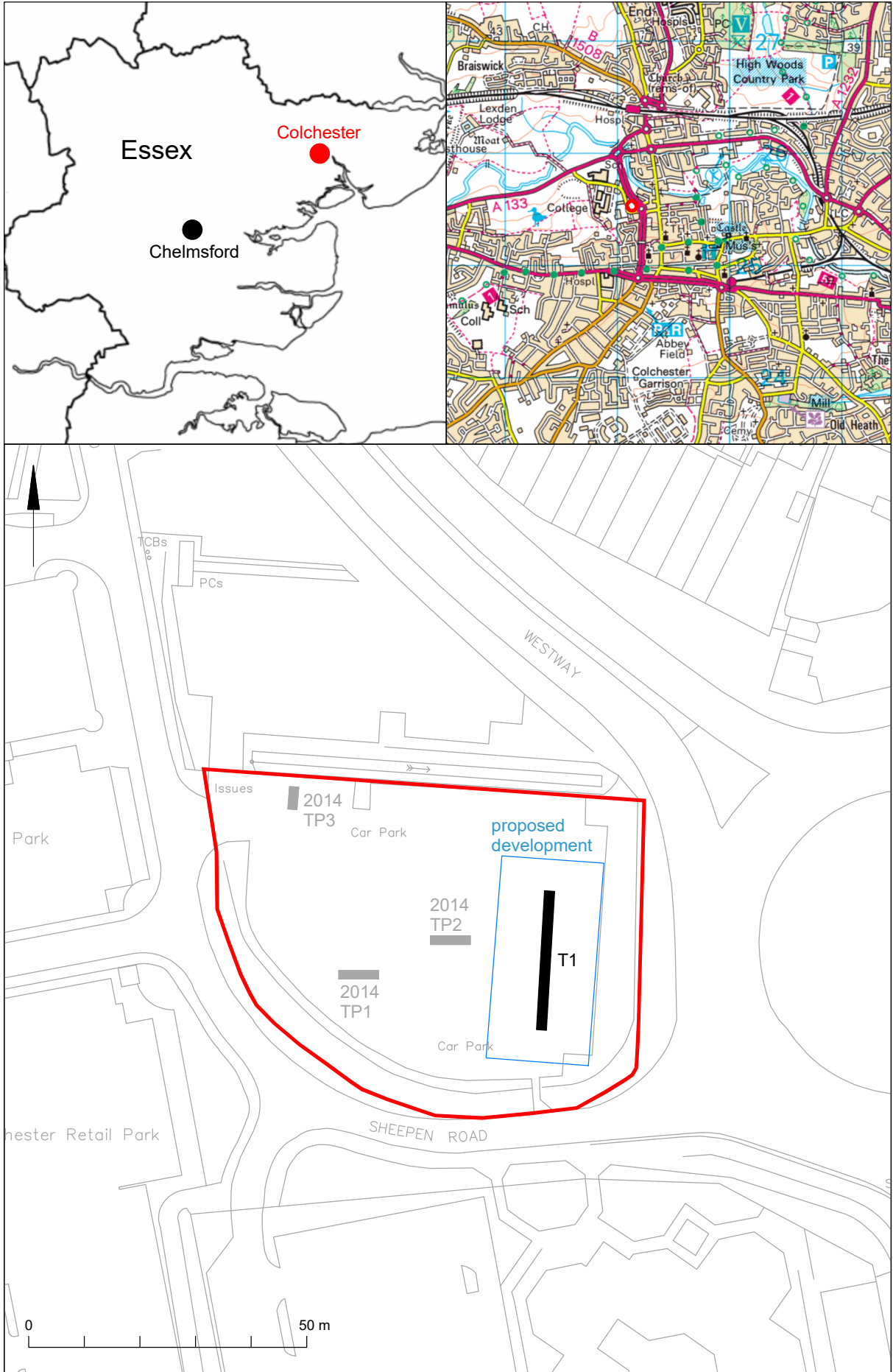
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Fig 1 Site location, showing proposed trench location and previous test pits.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-238837

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Sheepen Road Car Park (Phase 1), Colchester, Essex, CO3 3GT
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new office building with associated access, parking and landscaping at the old Sheepen Road car park, Colchester. The development site lies beyond the NW corner of the Roman town wall and to the east of the Roman trading depot and quayside at Sheepen. At the north end of the site modern layers were identified to a depth of 2.60m below current ground level and at the south end to 3.27m bcgl. They possibly sealed a Roman accumulation layer (L6b) but the trench was too deep to enable this to be fully investigated. The modern layers appear to be associated with the modern car park (L1-L4) and late Victorian/early Edwardian rubbish dumping (L5-L6a).
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2016 End: 16-03-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/01g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	151825 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.10 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3657 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition
 Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England
 Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Sheepen Road Car Park, Colchester
 Postcode CO3 3GT
 Study area 61 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 9914 2551 51.891986362162 0.894396549297 51 53 31 N 000 53 39 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer
 Project design originator Laura Pooley
 Project director/manager Chris Lister
 Project supervisor Ben Holloway
 Type of sponsor/funding body Borough Council
 Name of sponsor/funding body Colchester Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.10
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.10
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological evaluation at Sheepen Road car park, Sheepen Road, Colchester,

Essex, CO3 3GT: March 2016

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Entered on 18 May 2016

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