

Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE

August-October 2016



by **Laura Pooley**

figures by Mark Baister, Emma Holloway and Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Sarah Carter, Chris Lister, Robin Mathieson and Adam Wightman

on behalf of St Helena School

NGR: TL 9883 2583 (centre)

Planning reference: 161288

CAT project ref.: 16/08c

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.85

UAD ref: ECC3872

OASIS reference: colchest3-259213



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1001

October 2016

Contents

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

Figures after p11

Appendix 1 CAT WSI

Appendix 2 OASIS Summary

List of photographs and figures

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1	Amphitheatre strip, looking NE	4
Photograph 2	St Helena School students performing in the finished amphitheatre, looking W	4
Photograph 3	Test-pit showing top of robbing layer below footpath, looking N	5
Photograph 4	Slot through robbing layer, looking S	5
Photograph 5	Test-pit 2 showing temple foundation trench containing 1930s backfill, looking SE	6
Photograph 6	Test-pit 2 showing temple foundation trench containing 1930s backfill and Roman ground level, looking W	6
Photograph 7	Test-pit 3 showing temple foundation trench containing 1930s backfill and Roman ground level, looking S	7
Photograph 8	Courtyard before excavation begins for the granite paving slabs, looking NW (amphitheatre can be seen in distance)	7
Photograph 9	Excavation depth for slabs of 100mm, dug through modern topsoil, looking W	8
Photograph 10	Full excavation of line of Roman temple walls ready for the paving slabs to be laid, looking W	8
Photograph 11	Plate XXXVb in Hull 1958. Area of robbed out wall in the NW corner of the inner temple wall show by the blue arrow.	9

Fig 1 Site location (red) in its local archaeological context

Fig 2 Development site (red) in relation to previous work

Fig 3 Detailed plan of proposed development area showing location of amphitheatre strip and test-pits

Fig 4 Detailed plan of test-pits

Fig 5 Location of paving slabs

Fig 6 Representative test-pit sections

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of an amphitheatre and other groundworks. The development site is located within the scheduled monument of Sheepen and directly over a Roman temple and its precinct (Colchester Temple 2).

The footprint of the amphitheatre was stripped to a depth of 200mm below current ground level (bcgl), no significant archaeological horizons were encountered.

Test-pits 1-3 were excavated in advance of proposed works to lay granite paving slabs above the foundations of the Roman temple to mark out its location. The test-pits were excavated to ensure that the depth of groundworks for the slabs would not impact on the archaeological remains. No Roman wall foundations had survived within the test-pits but the trench for the foundation was recorded in two of them along with Roman ground level, at a depth of 170-300mm bcgl. The foundation trenches identified in all three test-pits were full of backfill from the 1930s excavations. It is uncertain if the 1930s excavations had just removed later/post-Roman robbing at these locations or had actually removed surviving temple wall foundation. The granite paving slabs were eventually laid within minimal ground disturbance –100mm depth through topsoil.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording, which included a test-pit evaluation, at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out between 10th-31st August 2016 and on 24th October 2016. The work was commissioned by Sarah Caven-Atack of St Helena School in advance of groundworks in a courtyard to the north of the old school buildings and to the south of the new science and food technology block. These groundworks were carried out in advance of the construction of an amphitheatre for outside seating and performance, and the marking out of the Roman temple (Colchester Temple 2) in granite paving. All work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within a scheduled monument and has a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) and the Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England (East of England Office) (HE). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for continuous archaeological recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (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 watching brief* (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 major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

A Heritage Statement for the proposed development was completed in July 2016 (CAT Report 978). The following is a summary:

St Helena School is in an area of high archaeological importance. It is within *Camulodunum* – the nationally-important late Iron Age and Roman fortress whose 12-square-mile extent is now occupied by modern Colchester. *Camulodunum* had two principal centres. One was at Gosbecks (the farmstead and possible the home of Cunobelin) and the other was at Sheepen (the trading depot and quayside). St Helena School is on the northern side of Sheepen, and part of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM EX 46, HA 1002173).

The school site coincides with the location of two Romano-Celtic temples (Colchester Temples 2 and 3) and associated buildings (first discovered and excavated in 1935 when the school was first built, and prior to the construction of the new Colchester bypass – now the 'Avenue of Remembrance'). The remains of Temple 2 lie under the northern edge of the main school building, and the precinct wall enclosed a block of land now occupied by the core school buildings. The remains of a much smaller Romano-Celtic temple (Temple 3) lie on the boundary between the extreme north edge of the school grounds and the Avenue of Remembrance (Hull 1958, p224-34 & Crummy 1980).

The east end of this current development site overlies the northern half of the remains of Temple 2 with the west located within the precinct of that temple.

Apart from the major excavation in the 1930s, there have been many small-scale archaeological projects at St Helena. These projects confirm the presence of extremely important archaeological remains at St Helena. Excavations in 2014 (CAT Report 825) prior to the construction of the science and technology block exposed the Temple 2 precinct wall, a possible shrine, and a large possibly 'votive' pit containing a hoard of Roman coins. The Roman remains were not deeply-buried, and are susceptible to damage from modern construction.

4 Results (Figs 2-6)

Amphitheatre

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during groundworks within the footprint of the new amphitheatre. The footprint was reduced by 200mm through modern topsoil. No significant archaeological horizons were identified.

Test-pits 1-3

In advance of groundworks to lay granite paving slabs over the walls of Temple 2, three test-pits were hand-dug by CAT archaeologists. The aim of the test-pits was to locate the depth of the surviving archaeology below current ground level (bcgl), and to ensure that the dig-depth of the slabs would not impact upon the remains of the temple.

Test-pit 1 (1m by 1m)

Excavated on the north-west corner of the inner temple wall to a depth of 1.3m bcgl. Approximately 280-290mm of modern paving material (paving slabs, sand, type 1 and concrete) was removed. This sealed a thick layer of robbing debris (at least 1m thick, not bottomed due to safe-working depths) containing fragments of Roman brick/tile, septaria, mortar, *opus signinum* and flint nodules (none retained) set in a loose mid-brown sandy-silt. No trace of surviving Roman wall foundation or the foundation trench were identified, with the robbing of a similar consistency to that identified as 1930s backfill in test-pits 2-3 (see below).

Test-pit 2 (1.2m by 1.2m with an additional slot 0.4m by 0.2m) and Test-pit 3 (1.8 by 0.5m)

Excavated on the western side of the outer and inner temple wall. Approximately 170-300mm of modern tarmac footpath and modern build up were removed (L1-L2). Immediately below this was a mottled clay layer representing Roman ground/floor level (L3 and L5, c 230-300mm thick) sealing natural sands (L4). The Roman foundation trenches (F1-F2) for the temple walls were cut through layers L3 and L5. The foundation trench for the outer wall (F2) measured 0.64m wide and the inner wall (F1) 1.2m wide, both corresponding to measurements made by Hull in the 1930s (Hull 1958, 224-233). No trace of the wall foundations had survived and the foundation trenches were filled with backfill from the 1930s excavations (includes L6 in test-pit 3). Along with modern pottery and metalwork, the backfill included fragments of Roman brick/tile, septaria, mortar, *opus signinum* and flint nodules set in a loose mid-brown sandy-silt.

Groundworks for the paving slabs

The identification of Roman archaeological horizons associated with the temple at a minimum of 170mm bcgl led to a redesign of the paving slabs. The redesign meant that groundworks for the slabs were excavated through modern topsoil only, to a depth of 100mm bcgl. Groundworks for the paving slabs therefore measured 47m long, 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep.



Photograph 1 Amphitheatre strip, looking NE



Photograph 2 St Helena School students performing in the finished amphitheatre, looking W



Photograph 3 Test-pit 1 showing top of 1930s backfill below footpath, looking N



Photograph 4 Test-pit 1, slot through backfill, looking S



Photograph 5 Test-pit 2 showing temple foundation trench containing 1930s backfill, looking SE



Photograph 6 Test-pit 2 showing temple foundation trench containing 1930s backfill and Roman ground level, looking W



Photograph 7 Test-pit 3 showing temple foundation trench containing 1930s backfill and Roman ground level, looking S



Photograph 8 Courtyard before excavation begins for the granite paving slabs, looking NW (amphitheatre can be seen in distance)



Photograph 9 Excavation depth for slabs of 100mm, dug through modern topsoil, looking W



Photograph 10 Full excavation of line of Roman temple walls ready for the paving slabs to be laid, looking W

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were retained for post-excavation analysis as they were all from the 1930s backfill.

6 Discussion

Amphitheatre: As the footprint of the new amphitheatre was stripped through modern topsoil (to 200mm bcgl), no significant archaeological horizons were exposed or impacted by the development.

Paving slabs: As the groundworks for the paving slabs stripped through modern topsoil (to 100mm bcgl), no significant archaeological horizons were exposed or impacted by the development.

Test-pits 1-3: Test-pits 2-3 located the remains of Temple 2 revealing the foundation trenches for the temple walls and contemporary Roman ground level. This was identified at a depth of 170-300mm bcgl. The identification of the foundation trench in these test-pits has allowed CAT staff to accurately plot the location of the temple within St Helena School (Figs 3-4).

Unfortunately, the temple wall foundations had not survived within the area of the test-pits. A photograph from the 1930s excavation (Photograph 11) implies that the wall foundations had largely survived, although Hull does talk about excavating through both later Roman robber trenches and wall foundation itself. He notes that the best surviving wall foundations were located along the eastern side of the temple and the northeast and southeast corners (Hull 1958, 227). It is uncertain how much of the wall foundations survive to date, but evidence from the test-pits shows that all that remains within the foundation trenches at these locations is backfill from the 1930s excavations.



Photograph 11 Plate XXXVb from Hull 1958 which implies the temple wall foundations largely survived.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Sarah Caven-Atack, St Helena School, for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by CL, M Baister, S Carter, and A Wightman. Site plans were prepared by MB, E Holloway and L Pooley. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Jess Tipper and for Historic England by Sarah Poppy.

8 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 825	2015	<i>Archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester: October-November 2014</i>
CAT Report 916	2016	<i>Archaeological watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: August-September 2015</i>
CAT Report 978	2016	<i>Heritage Statement for St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex</i>
CBCPS	2016	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</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>
Crummy, P	1980	'The temples of Roman Colchester', in <i>Temples, Churches and Religion (Recent Research in Roman Britain)</i> , ed by Warwick Rodwell, BAR, British Series, 77 , 242-83
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</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).
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , Report 20 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
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)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
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

10 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1001)

CBCPS 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

11 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 Museum under accession code: COLEM 2016.85.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2016

Distribution list

Sarah Caven-Atack, St Helena School
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Sarah Poppy, Historic England
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 26.10.2016

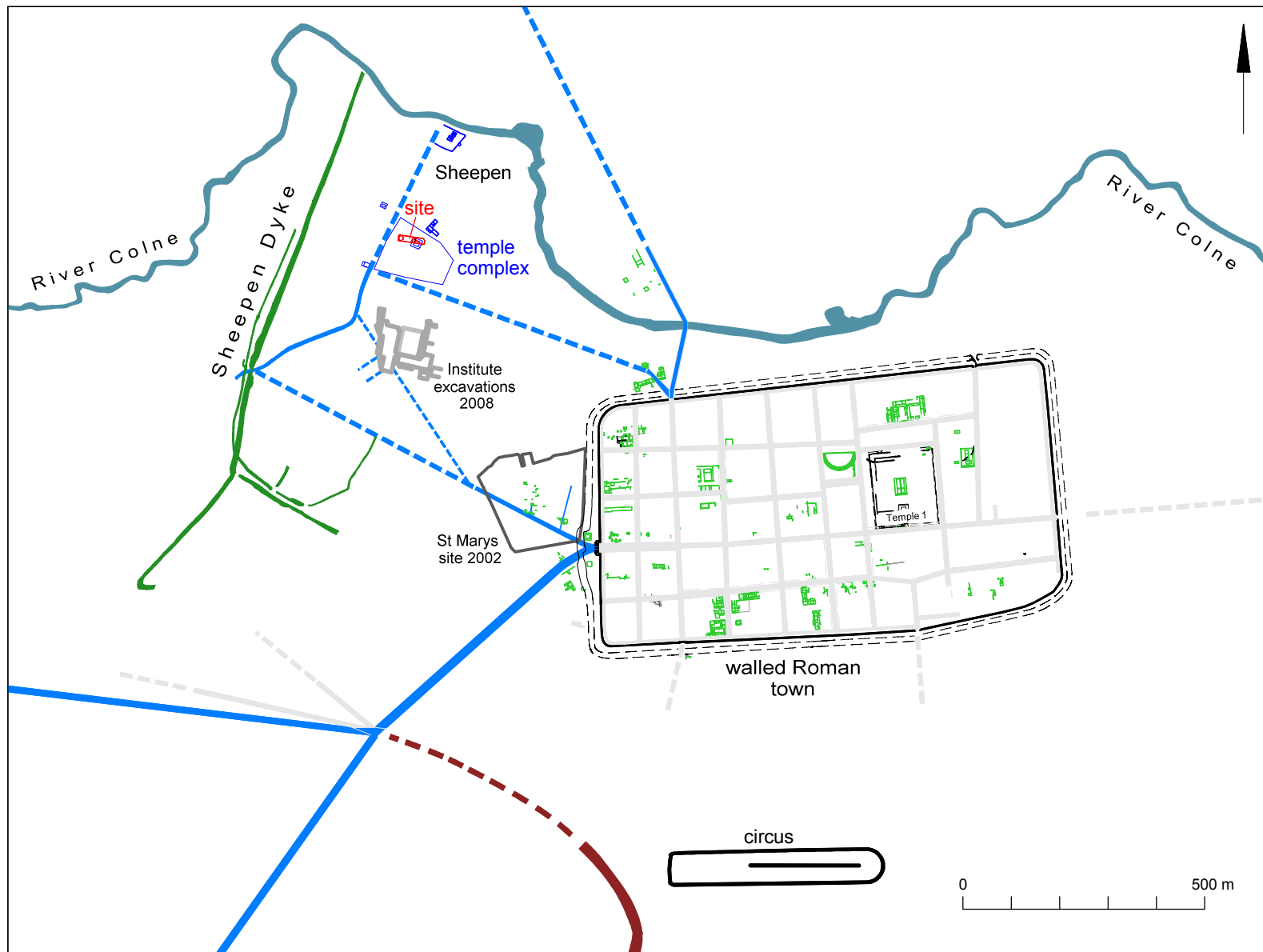


Fig 1 Site location (red) in its local archaeological context.

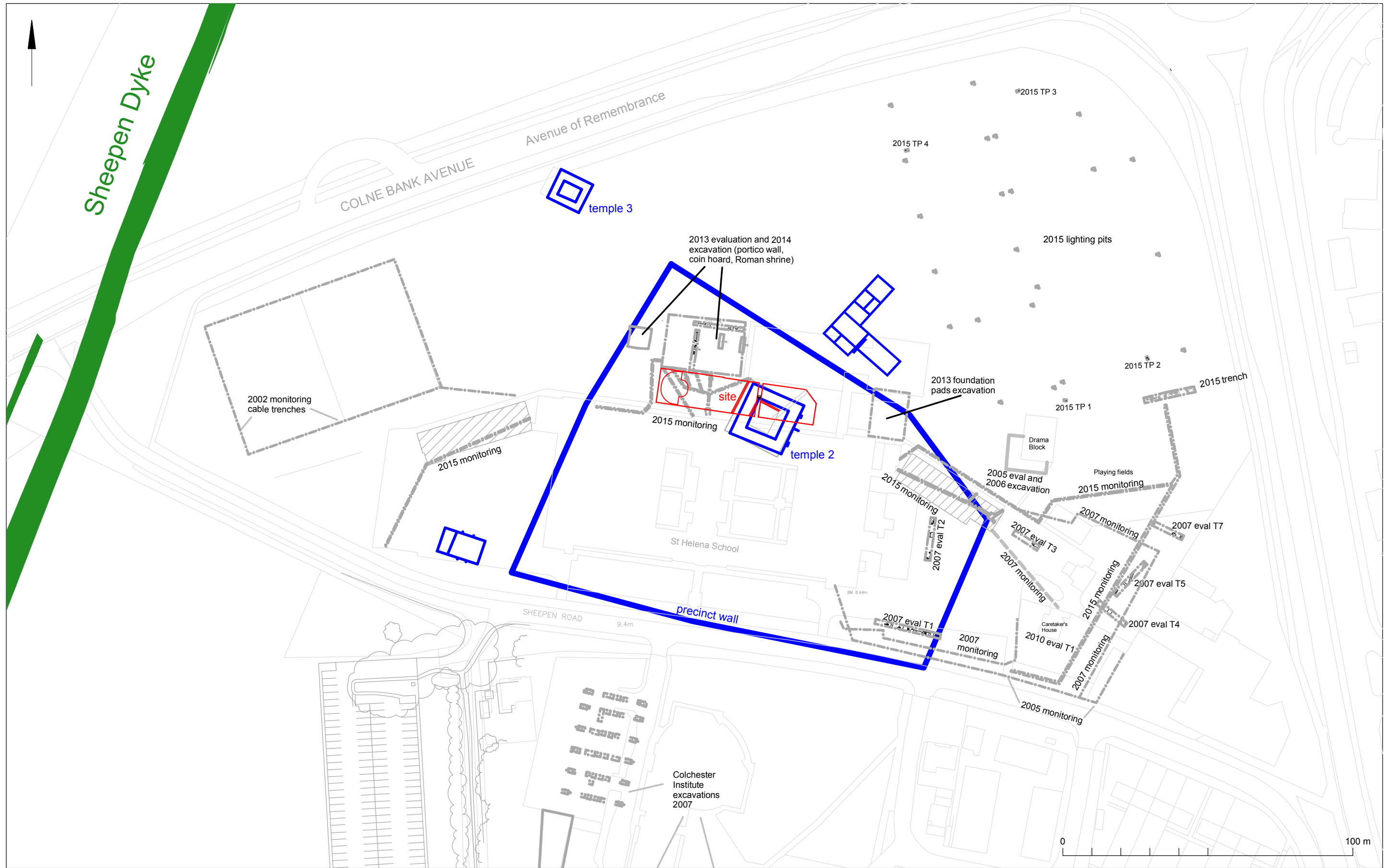


Fig 2 Development site (red) in relation to previous work.

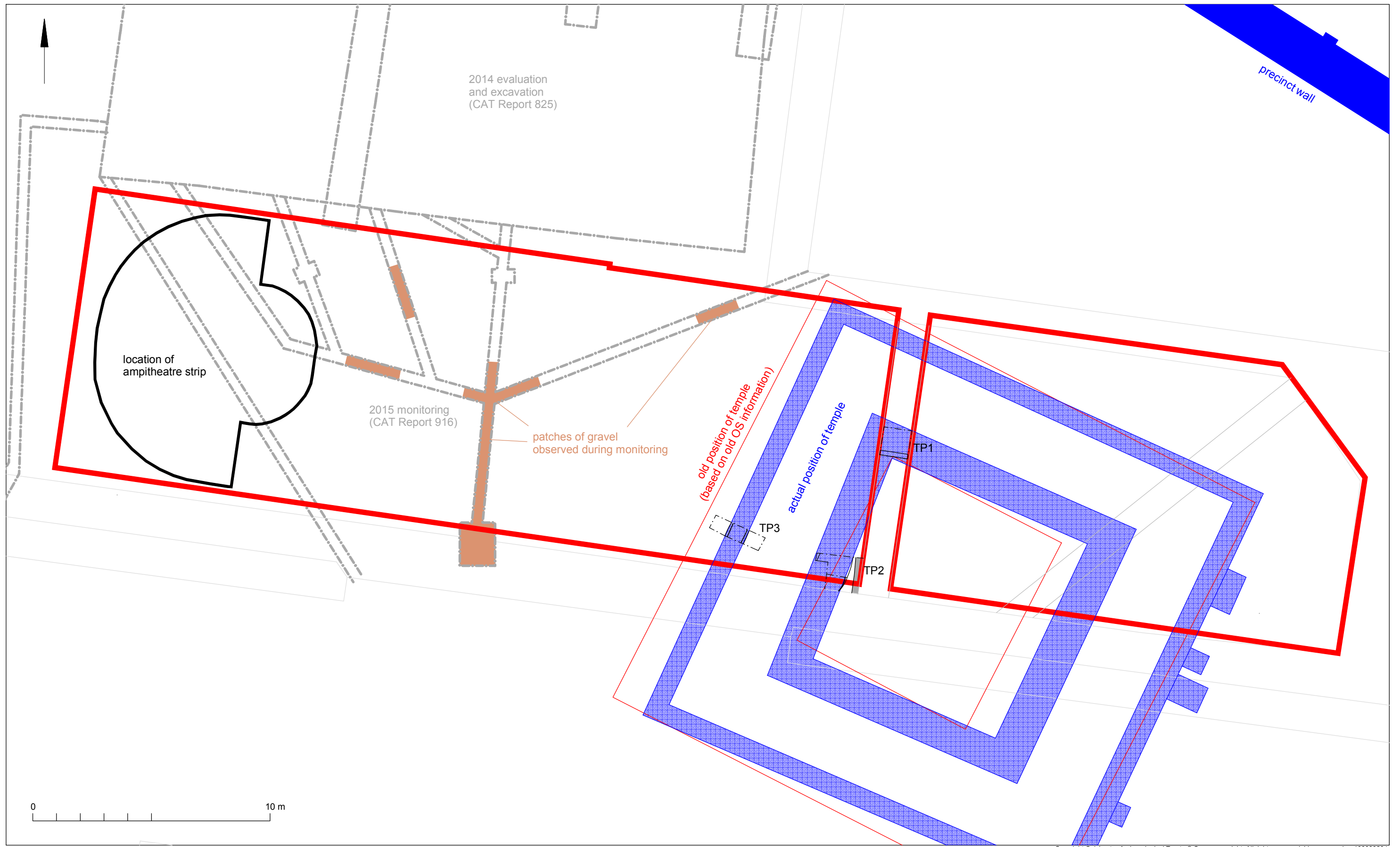


Fig 3 Detailed plan of proposed development area, showing location of amphitheatre strip and test pits.

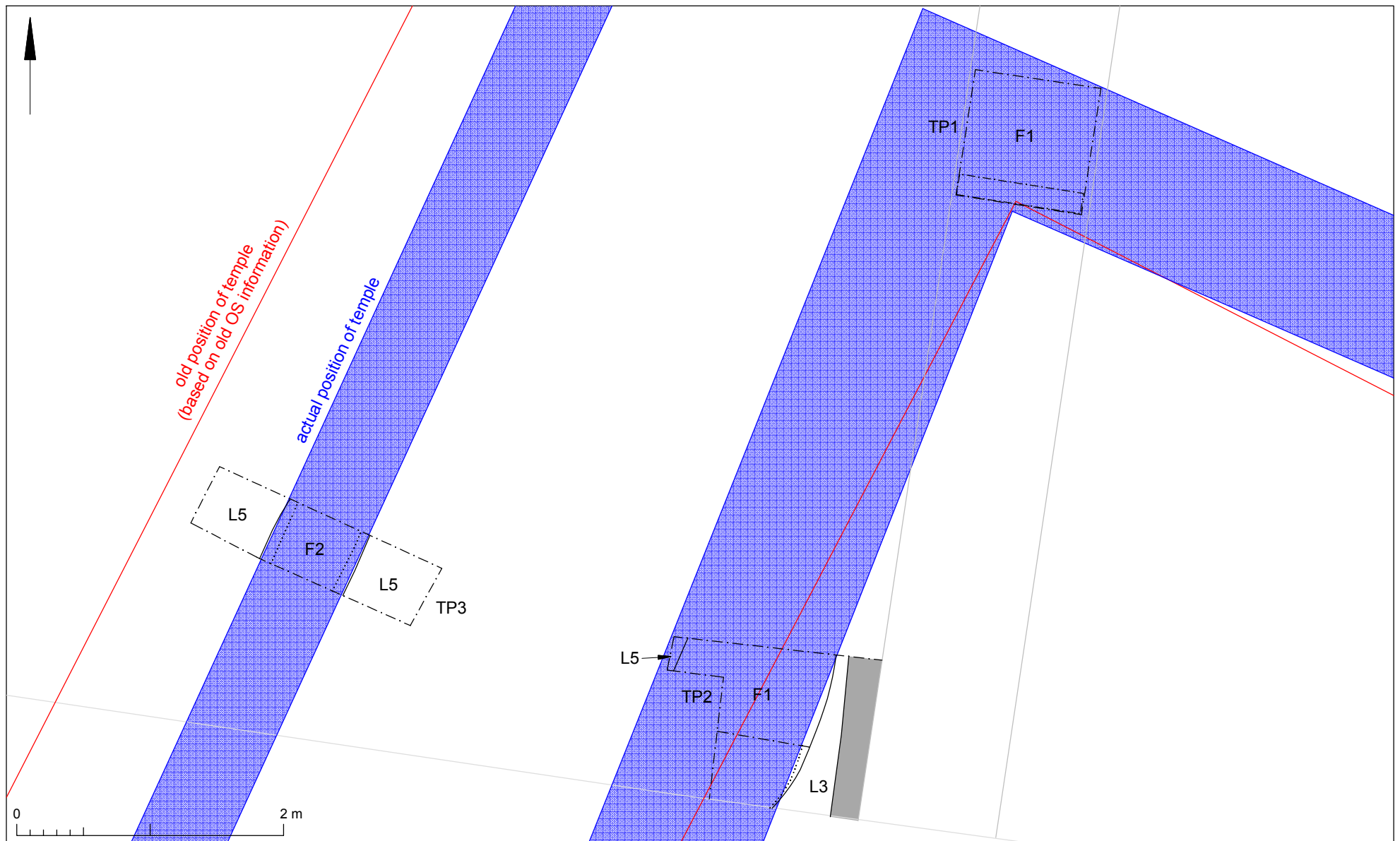


Fig 4 Detailed plan of test pits.



Fig 5 Location of groundworks for paving slabs

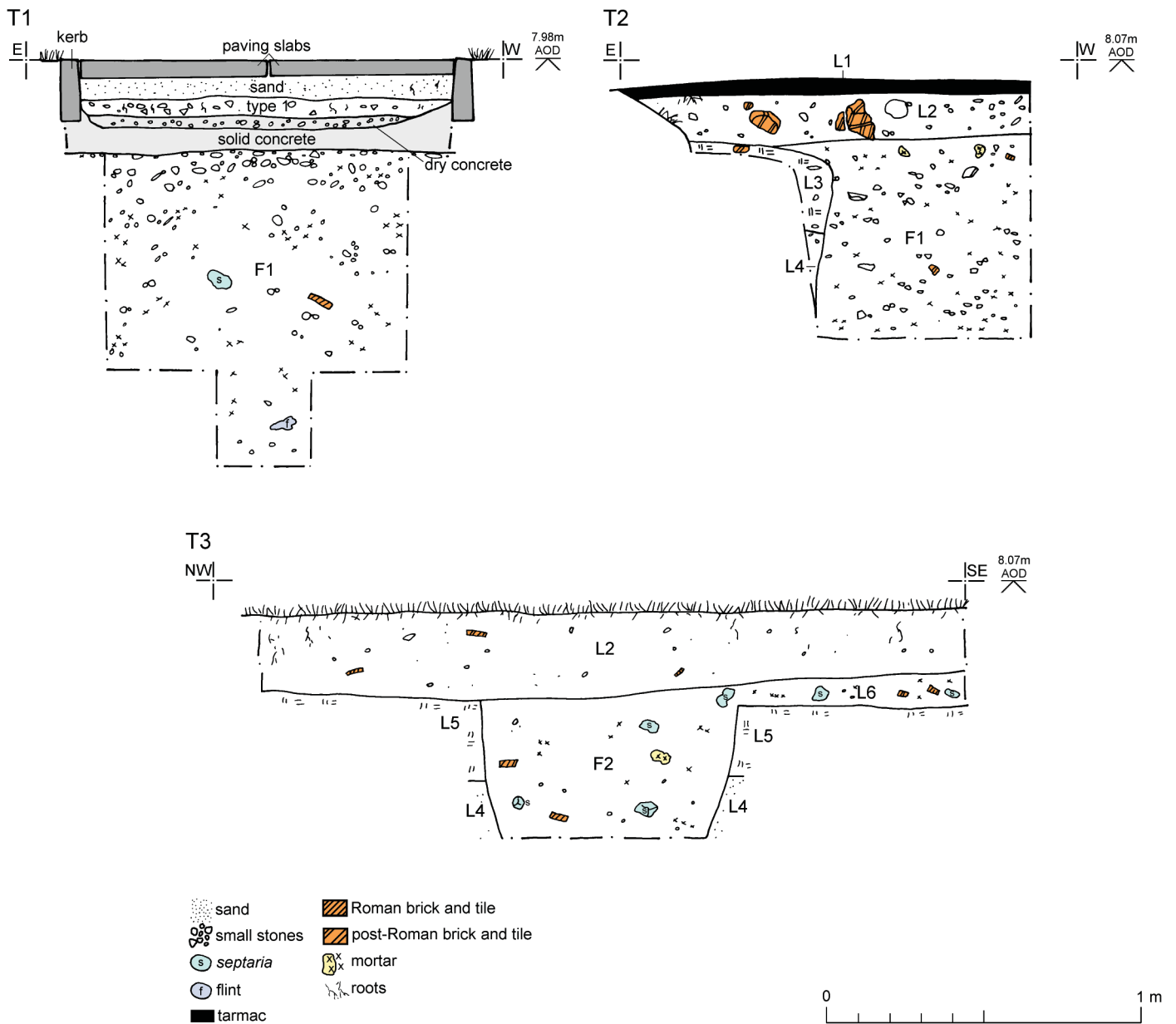


Fig 6 Representative test-pit sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9883 2583 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/08c UAD ref: ECC3872 OASIS ref: colchest3-259213
Type of work: Monitoring and recording, test-pits	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 10th-16th August 2016	Size of area investigated: Amphitheatre – 75.32m ² , test-pits – 4.42m ² , paving slabs – 28.2m ² (108m ² in total)
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.85	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related UAD/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 1001	
Periods represented: modern, Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of an amphitheatre and other groundworks. The development site is located within the scheduled monument of Sheepen and directly over a Roman temple and its precinct (Colchester Temple 2).</p> <p>The footprint of the amphitheatre was stripped to a depth of 200mm below current ground level (bcgl), no significant archaeological horizons were encountered.</p> <p>Test-pits 1-3 were excavated in advance of proposed works to lay granite paving slabs above the foundations of the Roman temple to mark out its location. The test-pits were excavated to ensure that the depth of groundworks for the slabs would not impact on the archaeological remains. No Roman wall foundations had survived within the test-pits but the trench for the foundation was recorded in two of them along with Roman ground level, at a depth of 170-300mm bcgl. The foundation trenches identified in all three test-pits were full of backfill from the 1930s excavations. It is uncertain if the 1930s excavations had just removed later/post-Roman robbing at these locations or had actually removed surviving temple wall foundation. The granite paving slabs were eventually laid within minimal ground disturbance –100mm depth through topsoil.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 916	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: Colchester Temple 2	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: October 2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE

NGR: TL 9883 2583 (centre)

Planning reference: 161288

Client: Ms Sarah Caven-Atack, St Helena School

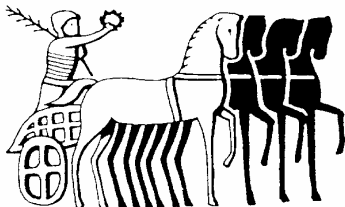
Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: COLEM: 2016.85
Colchester HER (previously UAD): ECC3872
CAT Project code: 16/08c
OASIS ref.: colchest3-259213

Site Manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper
Historic England monitor: Sarah Poppy

This WSI written: 04.08.2016



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester, Essex, C02 7GZ
tel: 01206 501785
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located within St Helena School, Colchester in a courtyard to the north of the old school and to the south of the new science and food technology block (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 9883 2583.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises the construction of an amphitheatre for outside seating and performance at the west end of the courtyard. Cobbled paviers will be laid at the east end to mark out the location of the Roman temple (Temple 2).

Archaeological background (Fig 2-3)

The following archaeological background draws on the extensive library of CAT archaeological interventions at St Helena, as reported on Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and on the Colchester HER (originally Urban Archaeological Database (UAD)) held by Colchester Borough Council.

A Heritage Statement for the proposed development was completed in July 2016 (CAT Report 978). The following is a summary:

St Helena School is in an area of high archaeological importance. It is within *Camulodunum* – the nationally-important late Iron Age and Roman fortress whose 12-square-mile extent is now occupied by modern Colchester. *Camulodunum* had two principal centres. One was at Gosbecks (the farmstead and possible the home of Cunobelin) and the other was at Sheepen (the trading depot and quayside). St Helena School is on the northern side of Sheepen, and part of the site (and school) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM EX 46, HA 1002173).

The school site coincides with the location of two Romano-Celtic temples (Colchester Temples 2 and 3) and associated buildings (first discovered and excavated in 1935 when the school was first built, and prior to the construction of the new Colchester bypass – now the 'Avenue of Remembrance'). Temple 2 lies under the northern edge of the main school building, and the precinct wall encloses a block of land now occupied by the core school buildings. A much smaller Romano-Celtic temple (Temple 3) lies on the boundary between the extreme north edge of the school grounds and the Avenue of Remembrance (Hull 1958, p224-34 & Crummy 1980).

Apart from the major excavation in the 1930s, there have been many small-scale archaeological projects at St Helena. These projects confirm the presence of extremely important archaeological remains at St Helena. Excavations in 2014 (CAT Report 825) prior to the construction of the science and technology block exposed the Temple 2 precinct wall, a possible shrine, and a large possibly 'votive' pit containing a hoard of Roman coins. The Roman remains are not deeply-buried, and are susceptible to damage from modern construction.

The proposed development site lies in a courtyard to the north of the old school and to the south of the new science and food technology block. The east end of the development site is located directly above the remains of Temple 2, which are proposed to be marked out in cobbled paviers. In the 1930s, the foundations of Temple 2 were identified at a depth of 200mm below ground level. It is uncertain how much ground level has changed since these excavations and how far down Temple 2 will be now encountered. Therefore, groundworks associated with the laying of the cobbled paviers may impact upon the remains of Temple 2.

The west end of the development site is located within the precinct of Temple 2 where it is proposed that an amphitheatre will be built for outside seating and performance. It is proposed that excavations will not penetrate below 7.75m AOD (200mm below current ground level). An archaeological excavation immediately to the north of the site in 2014 revealed significant archaeological horizons associated with the precinct at a depth of 7.19-7.42m AOD. A watching brief on the site itself in 2015 (CAT Report 916) revealed patches of gravel

surfaces within the precinct at a depth of 550-590mm below ground level at the time of the groundworks.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in July 2016 (application no.161288) and an application for Scheduled Monument Consent was made to Historic England in June 2016 (Historic England ref. S00138826). Both applications proposed the construction of an amphitheatre for outside seating and performance at the west end of the courtyard with cobbled paviers laid at the east end to mark out the location of the Roman temple (Temple 2).

As the site lies within a scheduled monument and has a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) and the Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England (East of England Office) (HE). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

A Heritage Statement to assess the impact of the proposed ground reduction on below ground archaeology was produced by CAT in July 2016 (CAT Report 978). However, alterations were subsequently made to the dig-depths stated in this report.

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks associated with the construction of the amphitheatre and the laying of the cobbled paviers (Fig 2). Neither of which will penetrate below the agreed dig-depth of 200mm below current ground level. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

In addition to the monitoring an archaeological test pit, 1m by 1m square will be excavated in the area of a current footpath to the south of the science block, where it intersects with the inner corner wall of the temple (Fig 3). Four (max.) paving slabs will be lifted and the test pit excavated to locate and establish the depth of the temple wall below the current ground surface. Following on from this work, if the footpath is relocated the topsoil strip for the new path should be also monitored and recorded.

The test pit should provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, for the marking-up of the temple wall with cobbled paviers, based on the depth of the wall below the ground surface.

If unexpected remains are encountered (e.g. if archaeological remains are encountered in the topsoil strip), CBCAA/HE will be informed immediately. Amendments to the brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed. Any variation to this WSI must be agreed with the CBCAA/HE before they are carried out.

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* (ClfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- 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/HE one week before start of work.

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

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify 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 CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring methodology

A CAT officer will be present during all groundworks to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

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

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

Features will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 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 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.

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.

If any standing remains are encountered during monitoring they will be planned but left *in situ* and the proposed groundworks changed accordingly.

Test-pit methodology

The test-pit will be excavated by hand to the top of the surviving Temple wall. The wall will then be planned and recorded.

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.

The depth of this wall below ground level will be reported to EH, CBCAA and the client, and if it will be impacted upon by the 200mm dig-depth of the paviers plans will be changed accordingly.

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 CBCAA/HE 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): Dr Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Dr Pip Parmenter

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: Dr 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 CBCAA/HE.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA/HE 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 CBCAA/HE as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of site in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA/HE.

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 CBCAA/HE.

Monitoring

CBCAA/HE will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA/HE one week in advance of its commencement.

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

CBCAA/HE will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|--|
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 825 | 2015 | <i>Archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester: October-November 2014</i> |
| CAT Report 916 | 2016 | <i>Archaeological watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: August-September 2015</i> |
| CAT Report 978 | 2016 | <i>Heritage Statement for St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex</i> |
| CBCPS | 2016 | <i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE</i> |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</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> |
| Crummy, P | 1980 | 'The temples of Roman Colchester', in <i>Temples, Churches and Religion (Recent Research in Roman Britain</i> , ed by Warwick Rodwell, BAR, British Series, 77 , 242-83 |
| DCLG | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</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). |
| Hull, M R | 1958 | <i>Roman Colchester</i> , Report 20 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London |
| 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) |

Laura Pooley



Colchester Archaeological Trust,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, C02 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

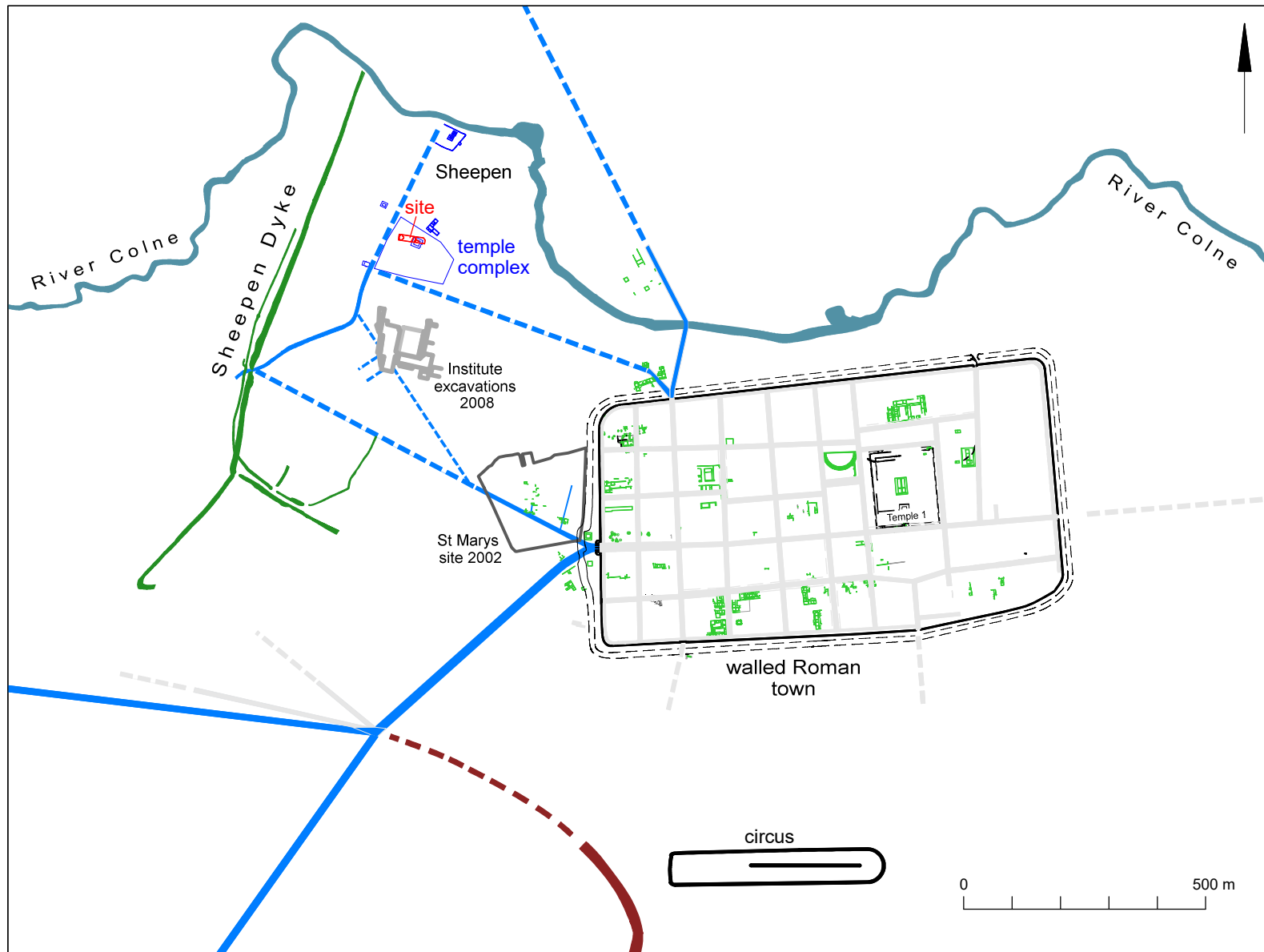


Fig 1 Site location (red) in its local archaeological context.

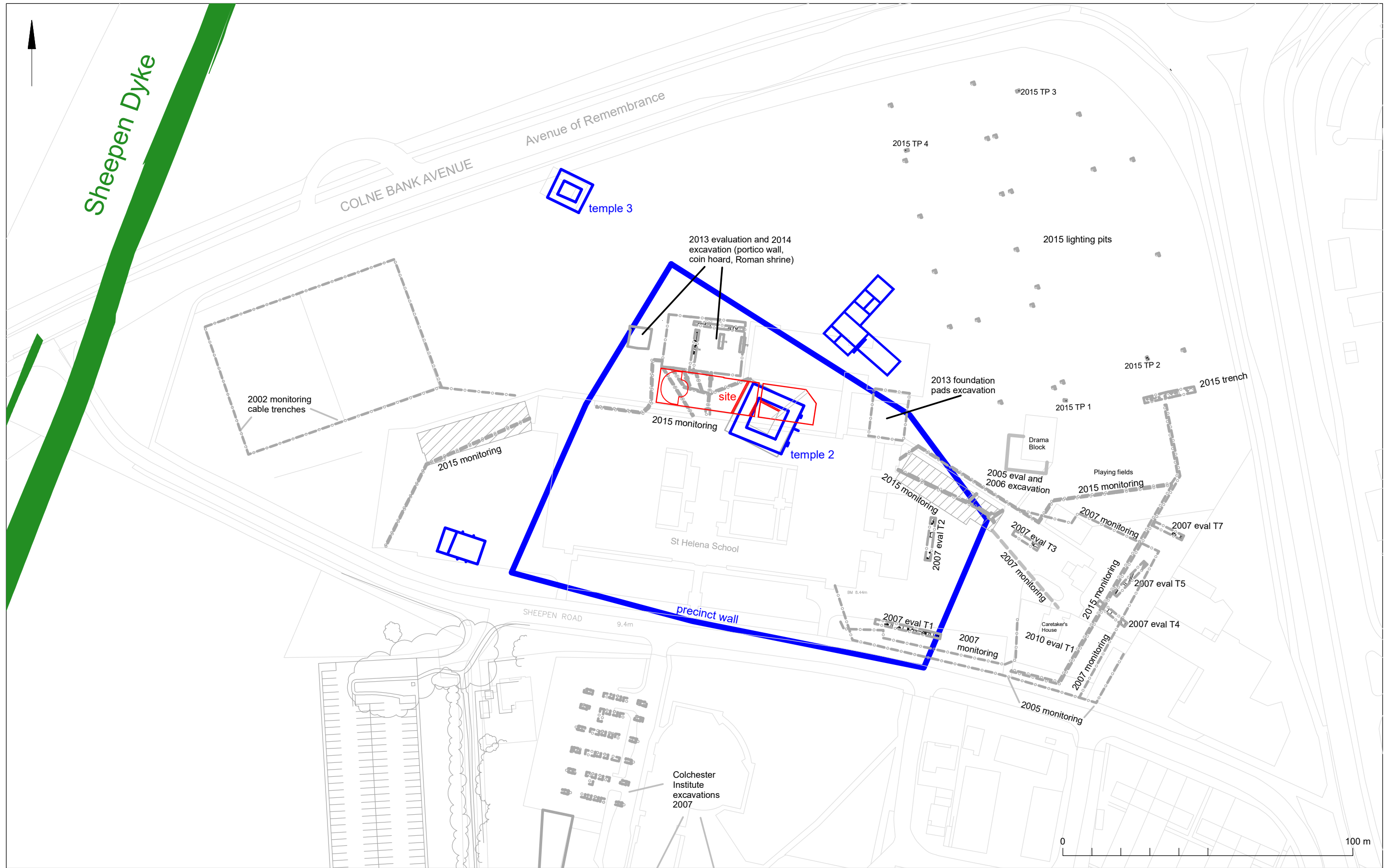


Fig 2 Proposed development site (red) in relation to previous work.

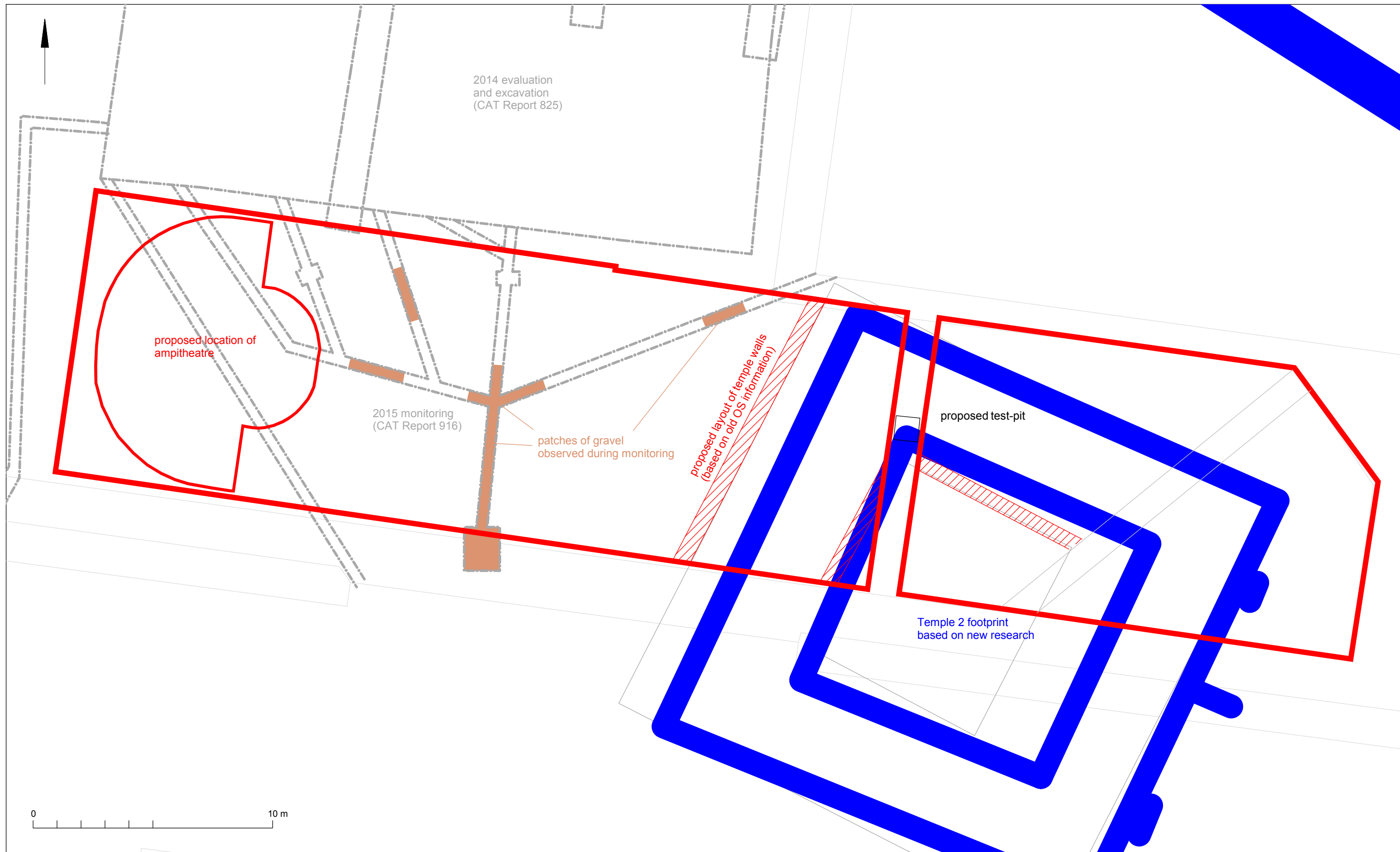


Fig 3 Detailed plan of proposed development.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-259213

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of an amphitheatre and other groundworks. The development site is located within the scheduled monument of Sheepen and directly over a Roman temple and its precinct (Colchester Temple 2). The footprint of the amphitheatre was stripped to a depth of 200mm below current ground level (bcgl), no significant archaeological horizons were encountered. Test-pits 1-3 were excavated in advance of proposed works to lay granite paving slabs above the foundations of the Roman temple to mark out its location. The test-pits were excavated to ensure that the depth of groundworks for the slabs would not impact on the archaeological remains. No Roman wall foundations had survived within the test-pits but the trench for the foundation was recorded in two of them along with Roman ground level, at a depth of 170-300mm bcgl. The foundation trenches identified in all three test-pits were full of backfill from the 1930s excavations. It is uncertain if the 1930s excavations had just removed later/post-Roman robbing at these locations or had actually removed surviving temple wall foundation. The granite paving slabs were eventually laid within minimal ground disturbance -100mm depth through topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 10-08-2016 End: 24-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/08c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	161288 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.85 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3872 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	ROBBER TRENCH Modern
Monument type	FOUNDATION TRENCH Roman
Monument type	GROUND LEVEL Roman
Monument type	TEMPLE Roman
Significant Finds	N/A None

Investigation type ""Watching Brief""
 Prompt Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country England
 Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER St Helena School, Sheepen Road
 Postcode CO3 3LE
 Study area 108 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 98865 25831 51.894967708034 0.890590173232 51 53 41 N 000 53 26 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 7.46m Max: 7.54m

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 Chris Lister
 Type of sponsor/funding body School
 Name of sponsor/funding body St Helena School

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.85
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.85
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: August-October 2016
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.
 Other bibliographic CAT Report 1001

details

Date 2016
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 ringbound loose leaf
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)

Entered on 26 October 2016

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), [email](#) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=266689> for this page