

Archaeological monitoring at the former Arena Leisure Centre, Circular Road East, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SZ

March 2018



by **Laura Pooley**

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner

**commissioned by Rob Masefield, RPS Group Plc
on behalf of Mace Ltd**

NGR: TL 99664 24415 (centre)
Planning reference: pre-application
CAT project ref.: 18/033
Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2018.22
CHER ref: ECC4152
OASIS reference: colchest3-311814



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CAT Report 1245
March 2017

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site name & address: Archaeological monitoring at the former Arena Leisure Centre, Circular Road East, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SZ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99664 24415 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/03e CHER ref: ECC4152 OASIS ref: colchest3-311814
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 14th March 2018	Size of area investigated: 1.67h
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.22	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SAM number: Roman Circus SM no.35614
Final report: CAT Report 1245	
Periods represented: -	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the former Arena Leisure Centre during the excavation of six boreholes. The boreholes were located 43-120m south of Colchester's Roman Circus (a scheduled monument) and in an area of known Roman burials, a trackway, field boundaries and pits (CAT Reports 843 & 1142).</p> <p>Each borehole measured approximately 0.1m in diameter.</p> <p>Borehole 1 (BH1): Excavated through 2015 evaluation trench T2. Excavated through 0.2m loose tarmac, 0.3m dark yellow/brown sandy-loam, 0.1m crush and 0.1m mid yellow/brown loamy-sand onto natural sands and gravels at 0.7m below current ground level (bcgl).</p> <p>Borehole 2 (BH2): Excavated through 0.6m deep, excavated through 0.2m dark grey/brown sandy-loam, 0.1m crush and 0.3m dark yellow/brown slightly loamy-sand onto natural sands and gravels at 0.7m bcgl.</p> <p>Borehole 3 (BH3): Excavated through 0.5m deep, excavated through 0.2m dark grey/brown sandy-loam with loose tarmac and 0.3m dark yellow/brown slightly loamy-</p>	

<p>sand onto natural sands and gravels at 0.7m bcgl. Borehole 4 (BH4): Excavated through 0.6m deep, excavated through 0.3m very dark brown sandy-loam with brick fragments and 0.3m dark yellow/brown sandy-loam with brick fragments onto natural sands and gravels at 0.7m bcgl. Borehole 5 (BH5): Excavated through 0.6m deep, excavated through 0.2m very dark grey/brown sandy-loam, 0.2m crush and 0.2m mixed yellow/brown orange/brown sandy-loam onto natural sands and gravels at 0.7m bcgl. Borehole 6 (BH6): Excavated through 0.5m deep, excavated through 0.2m crush and 0.3m dark yellow/brown sandy-loam onto natural sands and gravels at 0.7m bcgl.</p> <p>No significant archaeological horizons were identified within the borehole samples.</p>	
<p>Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 843 & 1142</p>	
<p>CBC monitor: Jess Tipper</p>	
<p>Keywords: -</p>	<p>Significance: -</p>
<p>Author of summary: Laura Pooley</p>	<p>Date of summary: March 2018</p>

References

CAT Report 843, 2015, *Archaeological trial-trenching at the Arena Leisure Centre, Circular Road East, Essex, Stage 1a: pre-determination trenching. April-May 2015.*

CAT Report 1142, 2017, *The Roman Circus and other remains: archaeological evaluation and monitoring at the former Arena Leisure Centre, Circular Road East, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SZ, Stage 1b: pre-determination trenching. May-June 2017.*

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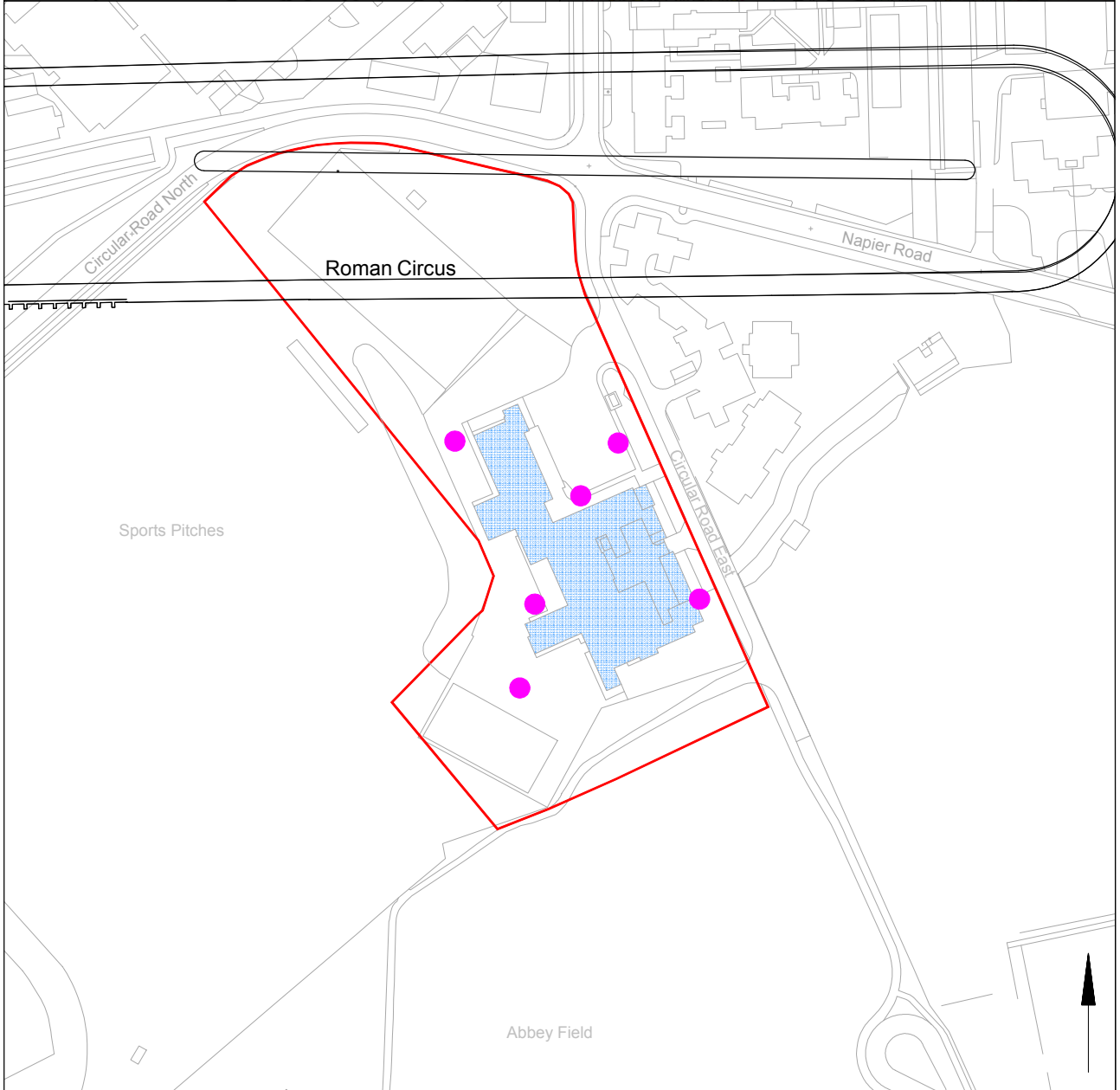
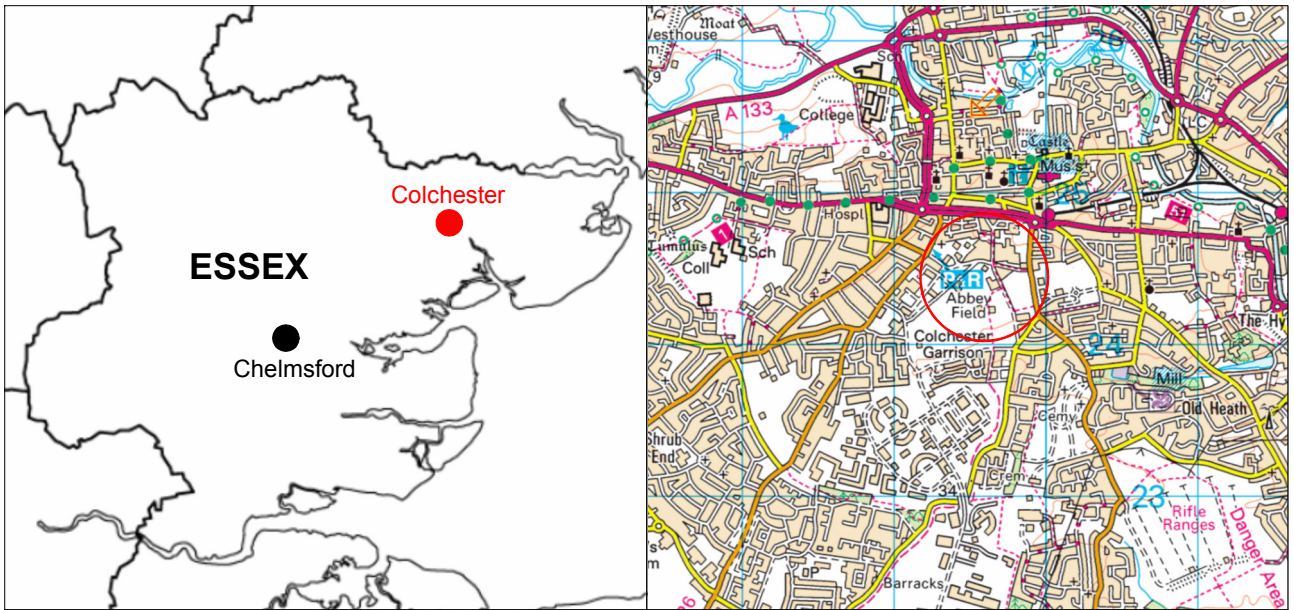
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Date: 19.2.2018



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Fig 1 Site location, boreholes shown as pink circles



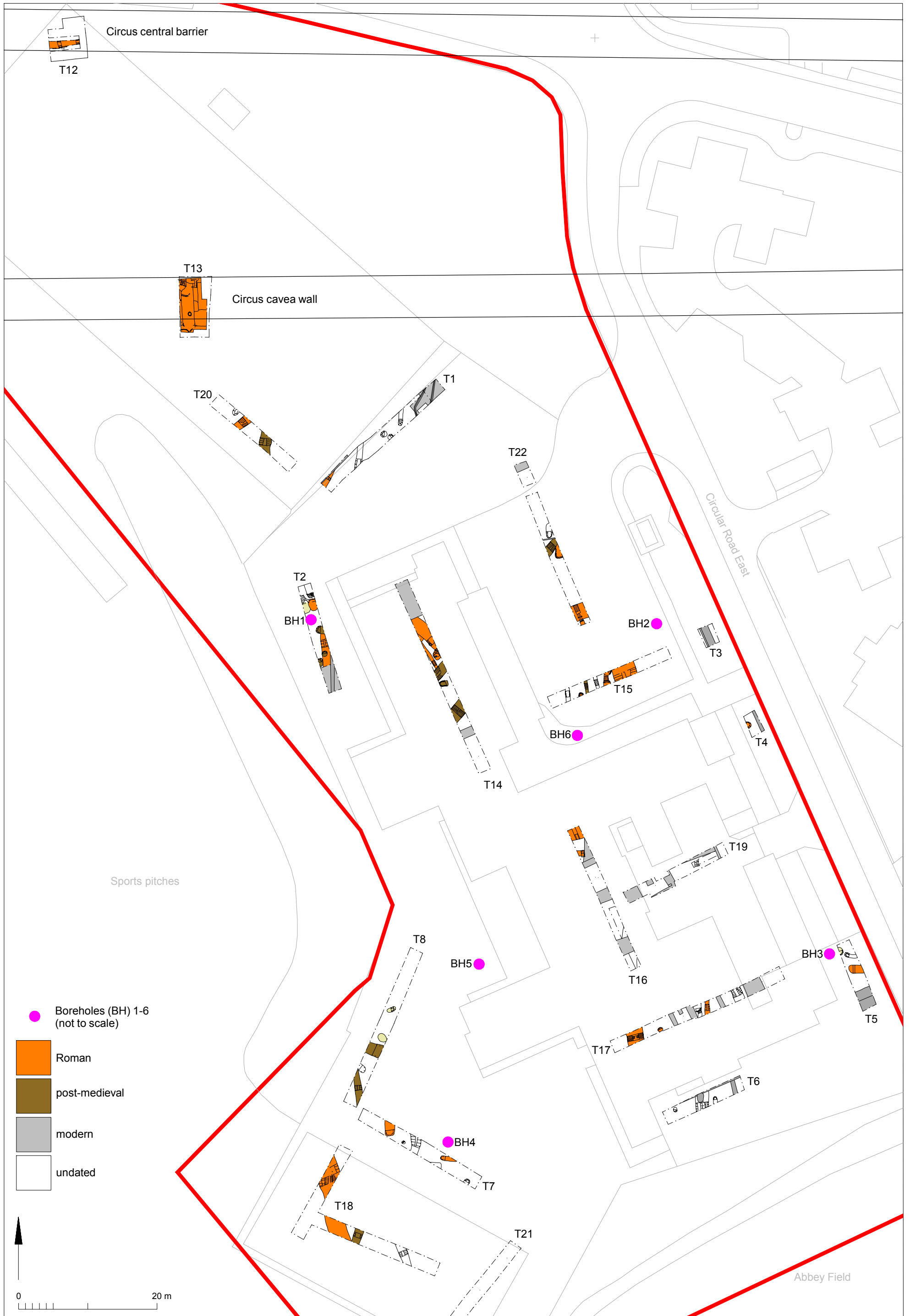


Fig 2 Location of boreholes 1-6 (BH1-6) in relation to previous archaeological evaluations (2015: T1-T11 and 2017: T12-T22)

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OASIS ID: colchest3-311814

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at the former Arena Leisure Centre, Circular Road East, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SZ
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring took place during the excavation of six boreholes measuring 0.1m diameter. No significant archaeological horizons were identified within the borehole samples.
Project dates	Start: 14-03-2018 End: 14-03-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/03e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4152 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.22 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER former Arena Leisure Centre, Circular Road East
Postcode	CO2 7SJ
Study area	1.67 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 99664 24415 51.88196459677 0.901368332396 51 52 55 N 000 54 04 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	none
Project design originator	none
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.22
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.22
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at the former Arena Leisure Centre, Circular Road East, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SZ: March 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
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