

# Archaeological evaluation at Amphora Place, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3WG

November 2017



**by Laura Pooley and Elliott Hicks**

figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Adam Wightman with Adam Tuffey

**commissioned by Kevin Whyte, Barefoot & Gilles**

NGR: TL 99104 25519 (centre)

Planning ref.: 151825

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ECC code: ECC4110

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.10

OASIS ref.: colchest3-299710



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**CAT Report 1198**

November 2017

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Amphora Place, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, on the site of the former Sheepen Road car park, in advance of the construction of office building 2 (Phase 2 evaluation). 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. Modern layers were identified to a depth of 2.2-2.3m bcgl (5.14-5.15m AOD) in both trenches. Layers L1-L2 were associated with the construction of the former car park and L8, L5 and L6 with late 19th to early 20th century rubbish dumping on the site. Layer L9 at the base of the trenches may represent an earlier phase of use, but no dating evidence was present.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation (Phase 2) by trial-trenching at Amphora Place, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex on the site of the former Sheepen Road car park. Work was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 16th November 2017. It was commissioned by Kevin Whyte of Barefoot & Gilles in advance of the construction of office building 2.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was 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 a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) 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 the 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 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 four 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 at depths of 1.4-2m below current ground level (bcgl).

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 test-pits on the development site in 2014 (CAT Report 808) revealed modern made-ground (ie, no earlier than 19th century) at depths of 2-2.5m bcgl. No significant archaeology was identified.

Boreholes and penetration testing carried out on the site by Delta-Simons (May 2015) further confirmed modern made ground at depths of between 1.6-2.3m bcgl across the whole site.

Phase one of archaeological evaluation at Amphora Place was undertaken in advance of the construction of Office Building 1 (1 Amphora Place) in March 2016 (CAT Report 922). This comprised a 25m long trench across the footprint of the proposed building, with two 4m by 4m trenches at either end (T1 and T2). At the north end of the site modern layers (L1-L6a) were identified to a depth of 2.60m bcgl 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 and rubbish dumping dating back to the late 19th century.

#### **4 Aims**

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that existed on the site, and to determine whether further investigations were required.

#### **5 Methodology**

Two trial-trenches (T3 and T4) were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist to the east and west of the footprint of the new office building.

Trench, layer and finds numbers follow on from those assigned during earlier evaluation work (CAT Report 922).

Both trenches measured 4m<sup>2</sup> and were excavated to a depth of 1.2-1.4m bcgl. A slot was then excavated within the base of each trial-trench to the maximum reach of the machine bucket. The slots measured approximately 2m long by 1.5m wide, and were dug to a depth of 1.5-1.6m. Depths totalled 2.9m (T3) and 2.8m (T4) bcgl.

#### **6 Results** (Figs 2-4)

Six layers were identified across both trenches. Modern tarmac with a concrete sub-base (L1) and associated hoggin (L2) sealed layers of modern (late 19th-20th century) made ground/ accumulation (L3, L4 and L5). An earlier accumulation deposit (L6) was identified at the base of the trench which slowly started to fill with water. This would suggest that the water table is located at approximately 2.2-2.3m bcgl (c 5.15m AOD) and L6 is part of the flood plain of the River Colne.

See Tables 1-2 below for a full description of all the layers by trench.

Layer	Description	Date
L1	Tarmac with a concrete sub-base. 0.3m thick.	Modern, late 20th century
L2	Hoggin associated with L1. Identified at a depth of 0.3m bcgl (7.14m AOD), 0.02-0.12m thick.	Modern, late 20th century
L8	Made-ground of firm, moist, dark brownish-black silty-sand with inclusions of CBM, concrete chunks and modern debris. Identified at a depth of 0.32m bcgl (7.12m AOD), c 0.4-0.45m thick.	Modern, mid-late 20th century
L5	Made-ground of firm, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silty clay with common inclusions of concrete, steel rope and mid/late 20th century debris. Identified at a depth of 0.8m bcgl (6.64m AOD), c 0.5m thick.	Modern, mid-late 20th century
L6	Accumulation deposit of soft, moist, dark brown silty-clay with lots of organic inclusions and modern debris Equivalent to L6a in 2016 trenches T1-T2 (CAT Report 922). Identified at a depth of 1.3m bcgl (6.14m) AOD, c 1m thick.	Modern, late 19th-early 20th century
L9	Accumulation deposit of soft, very moist dark brown silty sludge, occasional fleck of CBM. Identified at a depth of 2.3m bcgl (5.14m AOD), not fully excavated	Pre-late 19th century?

**Table 1** T3 layer descriptions (ground level 7.44m AOD)

Layer	Description	Date
L1	Tarmac with a concrete sub-base. 0.3mm thick.	Modern, late 20th century
L2	Hoggin associated with L1. Identified at a depth of 0.3m bcgl (7.05m AOD), 0.1-0.12m thick.	Modern, late 20th century
L8	Made-ground of firm, moist, dark brownish-black silty-sand with inclusions of CBM, concrete chunks and modern debris. Identified at a depth of 0.4m bcgl (c 6.95m AOD), c 0.44-0.46m thick.	Modern, mid-late 20th century
L5	Made-ground of firm, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silty clay with common inclusions of concrete, steel rope and mid/late 20th century debris. Identified at a depth of 0.88m bcgl (6.47m AOD), c 0.62m thick.	Modern, mid-late 20th century
L6	Accumulation deposit of soft, moist, dark brown silty-clay with lots of organic inclusions and modern debris Equivalent to L6a in 2016 trenches T1-T2 (CAT Report 922). Identified at a depth of 1.5m bcgl (5.85m AOD), c 1m thick.	Modern, late 19th-early 20th century
L9	Accumulation deposit of soft, very moist dark brown silty sludge, occasional flecks of CBM too small to retain or identify. Identified at a depth of 2.2m bcgl (5.15m AOD), not fully excavated.	Pre-late 19th century?

**Table 2** T4 layer descriptions (ground level 7.35m AOD)



**Photograph 1** T4, looking SE

## 7 Finds

*by Laura Pooley (pottery identification by Stephen Benfield)*

Pottery, glass vessels and a single animal bone were recovered from layer L6. The majority dated to the late 19th to early 20th century, but included a single sherd of Roman amphora. All of the finds are recorded by context below. The Roman pottery was recorded with reference to the Colchester Roman fabric type series (CAR 10) and the post-medieval/modern fabrics refer to the Colchester (Essex) post-Roman fabric series (CAR 7).

### **Trench T3, L6 (13)**

#### ***Pottery***

Refined white earthenware (Fabric 48D) jar, probably a marmalade jar, incomplete, cylindrical with recessed base and plain rim defined by a deep external groove (Photograph 2). Inscription on base GRAY & SON'S / PATENT / 1 1b / PORTOBELLO. William Affleck Gray operated in Pipe Street, Portobello, Edinburgh from 1870-1923. See No.26, [http://repository.nms.ac.uk/328/1/Brunton\\_Wire\\_Works\\_Disc\\_14.pdf](http://repository.nms.ac.uk/328/1/Brunton_Wire_Works_Disc_14.pdf). 95mm high, 96mm diameter, 283g. Late 19th-early 20th century.

Four sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (Fabric 48D) (two joining, probably from a jar), 208g. 19th-early 20th century.

Sherd of post-medieval glazed red earthenware (Fabric 40), 67g, 17th/18th-19th century.

One sherd from the rim of a Dressel 20 amphora (Fabric AJ), 152g, 1st century AD.



**Glass bottles**

A complete 'Codd's ball stopper' soda water bottle. Inscription reads 'G.W.MALLINSON & CO / COLCHESTER / & / HALESWORTH. Late 19th-early 20th century

**Others**

One fragment of animal bone, 73g.



**Photograph 2** Gray & Son's jar

**Trench T4, L6 (14)**

**Pottery**

Modern English stoneware bottle (Fabric 45M), complete, 142mm high, 74mm diameter, 543g. 19th-early 20th century.

Modern English stoneware small jar/measure (Fabric 45M), straight-sided, complete, 55m high, 43mm diameter, 73g. 19th-early 20th century.

Four sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (Fabric 48D) (two joining, probably from a teapot), 331g. 19th-early 20th century.

### **Glass bottles**

A cylindrical green pressed glass bottle broken at the neck and without its stopper. One side of the bottle has THE CROWN / PERFUMERY / COMPANY / LONDON in relief, and the base of the bottle bears a diamond mark and No. 260854. The Crown Perfumery was launched in 1872 in London by William S. (Sparks) Thompson, an American industrialist from Connecticut, so this bottle design was presumably registered in the very early days of the company's existence. Their perfumes were, apparently, favoured by Queen Victoria. 66mm high, 47mm diameter, 79g. Late 19th century.

An octagonal glass ink bottle, with slight greenish-hue and chipped on neck. These bottles were burst-off from the blowpipe and received no additional finishing which resulted in a very crude and sharp finish. This method of "finishing" a bottle was common with cheap, mouth-blown, utilitarian bottles made in England in the late 1800s to as late as 1920 (<https://sha.org/bottle/household.htm>). 59mm high, 43mm diameter, 55g. Late 19th-early 20th century.

A complete cylindrical clear glass bottle with flat narrow panels front and back. Intertwined initials GP or PG at bottom of one of the panels. Cork stopper pushed into bottle. 108mm high, 38mm wide and 35mm deep, 104g. Probably late 19th/early 20th century.

## **8 Conclusion**

Modern layers were identified in T3 and T4 to a depth of 2.2-2.3m bcd (5.14-5.15m AOD). Layers L1-L2 are associated with the construction of the former car park. Layers L8, L5 and L6 confirmed findings of the 2014 and 2016 evaluations (CAT Reports 808 & 922) which revealed that the site had been used as a rubbish dump from the late 19th to the mid-late 20th century. Similar dumped deposits had also been identified in 1997 during an evaluation at Westway/Sheepen Place immediately to the northeast (CAT Report 10).

Layer L9 appears to be the original flood plain of the site. Waterlogged material (leather and wood) has been found nearby at Colchester Institute (CAT Report forthcoming) and Middleborough (CAT Report 42) dating to both the Roman and medieval periods. This indicates that L9 should have good potential for waterlogged remains. Unfortunately due to the size of the trenches/slots, their depth and the fact that they started to fill with water, it was impossible to fully investigate this layer.

## **9 Acknowledgements**

CAT thanks Kevin Whyte of Barefoot & Giles for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by A Wightman with A Tuffey. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

## **10 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. Ref ASAC/B/CIC99.1</i>
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85, by J Cotter</i>
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86, by R Symonds and S Wade</i>
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2, by CFC</i>



CAT	1996	Hawkes and P Crummy <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	2017	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Sheepen Road car park, Colchester, Phase 2</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>
CAT Report 922	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Sheepen Road car park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3GT</i>
CBCAA	2016	<i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Phase 2, Sheepen Road Car Park, Colchester by J Tipper</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>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory. The story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</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>

## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above ordnance datum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1198)

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

### 13 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 2016.10.

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#### Distribution list:

Kevin Whyte, Barefoot & Gilles

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 24.11.2017

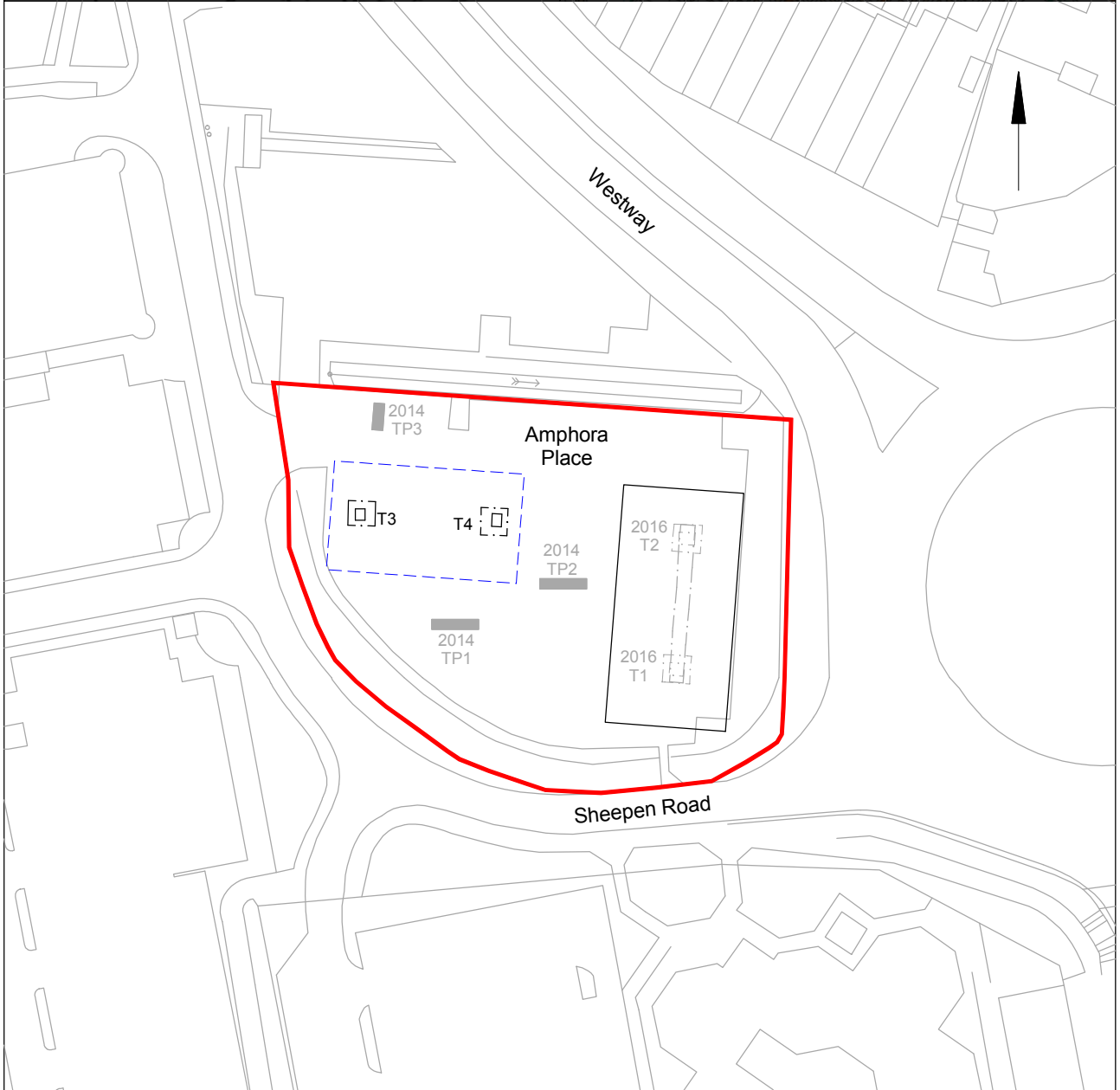
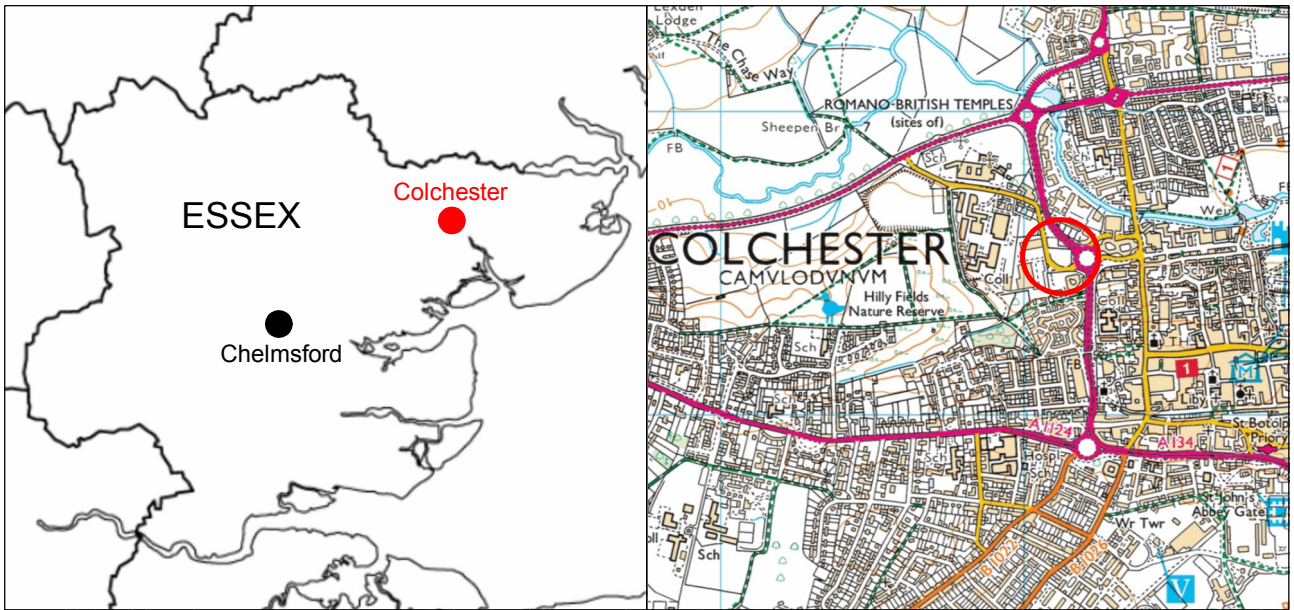


Fig 1 Site location, showing previous archaeological investigations and proposed development (dashed blue)

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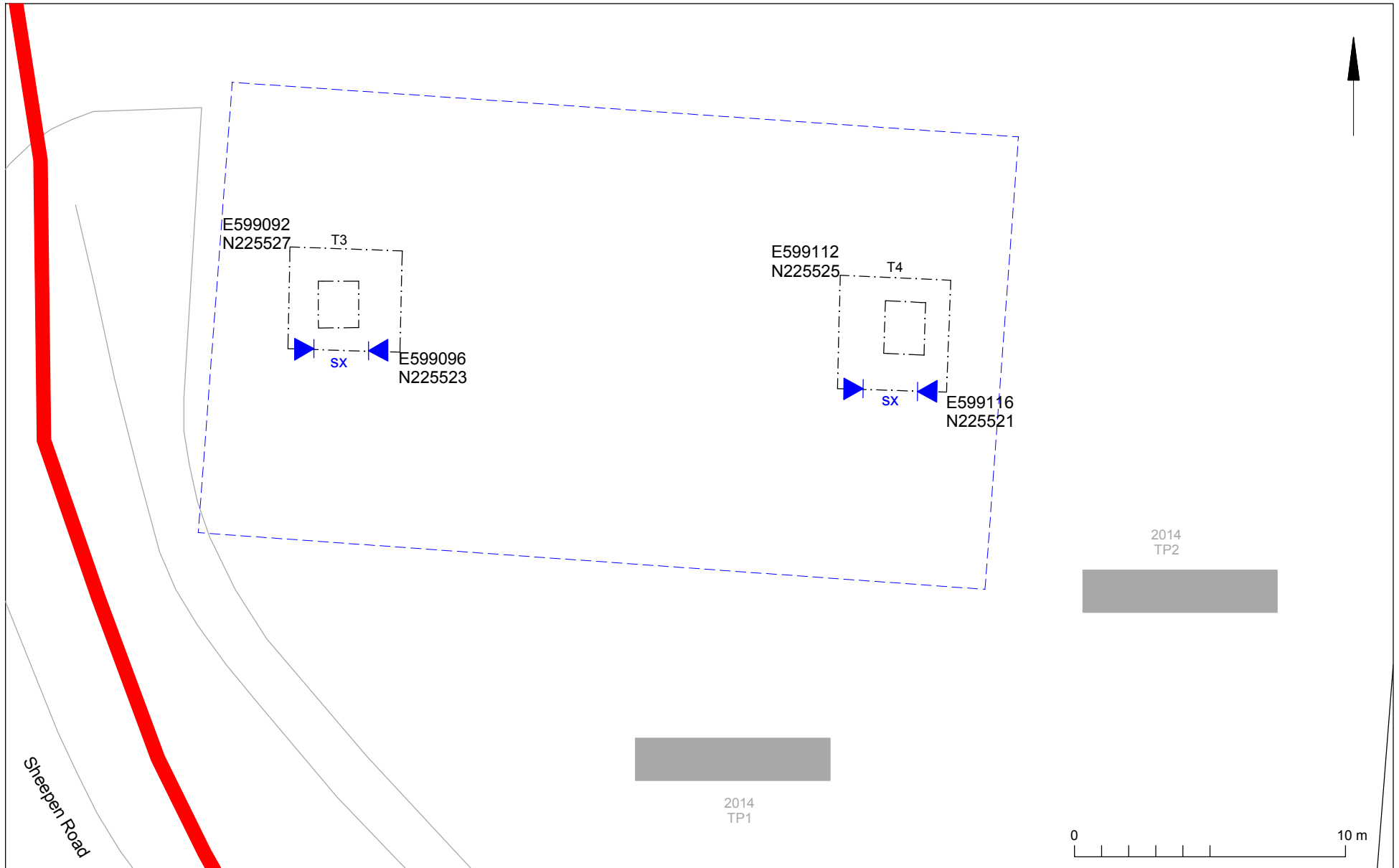


Fig 2 Results

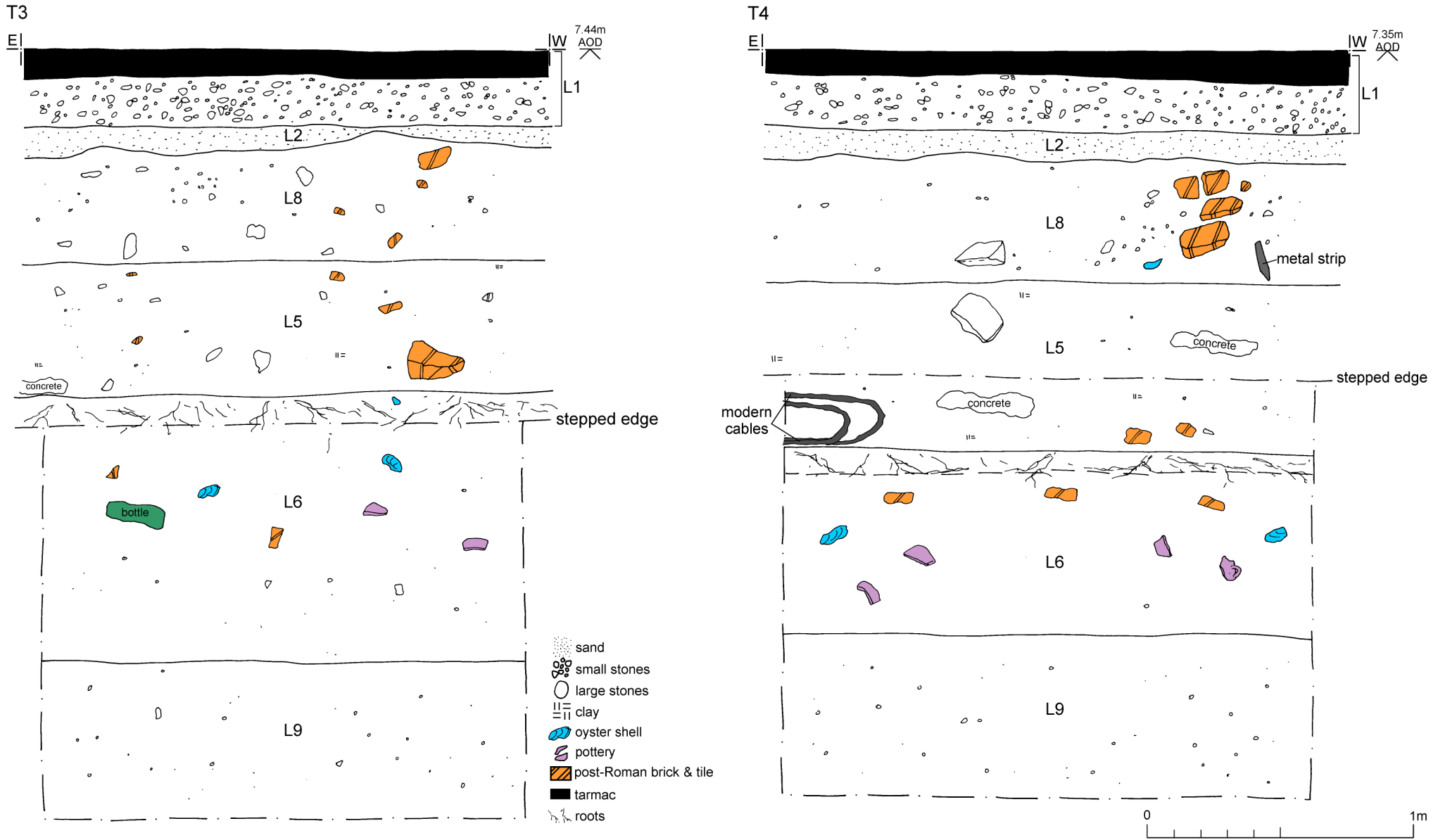


Fig 3 Representative sections.



# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Amphora Place, Sheepen Road (former car park), Colchester, Essex, CO3 3WG	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 99104 25519 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 17/10r CHER ref: ECC4110 OASIS ref: colchest3-299710
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 17th November 2017	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.4 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.10	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> Scheduled Monument no. 1002173; EHER 12353, 17065
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1198	
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Amphora Place, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, on the site of the former Sheepen Road car park, in advance of the construction of office building 2 (Phase 2 evaluation). 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. Modern layers were identified to a depth of 2.2-2.3m bcgl (5.14-5.15m AOD) in both trenches. Layers L1-L2 were associated with the construction of the former car park and L8, L5 and L6 with late 19th to early 20th century rubbish dumping on the site. At the base of the trench, L9 is probably the flood plain of the River Colne, but due to the depths involved it could not be fully investigated.</p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 922	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> none
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley/Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> November 2017

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Sheepen Road car park, Colchester, Phase 2

**NGR:** TL 99104 25519 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 151825

**Commissioned by:** Kevin Whyte, Barefoot & Gilles

**Client:** Colchester Borough Council

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** [tbc](#)

**CHER number:** [tbc](#)

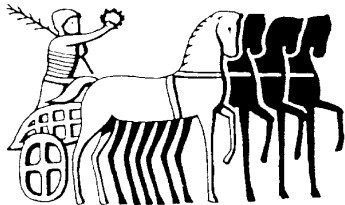
**CAT project code:** 17/10r

**OASIS project id:** colchest3-299710

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 06.11.2017



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies just beyond the north-west corner of the Roman town wall between the junctions of Westway and Sheepen Road. The site comprises the remaining portion of the former Sheepen Road car park, part of which was developed in 2016-17 for an office building (Amphora Place). The site is centred on NGR TL 9914 2551.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of Office Building 2 with associated parking and landscaping.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) 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 the 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 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 made ground was present from the surface to between 1.6 and 2.3m below ground level across the whole site.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of the Phase 1 office building in March 2016 (CAT Report 922). This comprised a 25m long trench across the footprint of the proposed building with 4m by 4m trenches at either end. 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 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 and late Victorian/early Edwardian rubbish dumping,

## Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in August 2015 (application No.151825) proposing the phased erection of two new office buildings with associated parking and landscaping. The Phase 1 office building was completed in early 2017 and this WSI is concerned with the proposed Phase 2 office building.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an

archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### **Requirement for work**

The required work is for a trenched archaeological evaluation to be carried out in advance of any groundworks to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2017).

After discussion with the CBCAA the initial requirement for a single linear trial-trench, 25m long by 1.8m wide, was altered to comprise two 4m by 4m trenches within the footprint to allow the depth of stratigraphy on the site to be adequately evaluated (Fig 1).

The trial-trenching is required to:

- 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.

If unexpected or unusual remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. Further evaluation may be required by the CBCAA, which would be the subject of an additional brief.

### **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 2017)
- The Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2017)

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 plus one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Adam Wightman

## **Evaluation methodology**

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, these will be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m sections where this is possible.

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 pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

Samples will be taken based on the strategy requested by CBCAA (see 'Environmental Sampling Policy' below)

## **Site surveying**

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. 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. Any significant features, ie burials, will be planned by hand.

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

## **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do all processing with flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.



## Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. As the requirement for work is for full excavation any human remains encountered on the site will be subject to the following criteria: 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 Ministry 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 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:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

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

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

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

## Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA 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 as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the 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 and supplied to CBCAA.

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.

## Monitoring

CBCAA 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 one week in advance of its commencement.

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA 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.</i> Ref ASAC/B/CIC99.1
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2017	<i>Health &amp; 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 Report	1997	<i>Westway/Sheepen Place, Colchester, Archaeological Report: November 1997</i>

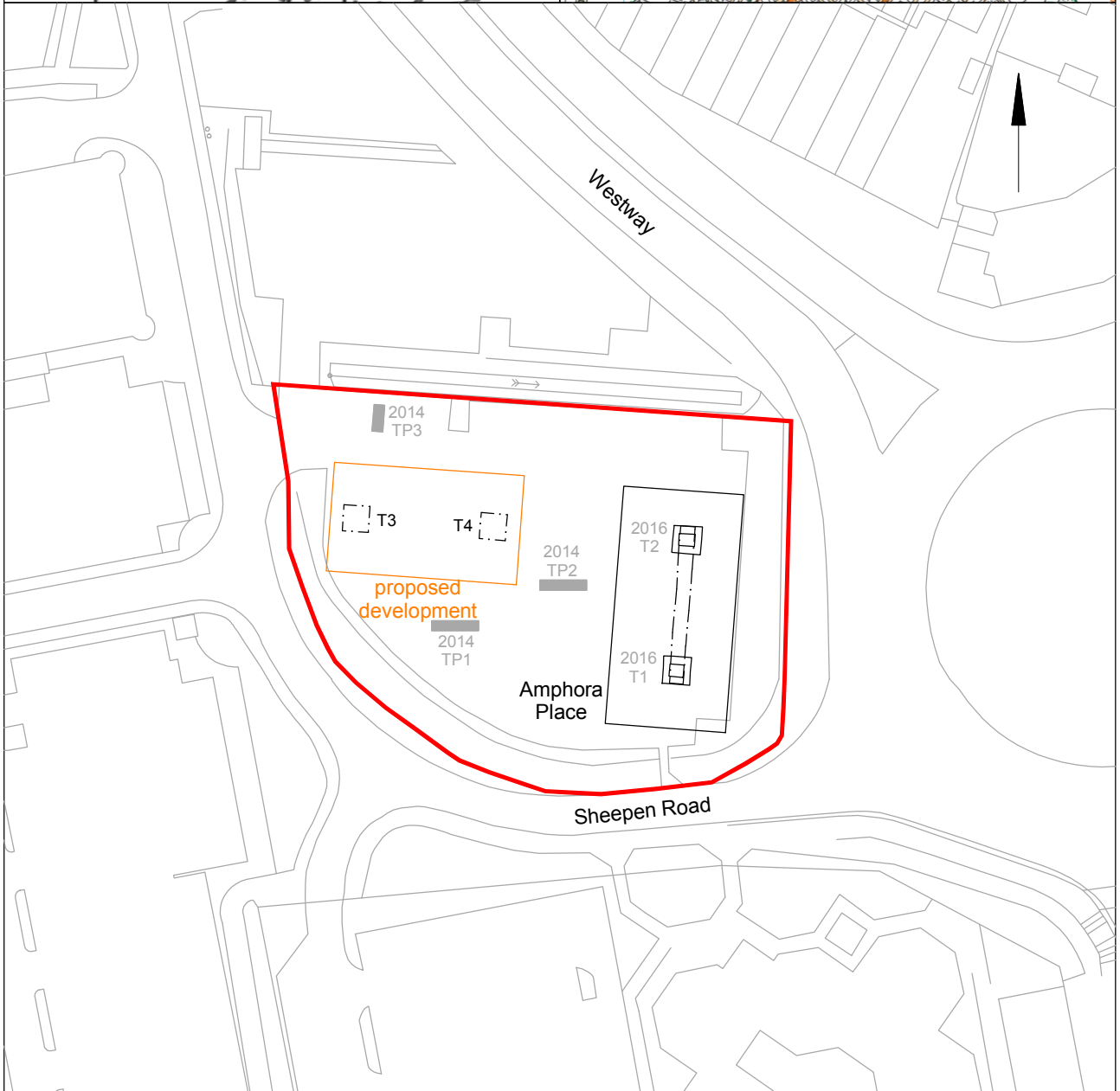
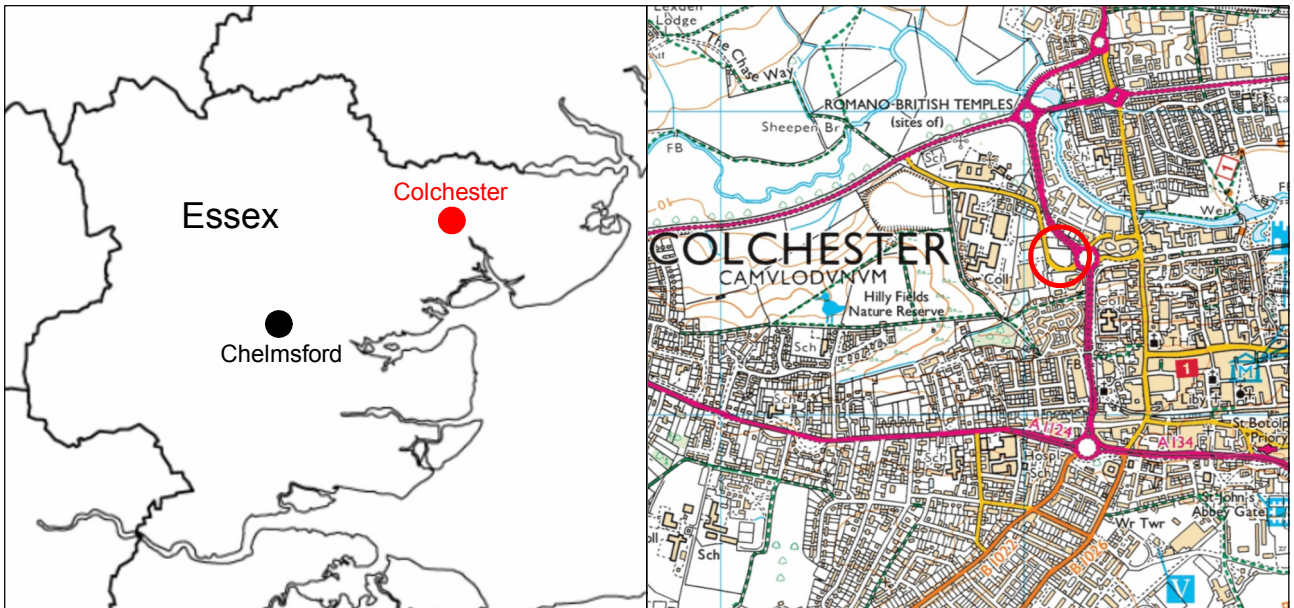
CAT Report 808	2015	<i>An archaeological evaluation by test-pits in the Sheepen Road car park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex</i>
CAT Report 922	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Sheepen Road car park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3GT</i>
CBCAA	2016	<i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Phase 2, Sheepen Road Car Park, Colchester</i> by J Tipper
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>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory. The story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</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>

## C Lister



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Fig 1 Site location, showing trench locations and previous investigations.



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**OASIS ID: colchest3-299710**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Amphora Place, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3WG
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Amphora Place, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, on the site of the former Sheepen Road car park, in advance of the construction of office building 2 (Phase 2 evaluation). 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. Modern layers were identified to a depth of 2.2-2.3m bcgl (5.14-5.15m AOD) in both trenches. Layers L1-L2 were associated with the construction of the former car park and L8, L5 and L6 with late 19th to early 20th century rubbish dumping on the site. At the base of the trench, L9 is probably the flood plain of the River Colne, but due to the depths involved it could not be fully investigated.
Project dates	Start: 16-11-2017 End: 16-11-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/10r - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	151825 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4110 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.10 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLES Modern
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 Amphora Place (former Sheepen Road car park)
Postcode	CO3 3WG
Study area	0.4 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 99104 25519 51.892080106844 0.893879224 51 53 31 N 000 53 37 E Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Adam Wightman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive	Colchester Museum



recipient  
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.10  
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"  
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.10  
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological evaluation at Amphora Place, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3WG: November 2017  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.  
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1198  
Date 2017  
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
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Description A4 ringbound loose leaf  
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>  
  
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Entered on 24 November 2017

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