

Archaeological monitoring in the car park to the rear of Colchester Town Hall, St Runwald Street, Colchester, Essex.

November 2017



by Adam Wightman

on behalf of Fenwick Ltd

CHER ref: ECC4141

CAT project ref.: 17/11b

NGR: TL 99513 25288

Colchester & Ipswich Museum accession code: COLEM 2014.27

OASIS reference: colchest3-309816



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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: aw@catuk.org



CAT Report 1232
February 2018

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the renovation of the car park to the rear of Colchester Town Hall. The car park was used by Fenwick Ltd during the redevelopment of the neighbouring department store and this work is a continuation of the monitoring reported on after the construction of the store was completed (CAT Report 1150).

A floor surface and two wall probable wall foundations were identified during the excavation of a foundation trench for a replacement boundary wall. The floor surface and one of the wall foundations were from an 18th-19th-century stable at the rear of the former Cups Hotel. The other wall foundation was probably associated with the late 18th-to early 20th-century iron foundry which occupied the land to the west of the foundation trench.

The excavations monitored during the watching brief were not deep enough to impact upon any remains or deposits dating to before the late 18th or 19th centuries.

Introduction

This is the archive report on archaeological monitoring carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Fenwick Ltd at the car park to the rear of the Town Hall in Colchester, Essex (NGR TL 99513 25288) (Fig 1). The work was undertaken during the renovation of the Colchester Borough Council (CBC) owned car park which had housed a temporary trading store (TTS) and a building site compound during the redevelopment of the Fenwick department store. Archaeological watching briefs were conducted during both the construction of the TTS (CAT Report 742) and the new department store building (CAT Report 1150).

Background

The site lies close to the central crossroads of the initial Roman legionary fortress and then at the heart of Roman Colchester. There is evidence that the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Colchester was centred on the High Street to the south of the site, and in the medieval period the High Street was again the focus of the town. In the post-medieval period a similar pattern of settlement existed. In the late 18th century the first iron foundry in Essex was established on the plot of land occupied by Fenwick Colchester.

This phase of archaeological monitoring is a continuation of the watching brief undertaken during the construction of the Fenwick department store in 2014 and reported on in CAT Report 1150 (Fig 1). Archaeological features from the Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods were recorded during the 2014 watching brief.

Aims

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that existed on the site.

Results

The monitoring was limited to the construction of a new boundary wall which separates the rear of the Fenwick Colchester department store from the car park. No excavations were required during the re-surfacing of the car park.

The new boundary wall was built on the same alignment as an earlier wall which had been demolished during the construction of the new department store. The site contractors (Vaughan & Blyth Ltd) were able to reuse the northern half of the footing of this earlier wall (Fig 2). However, a new concrete foundation c 7.5m long was required for the southern half of the new wall. The excavation of the trench for the new foundation took place over a period of two days and was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision.

The trench for the foundation of the southern half of the new wall was excavated to a depth of c 1m below the current ground level. In the very southern end, a compacted layer of crushed concrete (L1; 400mm thick) overlaid modern infill (L2; Fig 2) associated with the construction of the new department store. Further north, roughly 500mm of modern surfacing materials (L3) overlaid a dark soil (L4) which contained modern/post-medieval building materials. Most of the surfacing material had been imported during the construction of the CBC car park. However, a small area of stable floor, made with cream Staffordshire stable bricks placed face down (L5; Fig 2), is likely to have been part of an 18th-19th-century stable to the rear of the former Cups Hotel (which had stood on the plot now occupied by Greytown House; see Fig 1). The stable floor was cut by a large concrete foundation (F3) which may have been for a gate post.

Two brick structures (F1 and F2) were identified in the new foundation trench. F2 was a shallow wall foundation which may have also belonged to one of the stables or other outbuildings behind the Cups Hotel. F1 was seen in the edge of the foundation trench and continued below its base. It is probable that F2 was a brick wall foundation associated with the late 18th-to early 20th-century iron foundry which occupied the land to the west of the trench (see CAT Report 1150). A deposit of waste material from the iron foundry (L6; metal-working waste, ash and used casting sand) was also noted to the north of F2. L6 was cut by electricity cables which were installed during the groundworks associated with the construction of the TTS (CAT Report 742).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the excavations monitored during this watching brief were not deep enough to impact upon any remains or deposits dating to before the late 18th or 19th centuries.

Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Fenwick Ltd for commissioning and funding the work and Vaughan & Blyth Ltd for their assistance on site. The site work was undertaken by Adam Wightman and the project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Jess Tipper.

References

Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- | | | |
|-----------------|------|---|
| CAT Report 742 | 2011 | <i>An archaeological watching brief during the construction of the Williams & Griffin temporary trading store in the Colchester Borough Council car park, St Runwald Street, Colchester, Essex. Client report by A Wightman</i> |
| CAT Report 1150 | 2017 | <i>An archaeological excavation and watching brief at Fenwick Colchester (formerly Williams & Griffin), 147-151 High Street, Colchester, Essex. Client report by A Wightman</i> |

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2018



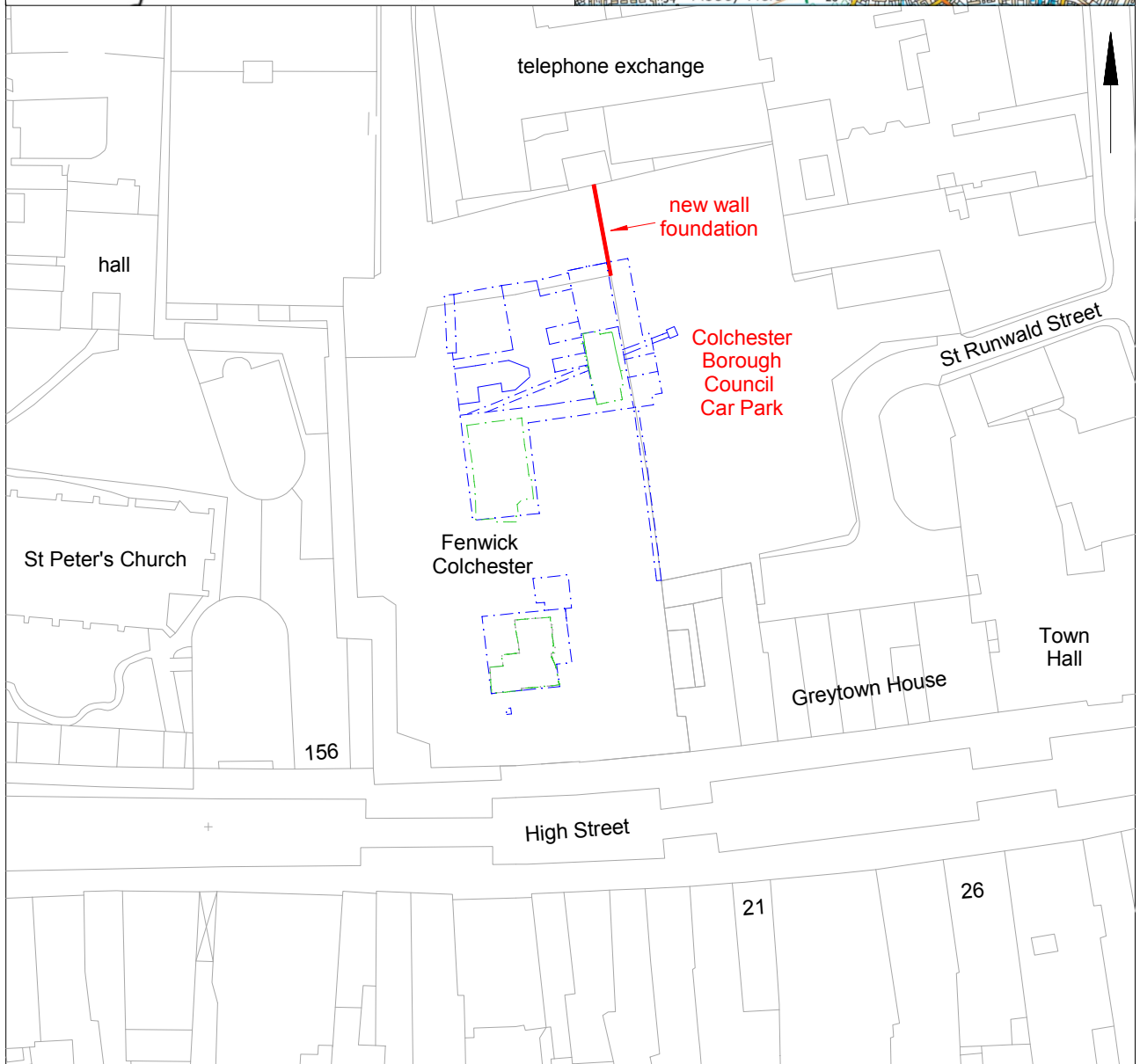
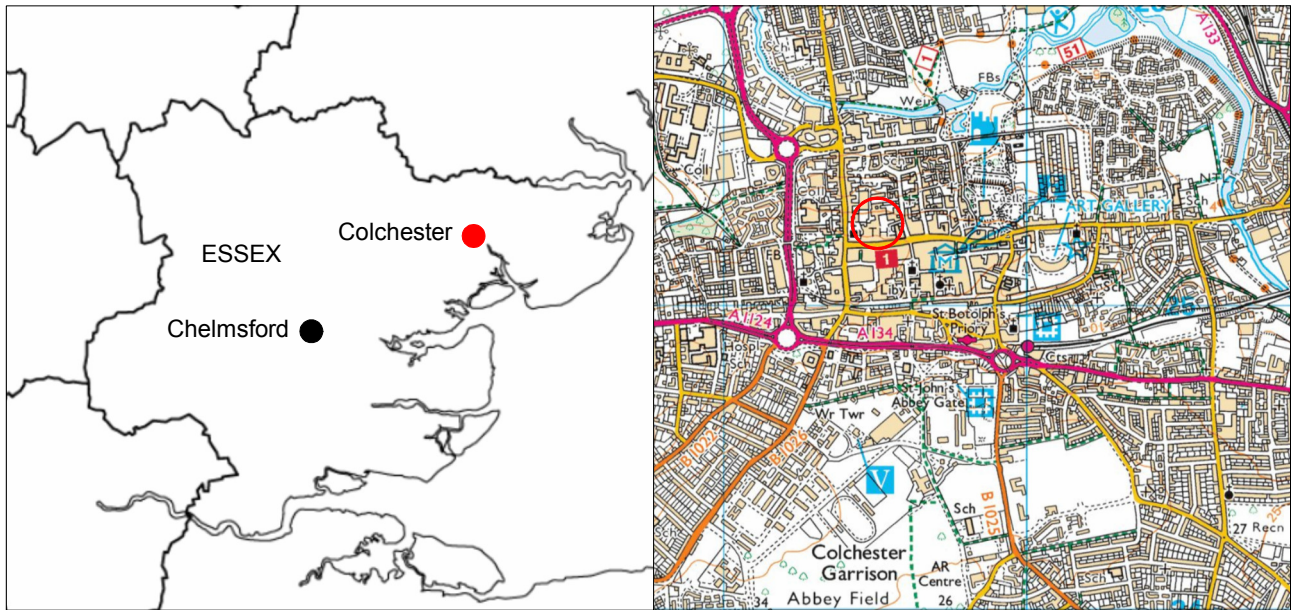
Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
off Circular Road North
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436273304

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

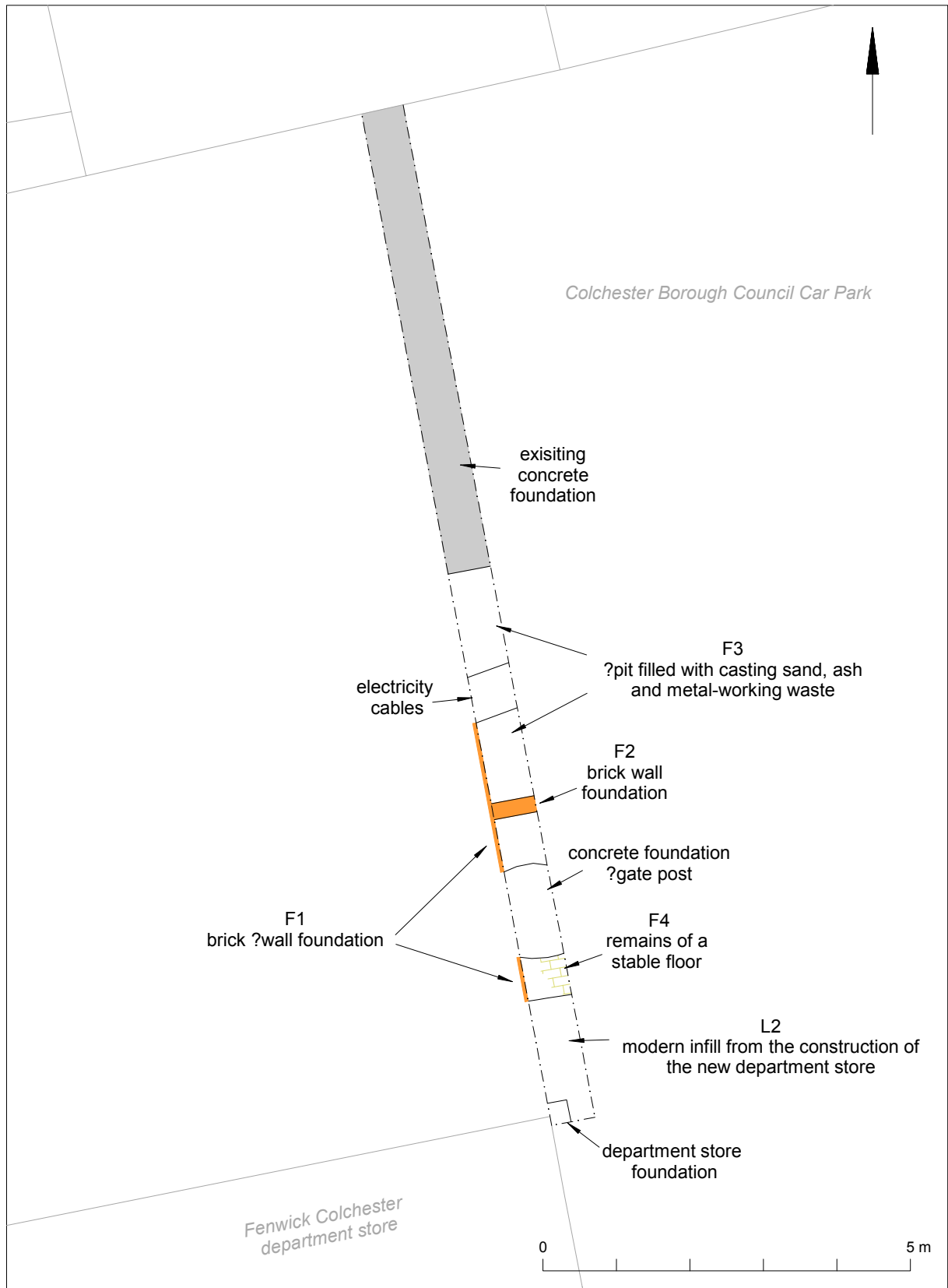
checked by: Philip Crummy
date: 20/02/2018



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

0 50 m

Fig 1 Location of the 2017 monitoring (red) in relation to the previous phases of archaeological monitoring (blue) and excavation (green) reported on in CAT Report 1150.



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 2 Results.

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: colchest3-309816

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring in the car park to the rear of Colchester Town Hall, St Runwald Street, Colchester, Essex
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the renovation of the car park to the rear of Colchester Town Hall. The car park was used by Fenwick Ltd during the redevelopment of the neighbouring department store and this work is a continuation of the monitoring reported on after the construction of the store was completed (CAT Report 1150). A floor surface and two probable wall foundations were identified during the excavation of a foundation trench for a replacement boundary wall. The floor surface and one of the wall foundations were from an 18th- 19th-century stable at the rear of the former Cups Hotel. The other wall foundation was probably associated with the late 18th- to early 20th-century iron foundry which occupied the land to the west of the foundation trench. The excavations monitored during the watching brief were not deep enough to impact upon any remains or deposits dating to before the late 18th or 19th centuries.
Project dates	Start: 01-11-2017 End: 02-11-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/11b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4141 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2014.27 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Monument type	BRICK STRUCTURE Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK STRUCTURE Modern

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Rear of Colchester Town Hall, St Runwald Street
Postcode	CO1 1EJ
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 99513 25288 51.889858715275 0.899682006145 51 53 23 N 000 53 58 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
----------------------	---------------------------------

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2014.27
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2014.27
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring in the car park to the rear of Colchester Town Hall, St Runwald Street, Colchester, Essex: November 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wightman, A.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1232
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ringbound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/
Entered by	Adam Wightman (aw@catuk.org)
Entered on	21 February 2018

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> for this page