

# Archaeological evaluation by test-pitting, Stage 1, Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NB

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## 1 Summary

*A stage 1 archaeological evaluation by test-pitting (seven test-pits) was carried out in the north and south car parks of Essex County Hospital, Colchester in advance of the redevelopment of the site, to ascertain the depths of significant archaeological horizons. The hospital is located on the site of a Roman cemetery where excavations in 1820-1 uncovered the Colchester Sphinx sculpture from an elaborate tomb. Roman kilns were also recorded on the site.*

*Four test-pits were excavated in the north car park revealing at least five Roman/ probably Roman pits and the remains of a Roman structure, possibly an oven or kiln, in test-pits 2, 4 and 5. There were no significant archaeological remains in test-pit 3. Roman contexts were recorded at depths of 0.4-0.95m below current ground level.*

*Three test-pits were excavated in the south car park revealing significant depths of modern and post-medieval remains. Sealed beneath were an unidentified cut Roman feature, an unidentified and undated cut feature, an undated ditch and an undated pit/grave. These remains were recorded at depths of 0.81-1.35m below current ground level.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by test-pitting (stage 1) at the Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 31st March and 28th April 2018. The proposed 1.9ha development site is located 350m southwest of the historic walled town of Colchester on the south side of Lexden Road, between Hospital Road and Gray Road.

The archaeological evaluation was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT), commissioned by Essex Housing (ECC), ahead of a planning application for a residential estate, including conversion of key existing hospital buildings and demolition of the remainder, landscaping and parking. CAT were managed in a consultancy capacity by CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Colchester Historic Environment Record (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 pre-determination 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 an Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2017). The brief stated that a GPR survey should take place within the car parks followed by a 5% by area trial-trenching evaluation (140m<sup>2</sup>). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced (Hughes 2017a) and the GPR survey carried out (Udyrysz 2017, see summary below). However, due to logistical issues only one trial-trench (T1) was excavated (CAT Report 1186, see summary below).

CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group) were appointed by Essex Housing in March 2018 to provide consultancy support. An updated WSI was subsequently prepared by CgMs Heritage (2018) for test-pitting and trial-trenching, which was agreed with the ECCPS.

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

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

### 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER):

The original Essex County Hospital building is Grade II listed (NHLE no. 117069). Building work for the hospital began in 1819 on open fields (Philip Crummy, pers comm), so any modern activity on the development site is unlikely to be earlier than 1819.

A full archaeological background for the development site and wider area can be found in the *Essex County Hospital, Colchester: Pre-application heritage appraisal* (Wood & Henderson 2014), the *Essex County Hospital: Historic Environment Baseline and Site Model* (Hughes 2017b) and the CgMs WSI (2018). The following is therefore a summary of archaeological remains found specifically on the development site.

The development site is located immediately to the southwest of Colchester town centre, within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the southwest of the Roman walled town and on the route of the main Roman road (CHER MCC8545) which runs northeast/southwest across the site from Balkerne Gate. This route, via a junction located beneath the adjacent Grammar School, leads southwest towards the Gosbecks Roman temple site or west towards London and Braughing (Hull 1958; CAR 11). Previous excavations on the site revealed that the road had survived less than 1m below ground surface and was around 5.5m wide with ditches a metre wide on either side. Another road or track leading towards the junction at the Grammar School may cross the extreme southeast corner of the development site (CAT Report 373), and a third metalled road or track, aligned east-west across the site, was observed during the construction of the west wing of the hospital (Hull, 1958, 9).

Importantly the site is also located within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of the Roman road (Hull 1958 and CAR 9). Antiquarian excavations during the construction of the Hospital in 1820-1 revealed one/two burials and the large Colchester Sphinx stone sculpture and smaller bronze statue (MCC2133, MCC7654, EHER 11859). The survival of the sphinx is significant as it indicates the presence of an elaborate high-status tomb. At least 12 Roman burials have been found on the site in the past including inhumations (MCC1081, MCC2427), cremations (MCC1081, MCC2498), high status tombstones (MCC1366, MCC2676) and evidence of mausoleums, shrines or high status domestic buildings (MCC1079). It is unfortunate though, that most of these discoveries took place in the 19th and early 20th century as virtually no excavation records were either made or have survived.

There are also references to Roman kilns being found on the development site in 1819 (MCC1812, EHER 13139) but very little is known about them.

Future archaeological work has the potential to not only identify surviving Roman remains but to further our understanding of how widespread antiquarian excavations on the site were and to set their findings within a better understood archaeological context.

Recent archaeological investigations on the development site are as follows:

#### **Test-pit evaluation, August 2015** (Jones 2016)

Six hand-dug test-pits along the western edge of the development site revealed stratified deposits associated with high quantities of Roman material, as well as areas of Roman pitting. Finds included Roman building material, pottery of 1st-3rd century date, animal bone indicative of domestic activity and some high status metal artefacts.

#### **Monitoring and recording** (Lambert 2017)

Eight windowless sampler boreholes and three trial pits were monitored. Six of the boreholes contained archaeological deposits and artefacts, and three pits contained deposits and features (three pits), all dated to the later Roman period.

#### **Geophysical Survey** (Udyrysz 2017)

Ground penetrating radar survey in the front and rear car parks revealed anomalies associated with previous buildings (mainly below the rear car park), a cluster of possible burial remains in the central part of the front car park and anomalies of uncertain origin (possibly obstructions or made ground).

## **4 Aims**

As per the brief, the aim of the archaeological evaluation was to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of the archaeological features within the affected area.

Specifically 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.

The WSI expanded the aims of the projects to:

- establish the presence/absence Neolithic to Early Bronze Age activity;
- establish the presence/absence of later Bronze Age/ earlier Iron Age activity;
- inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification, prior to the construction of Camulodunum;
- elucidate the nature of spatial organisation within this area of the oppidum;
- address the question of the effect of the establishment of the Roman town;
- elucidate the presence/absence and density of Roman burials within this area of the Western Cemetery;
- establish the likely presence/absence of funerary monuments based on building remains and/or artefacts;
- confirm the presence/absence of buried remains associated with the major Roman Road;
- identify presence/absence of archaeological remains associated with the previously identified Roman kiln/s;
- establish whether there is clear evidence for domestic occupation at the Site and whether tessellated floors found previously are domestic or ritual in function;
- identify presence/absence elements of the Roman to post-Roman landscape; and
- identify presence/absence of any remains potentially associated with the Siege of Colchester offensive line.

## 5 Results (Figs 2-8)

In October 2017 test-pit 1 (TP1) was excavated. It measured 5m long by 1.8m wide, and was located adjacent to the Nurses Home. Two pits and a ditch were excavated, surviving at depths of c 0.4-0.6m below current ground level. All three features contained material of Roman date but their significance was difficult to determine based on the limited extent of the evaluation. See CAT Report 1186 for full details.

In March-April 2018 another seven test-pits, each 2m by 2m, were excavated by a team of CAT archaeologists.

Four test-pits, TP2-TP5, were excavated within the north car park.  
Three test-pits, TP6-TP8, were excavated within the south car park.

### North car park

#### **Test-pit 2 (TP2)** (Photograph 1, Figs 3, 5 and 7)

Modern overburden (L1-L2, c 0.4-0.47m thick, tarmac and hardcore forming the car park) overlaid natural sands/gravels (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.4-0.47m below current ground (bcgl)). A small area of natural cover loam/colluvium survived in the southeast corner of the test-pit (L4).

A steep-sided Roman pit (F1) with numerous distinct tip lines was excavated in the northwest corner but due the need to maintain to safe-working depths, was not bottomed. A small shallow feature (F4) was identified in section cutting F1. Feature F1 contained finds dating from the late 3rd to the early 4th century. Feature F4 contained mid 1st-century finds, but this feature must be later as it cuts F1.

Roman features were identified starting at a depth of 0.4-0.45m bcgl (31.23-31.18m AOD), cut into natural sands and gravels.

Context no.	Finds no.	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Tarmac	Tarmac (car park surface). Seals L2. c 0.15m thick. Ground level 31.63m AOD.	Modern
L2	-	Hardcore for L1	Brick rubble and stone in a sandy-silty clay. Sealed by L1, seals L3 & L4. c 0.3m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.15m bcgl (31.48m AOD).	Modern
L3	-	Natural sands and gravels	Natural orange sands and gravels. Sealed by L2 & L4. Identified at a depth of 0.4-0.47m bcgl (31.23-31.16m AOD).	Post-glacial
L4	-	Natural cover loam / colluvium	Firm, medium yellow/grey/brown sandy-clay. Small area in southeast corner of test-pit. Sealed by L2, seals L4. Identified at a depth of c 0.44 bcgl (31.19m AOD).	Post-glacial
F1 (T2)	1, 10 <1>  7, 10 <1>  8, 11 <2> 9, 12 <3>	Pit	<b>Fill A (upper fill):</b> pale to mid greyish-brown sandy-silty clay, inclusions include flecks of oyster shell and charcoal, occasional small stones. <b>Fill B:</b> mid to mark slightly brownish-grey sandy-silty clay. <b>Fill C:</b> coarse orange sand. <b>Fill D:</b> dark grey sandy-silty clay. Sealed by L2, cuts L4.	Roman, late 3rd to early 4th century

			At least 0.73m deep (not bottomed). Identified at a depth of c 0.4m bcgl (31.23m AOD).	
F4	6	Shallow cut feature	Identified in sx only. Soft, friable, moist, dark sandy-silty clay, inclusions include very occasional flecks of oyster shell and charcoal, <1% stone. Sealed by L2, cuts F1 and L4. c 0.11m deep. Identified at a depth of c 0.45m bcgl (31.18m AOD).	Roman (later than F1)

**Table 1** Context information for test-pit 2 (TP2)

**Test-pit 3 (TP3)** (Figs 3, 5 and 7)

Modern overburden (L1-L2, c 0.3m thick) overlaid natural cover loam/colluvium (L4, c 0.25m thick) which sealed natural sand/gravel (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.55m bcgl). The surface of the cover loam/colluvium had been disturbed in two places (F2-F3), probably during the construction of the car park, although a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered as a residual find from F3. A small sondage was dug into L3 to confirm that it was natural.

There were no significant archaeological remains.

Context no.	Finds no.	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Tarmac	Tarmac (car park surface). Seals L2. c 0.09-0.11m thick. Ground level 32.06m AOD.	Modern
L2	-	Hardcore for L1	Brick rubble and stone in a sandy-silty clay. Sealed by L1, seals L4. c 0.2m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.1m bcgl (31.96m AOD).	Modern
L3	-	Natural sands and gravels	Natural orange sands and gravels. Sealed by L4. Identified at a depth of c 0.55m bcgl (31.51m AOD).	Post-glacial
L4	-	Natural cover loam / colluvium	Firm, medium yellow/grey/brown sandy-clay. Seal by L2, seals L3. c 0.25m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.3 bcgl (31.76m AOD).	Post-glacial
F2	-	Disturbance	Small patch of modern disturbance in L3, probably dating to when the car park was laid. Hard, dry, dark brown sandy-clay with modern brick fragments (not retained). Sealed by L2, cuts L4. Identified at a depth of c 0.3m bcgl (31.76m AOD).	Modern
F3	3	Disturbance	Small patch of modern disturbance in L3, probably dating to when the car park was laid. Hard, dry, dark brown sandy-clay with modern brick fragments (not retained). Sealed by L2, cuts L4. Identified at a depth of c 0.3m bcgl (31.76m AOD).	Modern

**Table 2** Context information for test-pit 3 (TP3)

**Test-pit 4 (TP4)** (Photograph 2, Figs 3, 5 and 7)

Modern overburden (L1-L2, c 0.25-0.35m thick) overlaid a post-medieval (pre-1819) cultivated soil/topsoil (L8, at least 0.5m thick, equivalent to L5 in TP5) that overlay the site before the hospital was built.

Sealed by L8, at a depth of c 0.47-0.54m bcgl, were the remains of a demolished Roman structure (L9). Concentrations of Roman ceramic building material (tile) in this layer show signs of being heat-affected, and it is possible that this represents the remains of a kiln/oven, similar to the one identified 75m to the southwest at 3 Oxford Road (CAT Report 362). The upper surface of this spread of material was cleaned and recorded, but was not further investigated at this stage. Pottery recovered from cleaning over the surface dated to the mid to late 2nd century.

The remains of L9 were truncated by a Roman pit (F5) dated from the early/mid 2nd to the 3rd/4th century. The pit was 0.3m deep and had been cut into cover loam/colluvium at its base (L4, identified here at a depth of c 1m bcgl).

Roman features and layers were identified starting at depths of between 0.47-0.7m bcgl (33.05-32.82m AOD).

Context no.	Finds no.	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Tarmac	Tarmac (car park surface). Seals L2. c 0.06-0.13m thick. Ground level 33.52m AOD.	Modern
L2	-	Hardcore for L1	Brick rubble and stone in a sandy-silty clay. Sealed by L1, seals L8. c 0.18-0.27m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.06-0.13m bcgl (c 33.46-33.39m AOD).	Modern
L4	-	Natural cover loam / colluvium	Firm, medium yellow/grey/brown sandy-clay. Cut by F5, and probably sealed by L9.	Post-glacial
L8	14, 16, 18, 19	Cultivated soil / topsoil	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-loam, inclusions include flecks/ fragments of CBM, oyster shell and charcoal, common stones. Sealed by L2, seals L9 & F5. At least c 0.5m thick (not bottomed). Identified at a depth of c 0.25-0.35m bcgl (33.27-33.17m AOD).	Post-medieval (pre-1819)
L9	20, 21	Demolition	A spread of Roman tile and occasional imbrex, some fire-affected, in a mixed mid-grey brown/reddish brown sandy-silt. Sealed by L8, cut by F5. At least c 0.2m thick (not excavated). Identified at a depth of c 0.47-0.54m bcgl (33.05-32.98m AOD).	Roman, mid to late 2nd century
F5	15, 22 <4>	Pit	Soft, friable, moist, dark grey silty-clay, inclusions include rare flecks/ fragments of CBM, oyster shell and charcoal, <1% stone. Sealed by L8, cuts L9 and L4. c 0.3m deep. Identified at a depth of c 0.7m bcgl (32.82m AOD)	Roman, early/mid 2nd to 3rd/4th century

**Table 3** Context information for test-pit 4 (TP4)



**Test-pit 5 (TP5)** (Photograph 3, Figs 3, 5 and 8)

Modern overburden (L1-L2, c 0.15m thick) overlaid a post-medieval (pre-1819) cultivated soil/topsoil (L5, 0.8m thick, equivalent to L8 in TP4).

Safe-working depths meant that only a small sondage (1.2 by 0.8m) was excavated through L5 to check the depth of this layer. The sondage revealed that, sealed beneath L5 was a mixed sandy-clay (L6, observed at a depth of c 0.95m bcgl) which had been cut by three ?pits (F6/L7, F7, F8). None of these pits were excavated, but all appeared to have a homogenous dark soil fill. A small slot dug into F6/L7 produced early 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery, and revealed that it had been cut into a cover loam/colluvium (similar, if not the same as, L4) at its base (identified at a depth of 1.25m bcgl).

Roman features and layers were identified starting at a depth of c 0.95m bcgl (31.94m AOD).

Context no.	Finds no.	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Tarmac	Tarmac (car park surface). Seals L2. c 0.05m thick. Ground level c 32.89m AOD.	Modern
L2	-	Hardcore for L1	Brick rubble and stone in a sandy-silty clay. Sealed by L1, seals L5. c 0.1m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.05m bcgl (32.84m AOD).	Modern
L4	-	Natural cover loam / colluvium	Firm, medium yellow/grey/brown sandy-clay. Cut by F6/L7.	Post-glacial
L5	4, 17	Cultivated soil / topsoil	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-loam, inclusions include flecks/ fragments of CBM, oyster shell and charcoal, common stones. Sealed by L2, seals L6, F6/L7, F7 & F8. 0.8m thick. Identified at a depth of 0.15m bcgl (32.74m AOD).	Post-medieval (pre-1819)
L6	-	Dump layer	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown sandy-clay. Sealed by L5, cut by F6/L7, F7 & F8. Uncertain thickness. Identified at a depth of c 0.95m bcgl (31.94m AOD).	?Roman
L7	5, 13 <5>	Fill of F6	Originally identified as L7, before it was realised this was actually the fill of pit F6. Soft, moist, medium yellow/mottled grey/brown sandy-slightly loamy silt, inclusions include flecks/fragments of CBM, oyster shell and charcoal, occasional stone. Sealed by L5, cuts L6. c 0.3m deep. Identified at a depth of c 0.95m bcgl (31.94m AOD).	Roman, early 2nd to 3rd century
F6	-	Pit	Originally identified as L7, before it was realised this was actually the fill of a pit. For description see L7. Sealed by L5, cuts L6. c 0.3m deep. Identified at a depth of c 0.95m bcgl (31.94m AOD).	Roman
F7	-	?Pit	Not excavated. Friable, moist, dark grey slightly sandy-silty clay, rare charcoal flecks, 3% stone. Sealed by L5, cuts L6. Identified at a depth of c 0.95m bcgl (31.94m	?Roman

			AOD).	
F8	-	?Pit	Not excavated. Friable, moist, dark grey slightly sandy-silty clay, rare charcoal flecks, 2% stone. Sealed by L5, cuts L6. Identified at a depth of c 0.95m bcgl (31.94m AOD).	?Roman

**Table 4** Context information for test-pit 5 (TP5)



**Photograph 1** Test-pit 2 showing F1 and F4, looking N



**Photograph 2** Test-pit 4 showing F5 and L9, looking E



**Photograph 3** Sondage in test-pit 5 showing L6, F6/L7, F7 and F8, looking E

### South car park

#### **Test-pit 6 (TP6)** (Photograph 3, Figs 3, 5 and 8)

A modern service pipe cut across the centre of the test-pit, consequently only the northern half of the test-pit was excavated.

Modern overburden (L1, L2 & L15, c 0.43m thick) overlaid a layer of modern build-up or buried topsoil (L16, c 0.4m thick). Beneath L16 was subsoil (L17, c 0.29m thick) which sealed natural (L3, identified at a depth of c 1.1m bcgl (33.12m AOD)).

Two modern features were recorded, F13 and F14, both cutting through L16.

Undated feature F15 is a possible pit or grave-cut, but further excavation would be required to determine the full extent and nature of the feature. The few fragments of animal bone recovered would suggest that it is more likely to be a pit, but very occasionally food (ie joints of meat) was included in Roman graves.

Context no.	Finds no.	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Tarmac	Tarmac (car park surface). Seals L2. c 0.1m thick. Ground level c 34.22m AOD.	Modern
L2	-	Hardcore for L1	Brick rubble and stone in a sandy-silty clay. Sealed by L1, seals L15. c 0.13m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.1m bcgl (34.12m AOD).	Modern
L3	-	Natural sands and gravels	Natural orange sands and gravels. Sealed by L17. Identified at a depth of c 1.1m bcgl (33.12m AOD).	Post-glacial
L15	-	Hardcore / crush	Another layer of hardcore / crush in a dark grey/brown sandy-silt, associated with L1-L2 and sealed between two layers of membrane. Sealed by L2, seals F14, L16 c 0.2m thick. Identified at a depth of 0.23m bcgl (33.99m AOD).	Modern, c 1819+
L16	-	Build-up / buried topsoil	Friable, dark black sandy-silt. Modern pottery was identified in the fill but not retained for post-excavation analysis. Sealed by L15, cut by F14, seals F15, L17. c 0.4m thick Identified at a depth of c 0.43m bcgl (33.79m AOD).	Modern, c 1819+
L17	-	Subsoil	Soft/friable, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt. Sealed by L16, cut by F15, seals L3. c 0.29m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.82m bcgl (33.4m AOD).	-
F13	-	?modern service	A square cut-feature, possibly associated with services, not bottomed. Soft, dry, medium orange/grey sandy-silt (mottled dark soil and natural fill). Sealed by L15, cuts L16. Identified at a depth of c 0.43m bcgl (33.79m AOD).	Modern
F14	-	Pit	Not excavated, observed in section only. Soft, dry, dark black sandy-silt, with flecks of CBM. Sealed by L15, cuts L16 and F15 c 0.45m deep. Identified at a depth of c 0.43m bcgl (33.79m AOD).	Modern

F15	31	?Pit / grave cut	Not fully excavated. Friable, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt. Sealed by L16, cut by F14, cuts L3 and L17. At least c 0.38m deep. Identified at a depth of c 0.82m bcgl (33.4m AOD).	undated
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**Table 5** Context information for test-pit 6 (TP6)

### Test-pit 7 (TP7)

Modern overburden (L1-L2, c 0.27-0.33m thick) overlaid two layers of modern accumulation (L11, 0.5-0.54m thick; L13, c 0.14-0.24m thick). Beneath L13 was a layer of post-medieval (pre-1819) cultivated soil/topsoil (L14, c 0.05-0.35m thick) which sealed natural (L3, identified at a depth of c 1.03-1.3m bcgl (33.09-32.82m AOD)).

An undated ditch (F12), aligned SE-NW, had been cut into natural. It measured 0.72m wide by 0.32m deep.

Context no.	Finds no.	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Concrete	Concrete (car park surface). Seals L2. c 0.05m thick. Ground level c 34.12m AOD.	Modern
L2	-	Hardcore for L1	Brick rubble, tarmac and stone in a sandy-silty clay. Sealed by L1, seals L11. c 0.22-0.28m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.05m bcgl (34.07m AOD).	Modern
L3	-	Natural sands and gravels	Natural orange sands and gravels. Sealed by L14. Identified at a depth of c 1.03-1.3m bcgl (33.09-32.82m AOD).	Post-glacial
L11		Accumulation	Moist, dark grey/brown silty-sandy loam, <2% stone, inclusions of CBM, bitumen etc. Sealed by L2, seals L13. c 0.5-0.54m thick. Identified at a depth of 0.22-0.28m bcgl (33.9-33.84m AOD).	Modern
L13	26	Accumulation	Firm, moist, medium brown silty-loam, <1% stone. Sealed by L11, seals L14. c 0.14-0.24m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.75-0.78m bcgl (33.37-33.34m AOD).	Modern, c 19th-early 20th century
L14	27	Cultivated soil / topsoil	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silty loam. Sealed by L13, seals L3 and F12 c 0.05-0.35m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.92-0.98m bcgl (33.2-33.14m AOD).	Post-medieval (pre-1819)
F12	<28>	ditch	Soft, moist, light-medium grey/brown sandy-silt, daub flecks, >2% stone. Sealed by L14, cuts L3. Identified at a depth of c 1.22m bcgl (32.9m AOD).	undated

**Table 6** Context information for test-pit 7 (TP7)

### Test-pit 8 (TP8)

Modern overburden (L1 & L10, c 0.65m thick) overlaid a post-medieval/modern accumulation (L11, 0.41m thick). Beneath L11 was a layer of post-medieval (pre-1819) cultivated soil/topsoil (L12, c 0.3m thick) which sealed natural (L3, identified at a depth of c 1.37m bcgl (33.3m AOD)).

The corner of post-medieval brick wall foundation F9 was recorded in the test-pit, cutting L11-L12 and sealed by L10. This is likely to be part of an old hospital building demolished when the southern car park was built.

Sealed by L12 and cut into natural were F10 and F11. Due to the limited extent of the excavation it is difficult to determine the exact nature of these features. They could be pits, ditches or even burial-related features. Roman pottery was recovered from F11.

Context no.	Finds no.	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Tarmac	Tarmac (car park surface). Seals L2. c 0.12-0.18m thick. Ground level c 34.67m AOD.	Modern
L10	-	Levelling	Levelling layer for the car park consisting of CBM, stone and gravel in a medium grey sandy-silt, sat on a layer of membrane. Sealed by L1, seals L11 & F9. c 0.47-0.53m thick. Identified at a depth of c 0.12-0.18m bcgl (34.55-34.49m AOD).	Modern
L3	-	Natural sands and gravels	Natural orange sands and gravels. Sealed by L12, cut by F10-F11. Identified at a depth of c 1.37m bcgl (33.3m AOD).	Post-glacial
L11	24	Accumulation	Moist, dark grey/brown silty-sand, <2% stone, inclusions of CBM, bitumen etc. Sealed by L10, seals L12, cut by F9 c 0.41m thick. Identified at a depth of 0.65m bcgl (34.02m AOD).	Post-medieval/modern
L12	24	Cultivated soil / topsoil	Soft, friable, medium-dark grey/brown silty-sand, with flecks of oyster shell and CBM, occasional stone. Sealed by L11, cut by F9, seals L3, F10-F11. c 0.3m thick. Identified at a depth of c 1.07m bcgl (33.6m AOD).	Post-medieval (pre-1819)
F9	-	Wall foundations	Post-medieval red brick foundations. Sealed by L10, cuts L11, L12. Identified at a depth of c 0.65m bcgl (34.02m AOD).	Modern, c 1819+
F10	25 <29>	Unidentified cut feature	Not fully excavated. Soft, friable, moist, dark grey/brown silty-loamy sand, occasional gravel and stone. Sealed by L12, cuts L3 Not bottomed, at least 0.37m deep. Identified at a depth of c 1.37m bcgl (33.3m AOD).	undated
F11	23 <30>	Unidentified cut feature	Not fully excavated. Soft, moist, medium grey/brown silty-sand, occasional small stones. Sealed by L12, cuts L3 c 0.35m deep. Identified at a depth of c 1.2m bcgl (33.47m AOD).	Roman

**Table 7** Context information for test-pit 8 (TP8)



**Photograph 4** Test-pit 6, looking N



**Photograph 5** Test-pit 8, looking NW

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Bulk Finds

by Stephen Benfield

#### Introduction

The finds from the archaeological evaluation were recovered from features and layers in all test pits (TP2-8). The majority of the finds are pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone. There is one sherd of prehistoric pottery. The majority of the finds are Roman, although some of these are residual in later contexts. There is a much smaller amount of post-medieval and modern material, with no more than a few pieces from any one context. This suggests that most of the undated finds, for example the animal bones, are also probably Roman. All of the finds are listed and described by context together in Table 9. The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 8. The Roman fabrics refer to the fabric series in *CAR 10* and the post-Roman fabrics to that in *CAR 7*. The Roman vessel form refer to the Colchester (*Camulodunum*) type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947 & Hull 1958).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
<i>Prehistoric:</i>		
D	Flint-tempered, small-large flint, poorly sorted	Prehistoric (Neolithic-Early Iron Age)
<i>Roman:</i>		
AA	Amphorae (all excluding Dressel 20)	Mid 1st-2nd/early 3rd century
AJ	Dressel 20 amphorae	Mid 1st-2nd/early 3rd century
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian	Mid-late 1st century
BXSG	South Gaulish decorated samian	Mid-late 1st century
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	Mid 2nd-early 3rd century
BACO	Colchester samian	Mid-late 2nd century
BSW	Black surface ware	Roman
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	Early 2nd-3rd century
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman (primarily mid 1st-2nd century)
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	Mid 3rd-4th century
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	Early 2nd-4th century
GB	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 2	Early 2nd-3rd century
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares	Roman
HD(LSH)	Late shell-tempered ware	Mid-late 4th/late 4th century
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	Mid 1st-2nd/3rd century
KX	Black-burnishes ware (BB2) types in pale grey wares	Early 2nd-4th century
MQ	White-slipped fine wares	Roman
MR	Brown colour-coated ware	Late 3rd-early 4th/4th century
TE	Nene Valley mortaria (white fabric, black grits unslipped or red wash)	Mid 3rd-4th century
TF	Nene Valley mortaria (white fabric, red-brown colour-coat)	Mid 3rd-4th century
TZ	Mortaria Colchester	Mid 1st-early 3rd/3rd century
<i>Post-Roman:</i>		
40	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenware	16th/17th-18th century
40B	Stock-type black glazed ware	17th-early 18th century
45	Stoneware (general)	16th/17th-19th century
46A	English Tin glazed earthenware (general)	16th/17th-19th century
51B	Flowerpot	19th-early 20th century

**Table 8** Pottery fabrics



### **Prehistoric**

A sherd of relatively coarse flint-tempered pottery was recovered unstratified from cover loam (L4). This is probably of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Prehistoric pottery ranging from Early Neolithic to Middle Iron Age has been recovered from excavations at Culver Street in the town centre (CAR 6 317-320), and Late Bronze Age occupation has previously been located at Kiln Road to the northeast (CAR 11, 66d 131-137), although both are located at some distance from the development site.

Also of possible prehistoric date is a large thick flint flake/lump with several small flake removals. One side is entirely cortex and the flakes have all been removed on the non-cortex face along one edge, possibly indicating selective flaking. However, these appear very minimal in terms of deliberate production of useful flakes, and might represent incidental flaking or damage on a flint lump.

### **Roman**

Roman finds were recovered from all test-pits, apart from TP6 which produced only a small quantity of broken and abraded animal bone from F15. Roman finds are the only closely-dated material recovered from contexts in TP1, TP2 and TP3 (although both TP1 & TP3 produced only single pottery sherds) and they make up almost all of the finds from TP4 which otherwise produced just one sherd of post-medieval pottery (L8). They also make up most of the large quantity of finds from TP5, although apart from L7, most of these appear to residual in later contexts. Test pits TP7-8 produced very small quantities of Roman finds with only one context, F11 in TP8, appearing to be of a Roman date.

### **Pottery**

Roman pottery appears well represented by coarseware forms in greyware (Fabric GX) with a few imported (samian) finewares. Pre-Flavian pottery is either absent or was not recognised as there is nothing diagnostic of that period. So, overall it appears likely that there is a significant presence of pottery dating to the late 1st to early 2nd century residual among later-dated material.

The 1st-century samian includes a few sherds of South Gaulish ware including a Dr 15/17 platter and a sherd from a Dr 37 decorated bowl dating to after c AD 70. Early coarseware forms, dating to the 1st or early 2nd century, include Cam 108 (beaker) and jar forms Cam 227, Cam 221/266 and Cam 266, and possibly Cam 218. Some of the large storage vessels represented by heavily-tempered sherds (Fabric HZ) probably also date to this period. A few sherds from amphorae other than Dressel 20 (Fabric AA) might also date to the 1st or early 2nd century, although the Dressel 20 type, which is imported into the 3rd century is more common. Some of the oxidised ware sherds (Fabric DJ) typical of flagons are also likely to be of early Roman date but can only be dated as probably 1st to 2nd/early 3rd century.

A significant proportion of the pottery is of mid Roman date, c 2nd to 3rd/early 4th century. Some of the pottery fabrics and forms in this group remain current throughout the 4th century, but there is little that is diagnostic of the late Roman period.

Finewares include sherds from several samian pots. These appear to be mostly East Gaulish with cup form Dr 33, bowl form Dr 31 and mortaria Dr 45. Of interest is a partial deep walled dish of form Dr 18/31 in Colchester samian which is stamped by the potter Gabrus (Hull 1963, stamp 16 87) (Photograph 6). The slip is poor, almost akin to a colour-coat, and may be a kiln waster or second. The pot should date broadly to the early Antonine period and as a part vessel it may be possible that it has been displaced from a burial, although the inclusion of samian pots with burials is not particularly common at Colchester. Other finewares are represented by local products, colour-coated wares (Fabric CZ) and probably most of the white-slipped sherds (Fabric MQ). One colour-coated sherd from TP3 is a beaker base that has been cut down to form a counter, although the edges have not been smoothed off. Nene Valley colour-coated

ware (Fabric EA), typical of the 3rd to 4th century at Colchester is scarce among the assemblage, although sherds from TP5 might be Nene Valley rather than local.



**Photograph 6** TP4 L9(20) Colchester samian bowl (Fabric BACO) form Dr 18/31, part pot with joining sherds, poor slip coating and possible waster or kiln second stamped **GABRVS.F(E)** (c mid 2nd century).

Coarsewares include a range of forms, cooking/kitchen wares (jars and bowls) and mortaria. Regional coarsewares include an example of the mug form Cam 124 in Dorset black-burnished ware (Fabric GA) broadly of 2nd to 3rd century date, and sherds of mortaria from the Nene Valley (Fabrics TE & TF) which can be dated to the mid 3rd to 4th century at Colchester. A sherd from a Colchester mortarium (Fabric TZ) of form Cam 479-type with a herringbone stamp on the flange can be closely dated to the Antonine period. This comes from TP4 (20). Black-burnished ware 2 (Fabric GB), which is possibly mostly of local production, includes examples of dish and bowl forms Cam 37A and Cam 39B. Local greyware versions of black-burnished ware (Fabric KX) are represented by a dish/bowl of form Cam 39 or Cam 40. One bowl in oxidised ware (Fabric DJ) is probably a Cam 302 (2nd to early 4th century). Other sherds from oxidised pots and large storage vessels might also be of this period but are not closely-dated, this is also the case for sherds from imported Spanish amphorae typical of form Dressel 20.

Late Roman pottery (4th century/late 4th century) is limited to a few sherds which indicates it is a minor part of the assemblage. This suggests more limited activity in the late Roman period and this pattern has been found to be fairly typical of many extra mural areas. The assemblage consists of a single sherd of late shell-tempered ware (Fabric HD(LSH)) typical of the mid to late 4th century from TP4 (14). There is also a flanged bowl (Dr 38-type) in brown colour-coated ware (Fabric MR) which does not appear to be current in Colchester before the late 3rd century.

### **Ceramic building material (CBM)**

Broken pieces of Roman CBM were common finds. Pieces from roof tiles, both *tegula* (RT) & *imbrex* (RI), Roman tile-like bricks (RB) and Roman flue tiles (RFT) were identified, while other undiagnostic Roman pieces were classified as Roman brick/tile (RBT). All of the CBM is orange-red and in silty, fine or medium sand fabrics. Measurements relating to thickness of the CBM are recorded in Table 9. Most consisted simply of broken pieces and there was little indication of the reuse of any CBM in mortared construction.

The largest quantity in terms of pieces comes from TP4 (14) and these were also noted as being generally of medium to large size. Lesser groups came from TP1 (7), TP4 (20) and TP5 (4). Two *tegula* flanges with lower cut-aways (LCA) were recovered from TP1 (7). On these the sanded block in the mould forming the cut-away penetrated the flange top and the lower part had been knife trimmed at an angle to create a form corresponding to Warry Type C5 (Warry 2006 fig 1.3). Pieces of combed flue tile were recovered from TP5 (4).

### **Other finds of Roman or probable Roman date**

A single small piece of blue-green vessel glass was recovered from TP4 (16). A small piece of Roman wall plaster with a red painted surface was found in the same context.

### **Post-Roman**

Finds of post-Roman material are relatively few in number. They consist of sherds of pottery and pieces of CBM largely of post-medieval and modern date. They were recovered from contexts in TP4 (L8), TP5 (L5), TP7 (L13 & L14) and TP8 (L12). The pottery sherds date to the c 17th to 18th century and 18th to 19th century. One sherd from TP7 (26) is probably a modern flower pot, although this is not entirely certain. A piece from a cream coloured wall tile of probable 19th or early 20th century date was recovered from TP5 (4) and single pieces of peg-tile, probably of post-medieval date, came from TP7 (27) and TP8 (24).

### **Other finds**

#### **Animal bone**

Animal bone was recovered from a number of contexts, all listed in Table 9. Significant quantities were recovered from L5 and L7 in TP5. In TP5 the bone from L7 is associated with Roman pottery. Two sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery as well as a modern wall tile are associated with context L5. However, there is a significant quantity of Roman pottery from L5 which suggests that most of the bone from there may be of Roman date.

The identifiable animal bone comes from three of the main common domesticates: cattle, pig and sheep. Other pieces are recorded as large-sized mammal (LM) or medium-sized mammal (MM). A number of pieces exhibited evidence of butchery-cut and chopping marks, and there is canine gnawing on two of the bone pieces listed below.

Bone with cut or chop marks: TP4 L8 (14) LM rib piece with cut mark, MM gnawed rib piece; TP4 F5 (15) Cattle metacarpal piece with cut mark; TP4 L8 (16) LM rib piece with cut marks; TP5 L5 (17) LM pelvis piece with chop marks.

Bone with gnawing: TP4 L8 (14) MM gnawed rib piece; TP5 L5 (4) Sheep gnawed? mandible piece.

#### **Worked stone**

A small, rectangular, sawn stone block was recovered from L9 (21) in TP4 (Photograph 7). The stone has not been closely identified or sourced but is a grey-coloured limestone (reacting with hydrochloric acid) or calcareous-based fine sandstone. It is broken at both ends with some fine buff mortar(?) adhering to one end. Other finds from L9 (20) are of Roman date, dating to the mid to late 2nd century.

The dimensions of the piece are 120mm x 45mm wide x 55mm deep (cut edge) with a weight of 506g. It has been sawn from the edge of a larger piece, one edge having been sawn to 33mm into the stone before it was snapped from the larger block leaving a rough ledge along the base of one side. The opposite face and top are smooth while the base has an uneven finish and retains chisel impressions. The saw and snap method, either from one side or from above and below, was certainly used in the Roman period to detach rectangular stone pieces. For example, the technique was used in the manufacture of Roman whetstones.



**Photograph 7** TP4 L9 (21) Rectangular, sawn stone block, detached (snapped) from larger stone block, broken at both ends; smooth surfaces, rough chiselled underside.

Context	Find no.	Roman	Finds spot date
(US), L4 Cover loam	2	<b>Prehistoric pottery:</b> Fabric D, 2 joining sherds (abraded), Neolithic-Bronze Age. <b>Iron nail:</b> Roman or later (not heavily corroded), narrow head(?), possibly post-medieval (likely intrusive).	Prehistoric, Neolithic to Bronze Age
TP1, F1 Pit	1 7	<b>Roman pottery:</b> VSQ (small sherds), Fabric GX. <b>Roman pottery:</b> LQ (small sherds) Fabrics AA, DJ, GX (Cam 108, mid 1st-early 2nd century; Cam 221/266, mid 1st-early 2nd century), HZ. <b>Roman CBM:</b> Q, includes 2 RT with LCA (LCA sanded block penetrating flange top and lower part knife trimmed at an angle – form corresponds to Warry Type C5 (Warry 2006 fig 1.3) & RBT pieces. <b>Flint:</b> natural large thick flake/lump with one side cortex,	Roman Roman, mid 1st-early 2nd century

Context	Find no.	Roman	Finds spot date
		row of several small flake removals along one edge made into non cortex face (prehistoric?). <b>Nail (iron):</b> 1 nail. <b>Animal bone:</b> VSQ (small pieces), sheep (radius, tooth). <b>Oyster shell:</b> Q.	
	8	<b>Oyster shell:</b> 2.	-
	9	<b>Roman pottery:</b> VSQ (small-medium sherds), Fabrics GX, HZ, MR (Dr 38, late 3rd-early 4th century). <b>Roman CBM:</b> 1 RBT. <b>Animal bone:</b> 1. <b>Oyster shell:</b> 2.	Roman, late 3rd-early 4th century
TP2, F4 Shallow feature	6	<b>Roman pottery:</b> 1 Fabric BASG (Dr 15/17, probably Claudio-Neronian to early Flavian). <b>Animal bone:</b> VSQ (pig teeth).	Roman, mid-late 1st century
TP3, F3 Modern disturbance	3	<b>Roman pottery:</b> 1 Fabric CZ (complete beaker base, wall probably cut down to form a counter disc but not smoothed).	Roman, early 2nd-3rd century
TP4, F5 Pit	15	<b>Roman pottery:</b> LQ (small-medium sherds), Fabrics AJ, BXSG (Dr 37, late 1st century), DJ, GB (Cam 39B, early 2nd-3rd century), GX (Cam 266, mid 1st-early 2nd century), KX (Cam 39 or Cam 40, early/mid 2nd-4th century), MQ. <b>Roman CBM:</b> Q, RB & RBT pieces. <b>Animal bone:</b> SQ, cattle (metacarpal with cut mark), plus LM (vertebra) & MM (rib and tibia).	Roman, early/mid 2nd-3rd/4th century
TP4, L8 Cutivated soil/ topsoil	14	<b>Roman pottery:</b> LQ, Fabrics AJ, BASG, DJ, GB, GX, HD(LSH), HZ, TF. <b>Roman CBM:</b> LQ (medium-large pieces) RT, RI, RB & RBT pieces. Discarded: RT, 7 pieces, 842g, 2 c 15mm thick; RI, 3 pieces, 338g; RB, 11 pieces, 3098g, c 35 & 45mm thick; RBT, 13 pieces, 1696g. <b>Post-medieval pottery:</b> 1 Fabric 40 (17th-18th century). <b>Stone:</b> septaria lump. <b>Animal bone:</b> Q, cattle (metacarpal, phalanx, radius, tibia), pig (maxilla, canine), sheep (metatarsal, metacarpal), plus LM (rib with cut mark) & MM (scapula (pig?), vertebrae, gnawed rib).	Post-medieval, 17th-18th century
	16	<b>Roman pottery:</b> LQ (small-medium sherds), Fabrics BAEG (Dr 31, late 2nd-early 3rd century), CZ, DJ, GA (Cam 124, early 2nd-3rd century), GB, GX (Cam 218? mid 1st-early 2nd century), TE. <b>CBM:</b> VSQ, RI & RBT pieces. <b>Wall plaster:</b> 1 (red surface). <b>Glass:</b> 1 small piece of pale blue-green vessel glass (flaking but probably Roman, c mid/late 1st-3rd century). <b>Animal bone:</b> SQ, sheep (metatarsal unfused), plus LM (rib with cut marks, vertebrae) & MM (rib).	Roman, mid 3rd-4th century
	19	<b>Roman CBM:</b> 1 RBT piece	Roman
TP4, L9 Demolition	20	<b>Roman pottery:</b> Q (includes medium-large sherds), Fabrics AA, AJ, BACO (Dr 18/31 with deep wall, part pot with joining sherds, poor slip coating – possible waster/kiln second? - stamped <b>GABRVS.F(E)</b> , c mid 2nd century), DJ (Cam 302?), TZ (flange, large sherd, Cam 479-type with single herringbone stamp, early Antonine). <b>Roman CBM:</b> VSQ RB (piece with finger-wipe semi-circle signature), RI. <b>Animal bone:</b> VSQ, LM (tibia, rib, other fragments)	Roman, mid-late 2nd century
	21	<b>Worked stone:</b> Small rectangular sawn stone block (120mm x 55mm deep x 45mm wide), grey limestone/calcareous fine sandstone, broken at both ends with some fine buff mortar(?) adhering to one end (506g). Sawn from the edge of a larger piece, one edge sawn to	Presumed Roman

Context	Find no.	Roman	Finds spot date
		33mm then snapped from block leaving rough edge, opposite face and top smooth, base uneven finish and retains chisel impressions – it can be noted that this technique appears to be used in the manufacture of Roman whetstones.	
TP5, L5 Cultivated soil / topsoil	4	<b>Roman pottery:</b> VLQ (mostly medium size sherds), Fabrics AA, AJ, BAEG (Dr 4, late 2nd-early 3rd century), CZ, DJ, GB (Cam 37A, early 2nd-late 2nd century & Cam 37B, late 2nd-early 3rd century), GX (Cam 227, late 1st-early 2nd century), TZ. <b>CBM:</b> Q, RFT(combed), RT, RB. <b>Post-medieval pottery:</b> 1 Fabric 45 (c 16th-18th/19th century). <b>Modern CBM:</b> Cream wall tile, 19th/late 19th-early 20th century. <b>Iron nails:</b> 2. <b>Stone:</b> septaria piece. <b>Animal bone:</b> Q, cattle (phalanx, metacarpal, skull fragment/horn core piece), sheep (mandible – gnawed?), plus LM (rib, vertebra, femoral head) & MM (vertebra)	Modern, 19th/late 19th-early 20th century
	17	<b>Roman pottery:</b> LQ (medium size sherds), Fabrics AJ, BAEG (Dr 33 cup, mid 2nd-early 3rd century), CZ (possibly Nene Valley Fabric EA, early 2nd-3rd/4th century), DJ, GX (Cam 108 mid 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 243-244/246 mid 1st-early 2nd century & Cam 268 early/mid 2nd-3rd century), HZ (Cam 270B). <b>Roman CBM:</b> 1 RB. <b>Modern pottery:</b> 1 Fabric 46A (18th-19th century) <b>Animal bone:</b> Q, cattle (metatarsal), sheep (radius, calcaneus, mandible) plus LM (vertebra, pelvis piece with chop marks, skull piece).	Modern, 18th-19th century
TP5, L7 fill of pit F6	5	<b>Roman pottery:</b> LQ (small-medium sherds, quite broken-up), Fabrics AJ, CB, GX, HZ. <b>Roman CBM:</b> 2 RB & 1 RBT <b>Animal bone:</b> Q, pig (mandible), plus LM (humerus, rib, pelvis) & MM (vertebrae)	Roman, early 2nd-3rd century
TP6, F15 Pit/grave	31	<b>Animal bone:</b> misc small pieces (25g), 12 pieces with many small fragments, abraded – possibly from one or two bones, one piece suggest unfused juvenile, but other than that is simply pieces of bone of medium or large mammal.	-
TP7, L13 Accumulation	26	<b>Modern pottery:</b> single piece from the base edge (dia. c 90mm), wheel-made and wired free of table, fine fabric, grey core with orange fabric margin that extends through base at one point suggesting presence of former pre-firing hole close to edge, probably a flower pot base – Fabric 51B (c 19th-20th century)	Modern, c 19th-early 20th century
TP7, L14 Cultivated soil / topsoil	27	<b>Roman pottery:</b> 1 sherd, Fabric DJ, abraded handle, thick possibly from a two handled pot (mid 1st-2nd century?). <b>Roman CBM:</b> RBT, single piece, probably reused. <b>Post-Roman CBM:</b> peg-tile (medieval-post-medieval), four misc small abraded pieces not closely dated.	Medieval/post-medieval
TP8, F11 Unidentified cut	23	<b>Roman pottery:</b> 2 sherds, Fabric GX, GX/BSW	Roman
TP8, L12 Cultivated soil / topsoil	24	<b>Roman pottery:</b> 2 sherds, Fabric AJ (mid 1st-early 3rd century), GX. <b>Roman CBM:</b> 1 piece RBT. <b>Post-Roman CBM:</b> peg-tile piece (medieval-post-medieval). <b>Post-medieval pottery:</b> Fabric 40B, probably a drinking	Post-medieval, c 17th-18th century

Context	Find no.	Roman	Finds spot date
		vessel (c 17th-early 18th century). <b>Oyster shell:</b> small piece of shell.	

**Table 9** All finds by context

#### Key to Table 9

Find quantity: VSQ = very small quantity <6; SQ = small quantity <11; Q = quantity <21; LQ = large quantity <51; VLQ = very large quantity <101.

CBM (ceramic building material): RT = Roman *tegula*; RI = Roman *imbrex*; RB = Roman brick; RBT = Roman brick or tile; RFT = Roman flue tile; LCA = *tegula* lower cutaway (see Warry 2006). Animal bone: LM = large sized mammal; MM = medium sized mammal.

## 6.2 Roman coin

by Laura Pooley

A Roman 4th-century nummus was recovered from post-medieval/modern cultivated soil/topsoil (L8). The coin is almost illegible.

**SF1** L8 (18) Roman 4th-century copper-alloy nummus. Obverse: bust right, inscription illegible. Reverse: illegible. Diameter: 11mm; weight: 1.5g.

## 7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

### Introduction

Eight samples were taken from pits, a ditch and unidentified cut features dated to either the Roman period or undated (Table 10).

Sample no.	Finds no.	Feature	Date
<1>	10	F1 pit (upper fill)	Roman (late 3rd to early 4th century)
<2>	11	F1 pit (mid fill)	Roman (late 3rd to early 4th century)
<3>	12	F1 pit (lower fill)	Roman (late 3rd to early 4th century)
<4>	22	F5 pit	Roman (early/mid 2nd to 3rd/4th century)
<5>	13	L7, pit F6 (lower fill)	Roman (early 2nd to 3rd century)
<6>	28	F12 ditch	Undated
<7>	30	F11 cut (upper fill)	Undated
<8>	29	F10 cut (upper fill)	Undated

**Table 10** List of samples

### Sampling and processing methods

Eight samples (200 litres of soil) were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for

plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

Sample no.	Bulk sample volume (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Charred grains			Charred seeds			Charred plant tissue	Charcoal <4mmØ	Charcoal >4mmØ	Uncharred root/rhizome fragments
			a	d	p	a	d	p				
<1>	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
<2>	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
<3>	40	15	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	2	1	2
<4>	40	40	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	2
<5>	40	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
<6>	40	5	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	1
<7>	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
<8>	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1

**Table 11** Plant remains in samples

Key to Table 11:

a = abundance [1 = occasional 1-10; 2 = moderate 11-100; and 3 = abundant >100]

d = diversity [1 = low 1-4 taxa types; 2 = moderate 5-10; 3= high]

p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only); 2 = moderate (genus); 3 = good (species identification possible)]

## Results (Table 11)

### **The plant remains**

Uncharred, probably recent, root/rhizome fragments and charred charcoal flecks were present in low numbers in every sample.

The charred plant remains consisted of grains, identifiable charcoal and one seed. One well-preserved spelt (*Triticum spelta* L.) grain each was found in the lower fill F1 <3> and F5 <4>. A poorly preserved bread/club/rivet (*T. aestivum/durum/turgidum*) was found in L7/F6 <5>. Two poorly preserved barley/wheat (*Hordeum/Triticum* sp) gains were found in F1 <3>. One poorly preserved wheat grain was found in F12 <6>. This sample also contained one dock type (*Rumex* sp.) seed. No cereal chaff was recovered. Identifiable charcoal fragments were found in F1 <3>, F5 <4> and L7/F6 <5>.

No dried waterlogged plant macro-remains were present.

### **Faunal remains**

Terrestrial mollusca and fragments of marine mollusca were found in low numbers in the mid fill of F1 <2>. Low numbers of earthworm cocoons were found in L7/F6 <5>.



### **Artefacts and significant inorganic remains**

No artefacts or significant inorganic remains were present.

### **Discussion**

#### **Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination**

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples. Uncharred root/rhizome fragments, terrestrial mollusca and earthworm cocoons can indicate that bioturbation is possible. Worm action can carry small items such as seeds and small stones up to a metre down into the soil (Canti 2003, 143).

#### **Quality and type of preservation**

Preservation was by charring. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2; English Heritage 2011, 17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).

No plant remains were preserved by mineralisation (Green 1979, 281) or silicification (Robinson and Straker 1990), which means that there is no archaeobotanical evidence for the cess disposal or slow-burning aerated fires.

#### **Significance and potential of the samples and recommendations for further work**

The plant remains, aside from the uncharred root/rhizome fragments, were present in low numbers relative to sample size. The charred plant remains are small and durable enough to have been moved about the site in backfill, re-working and bioturbation so cannot be guaranteed to be the same date as or originate from the sampled feature or context unless the excavators are sure the sampled contexts were stratigraphically secure.

A recent study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record for southern England (Pelling *et al.* 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning charred plant remains such as these to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96).

If the stratigraphic integrity of the sampled contexts containing charred plant remains are secure, then they are evidence of cereals consumed and associated crop weeds. But they are very low in number relative to the volume of sampled soil.

Preservation conditions appear to support charred and mineralised plant macro-remains so bulk/whole-earth sampling in future archaeological investigations would be a suitable method of sampling.

Due to the low number of charred items per litre of sampled soil and that fact that this report records all the items seen, no further work is recommended on these samples unless it is for radiocarbon dating. Items that may be suitable for radiocarbon dating were found in samples <3>, <4>, <5> and <6>.

## 8 Conclusion

### North car park

Test-pit evaluation in the north car park at Essex County Hospital revealed Roman pitting and the remains of a structure, possibly an oven or kiln, in test-pits 2, 4 and 5. These Roman remains were recorded starting at depths of:

Test-pit 2: c 0.4-0.45m bcgl (31.23-31.18m AOD).

Test-pit 4: c 0.47-0.7m bcgl (33.05-32.82m AOD).

Test-pit 5: c 0.95m bcgl (31.94m AOD).

The area covered by the north car park has been graded in the past, presumably when the car park was constructed to provide vehicular access to Lexden Road. As a result, the northern edge of the car park is c 1-2m lower than the southern edge and much of the archaeology has been truncated. This explains why the car park surface (L1-L2) directly overlays natural layers in test-pits 2 and 3, and why there were no significant archaeological remains in test-pit 3. In contrast, further to the south of the car park in test-pits 4 and 5, a layer of post-medieval (pre-1819) cultivated soil/topsoil (L5 & L8) seals Roman contexts. This likely overlay the site before the hospital was built. However, the pit and shallow feature (F1 and F4) identified in test-pit 2 show that Roman remains have survived on the northern edge of the car park, albeit in a truncated form.

Due to the greater dig-depths involved with test-pits 4-5, it was not possible to fully examine the Roman features identified. The possible oven or kiln in test-pit 4 is certainly a significant discovery that needs further investigation, as do the Roman pits in test-pit 5.

It is interesting to note that no trace of the Roman road projected to cross the site was identified in test-pits 2, 3 or 4 (see Figs 2-3 for projections). Given the truncated nature of the archaeological remains, it is possible that the road was destroyed during the construction of the hospital and car park especially in test-pits 2 and 3, but no evidence was recovered in test-pit 4 either. Confirming whether the Roman road has survived would certainly be an important priority for any future work in these areas.

### South car park

Test-pit evaluation in the south car park at Essex County Hospital revealed significant depths of modern and post-medieval horizons measuring approximately 0.81-1.35m below current ground level. Beneath these horizons were an unidentified cut Roman feature, an unidentified and undated cut feature, an undated ditch, and an undated pit/grave. These remains were recorded starting at depths of:

Test-pit 6: c 0.81m bcgl (33.41m AOD).

Test-pit 7: c 1.22m bcgl (32.9m AOD).

Test-pit 8: c 1.15-1.35m bcgl (33.52-33.32m AOD).

Due to the depths of modern and post-medieval horizons, it was not possible to fully examine all the Roman and undated features. The unidentified cut features in test-pit 8 need further investigation, as does the possible grave or pit in test-pit 6.

There was no metalling present in test-pit 8 that would indicate that the possible road or trackway identified at Colchester Grammar School (CAT Report 373) passes through this specific location.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Essex Housing (ECC) for commissioning and funding the work and CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group) for managing CAT in a consultancy capacity. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by Adam Wightman and Mark Baister with S Carter, E Hicks, B Holloway, C Lister, R Mathieson, N Rayner, A Tuffey and A Wade. Figures are by S Carter, B Holloway, E Holloway and L Pooley. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

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| 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>   |
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## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
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,  
<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>  
Roman section            the period from AD 43 to c AD 410  
wsi                            (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s  
written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** one box

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1255)

CBC evaluation brief, CgMs Heritage 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: 2018.33

**Distribution list:**

CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS group)

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Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

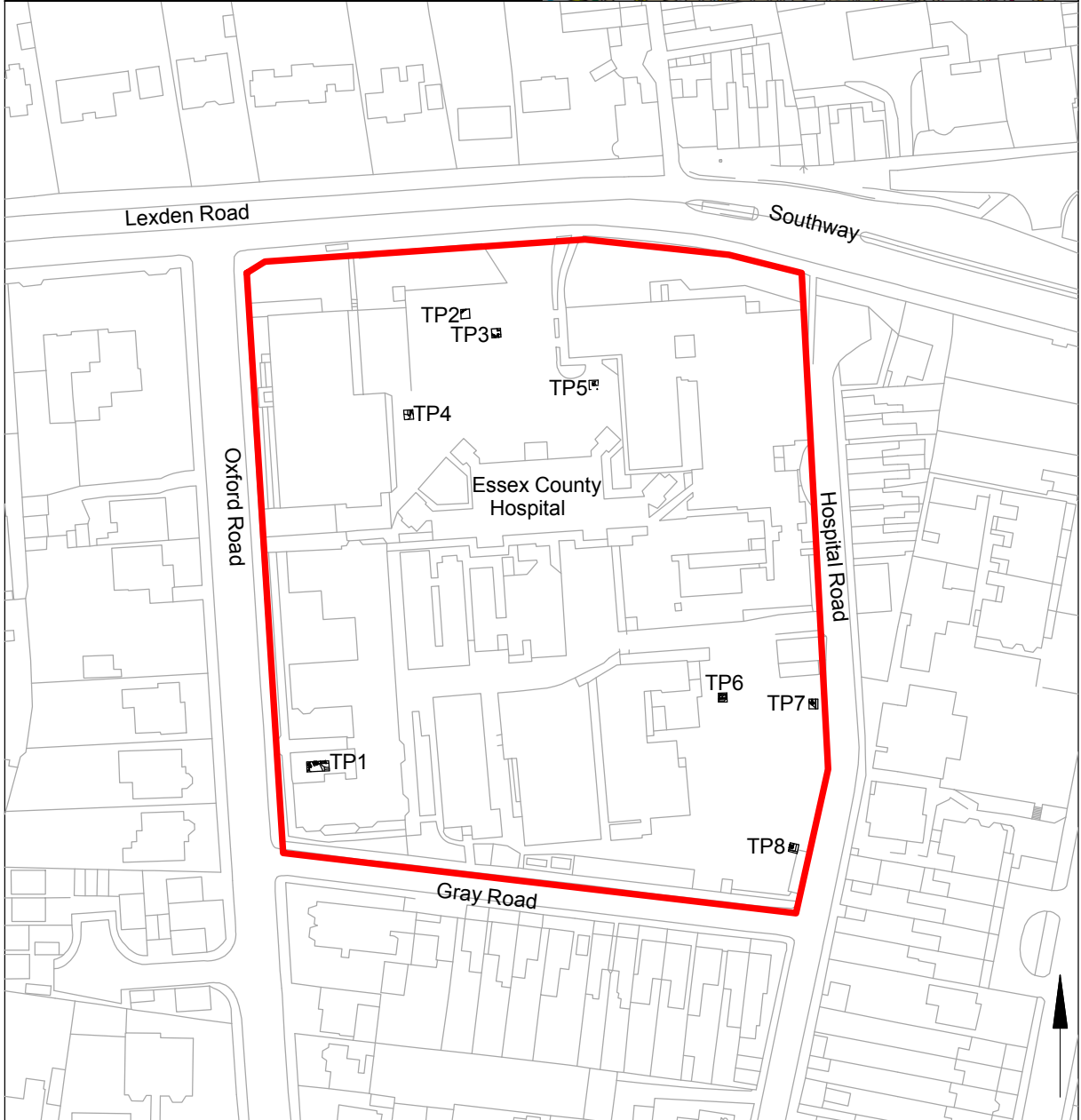
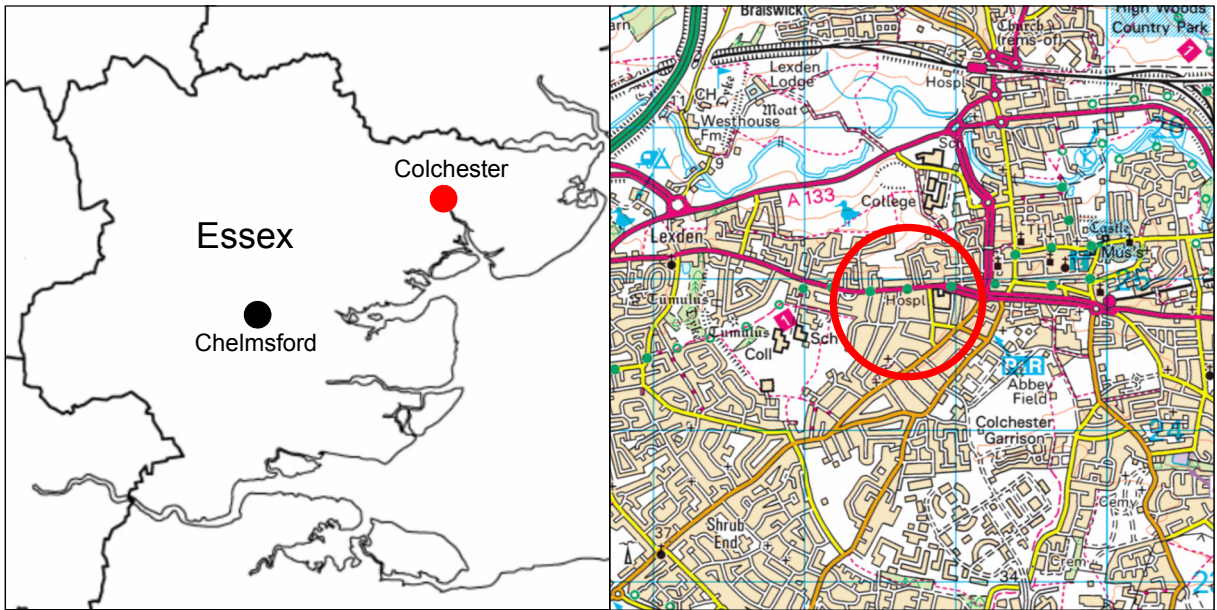
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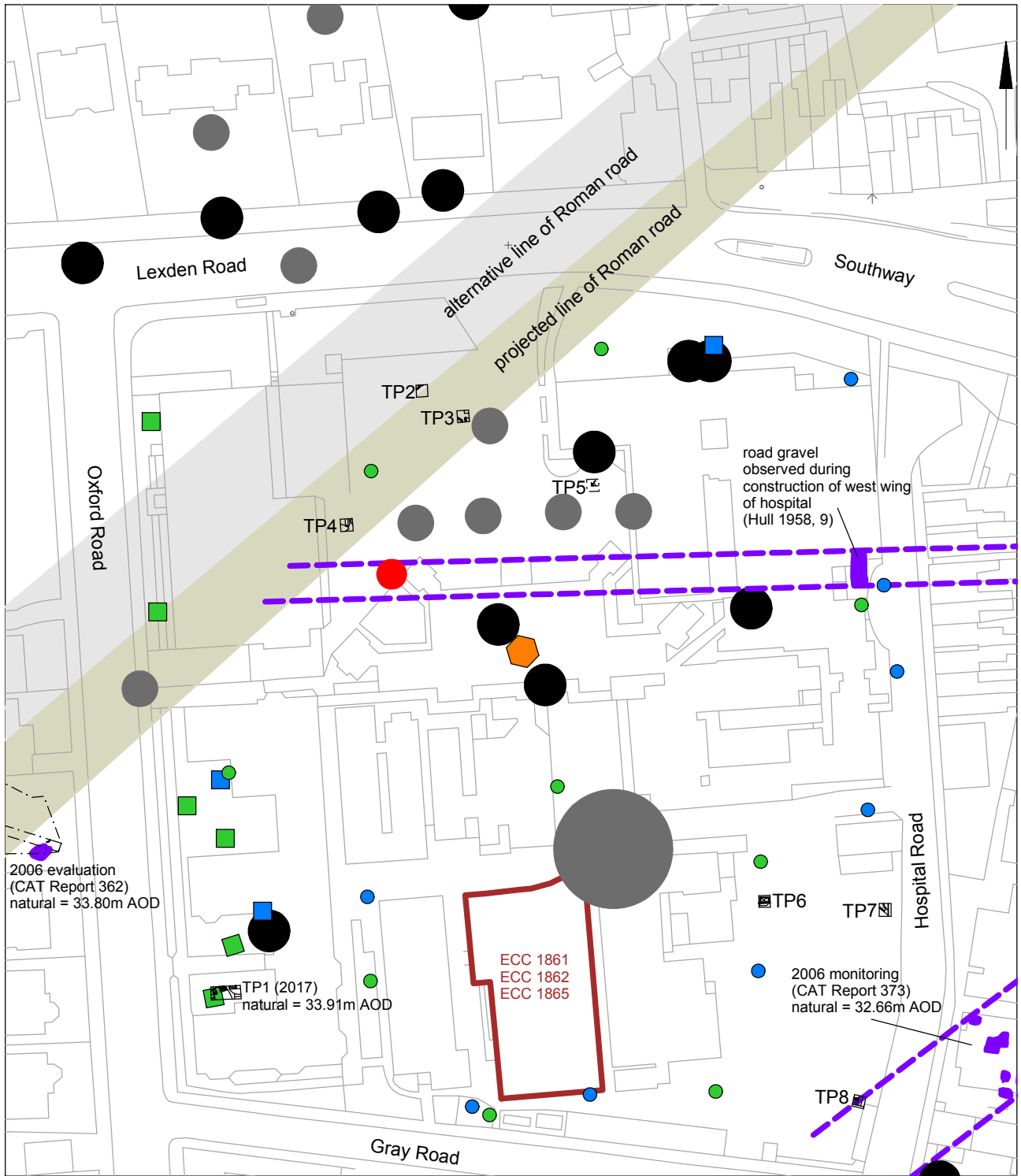
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Fig 1 Site location





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Fig 2 Test-pit locations (TP2-TP8), showing archaeological sites and investigations within the immediate vicinity of the Essex County Hospital



key

- = burials (CHER)
- = approximate location of burials (CHER)
- = Colchester sphinx (found in 1821)
- — — = observed road gravel and projections
- = test pits and window samples (2016)
- = test pits and window samples (2017)
- = Roman kiln found while constructing hospital in 1819. Precise location unknown (Hull 1958, 248)

ECC 1861 = Excavation in advance of construction of a new operating theatre.  
 ECC 1862 = Monitoring of trenches for new operating theatre.  
 ECC 1865 = Observation of burials at centre and north-east corner of building.  
 (All taken from Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER))



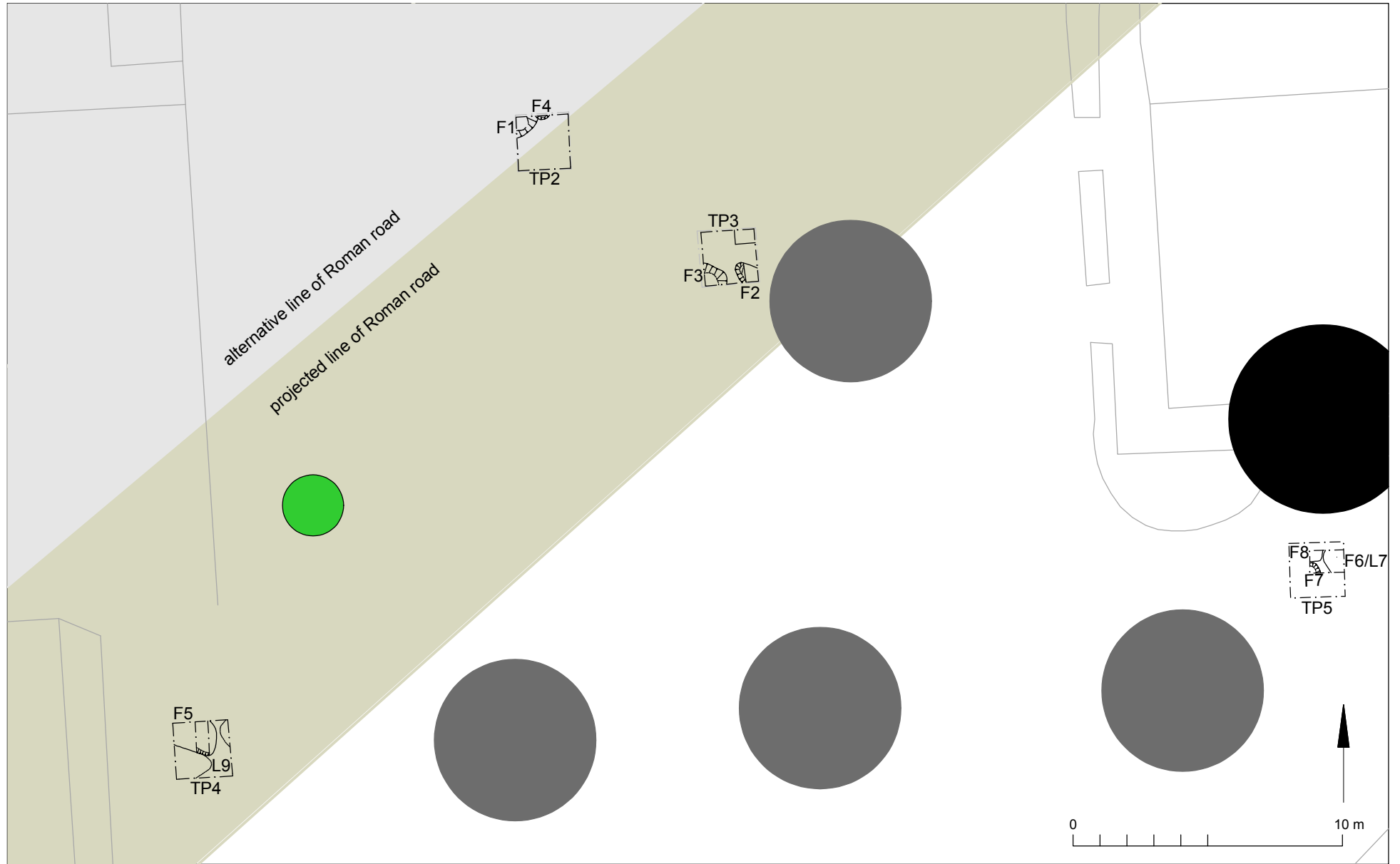
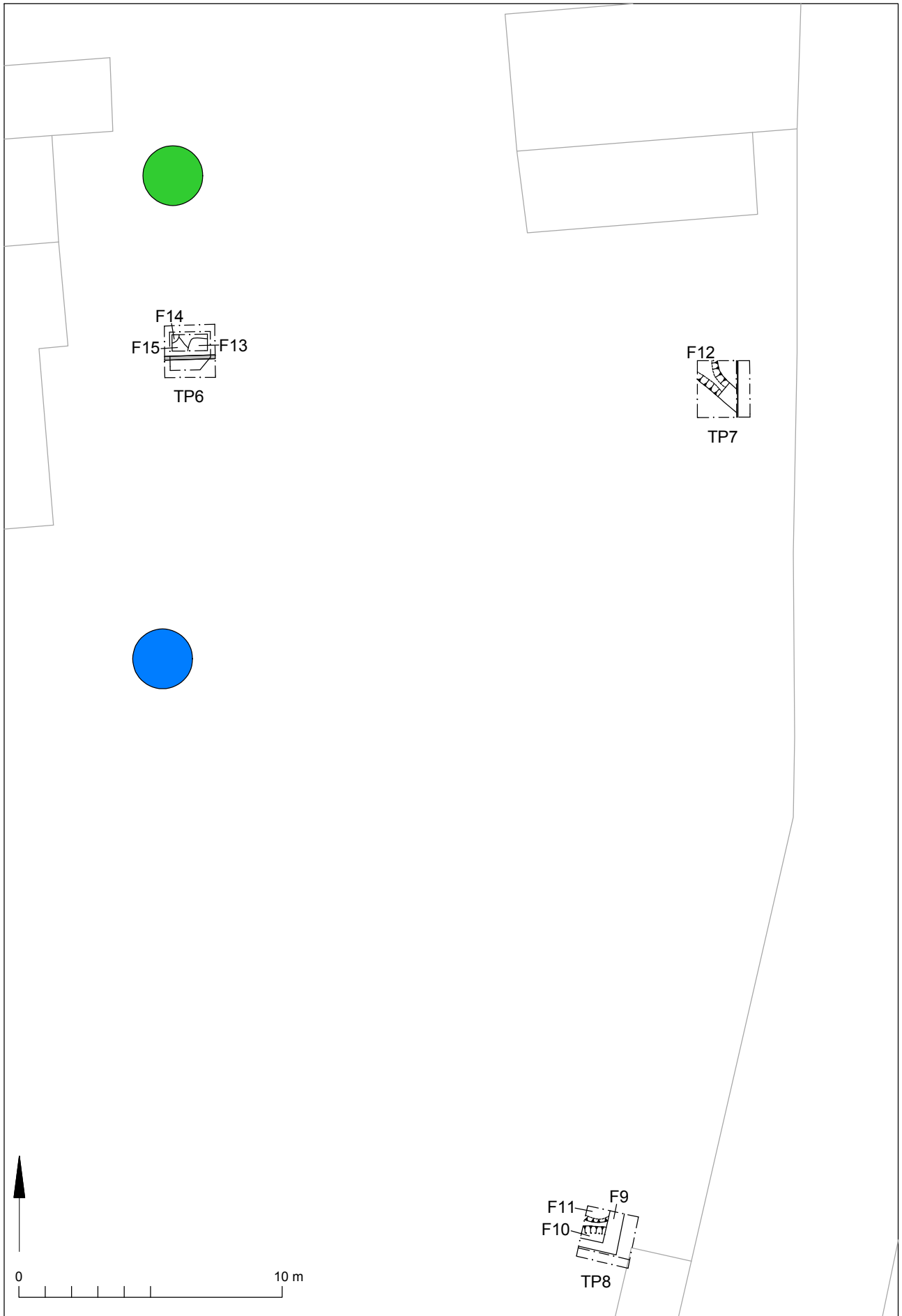


Fig 3 Results: test-pits TP2-TP5

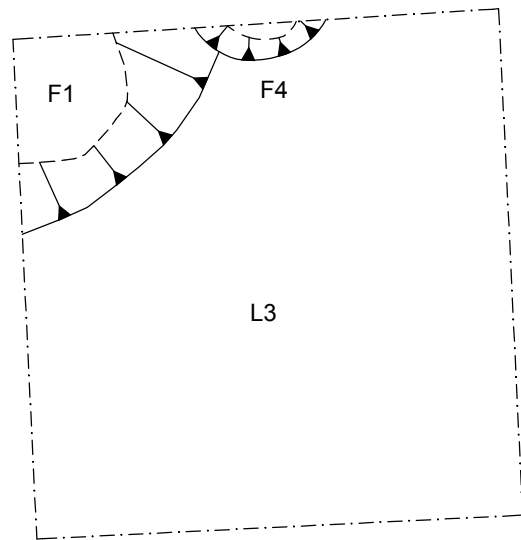
- = burials (CHER)
- = approximate location of burials (CHER)
- = test pits and window samples (2016)



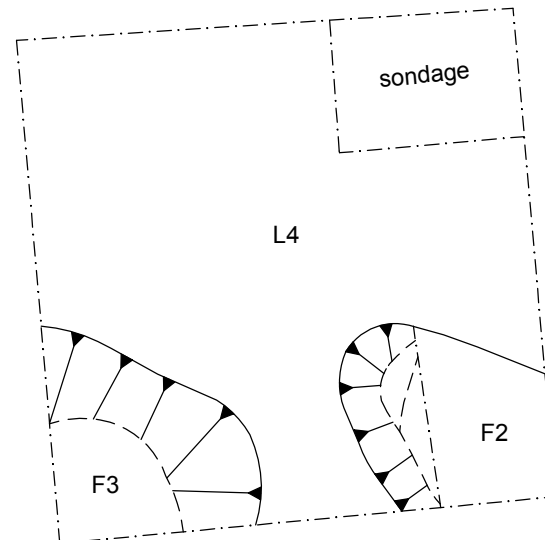
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Fig 4 Results: test-pits TP6-TP8

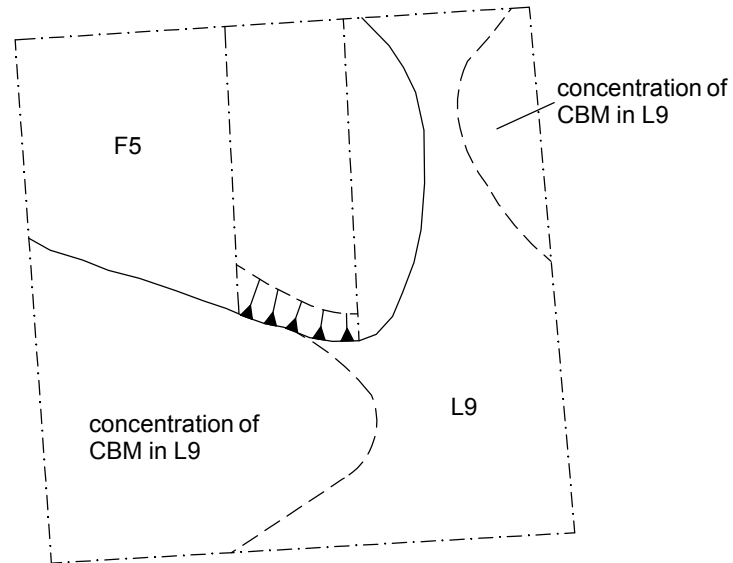
- = test pits and window samples (2016)
- = test pits and window samples (2017)



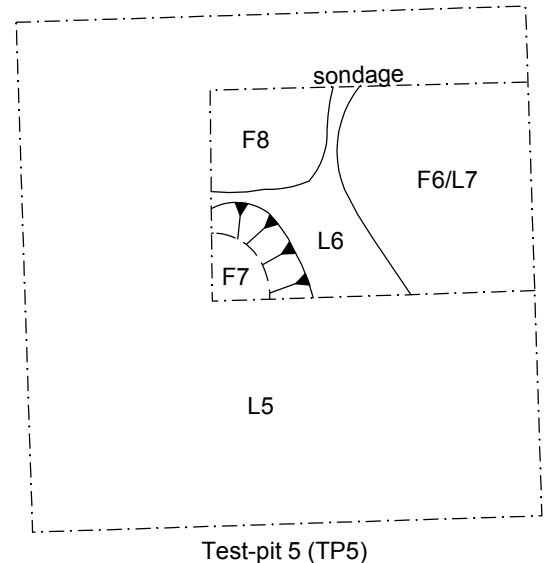
Test-pit 2 (TP2)



Test-pit 3 (TP3)

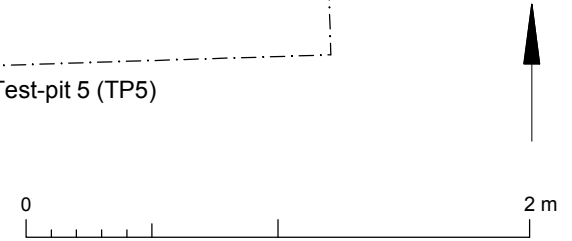


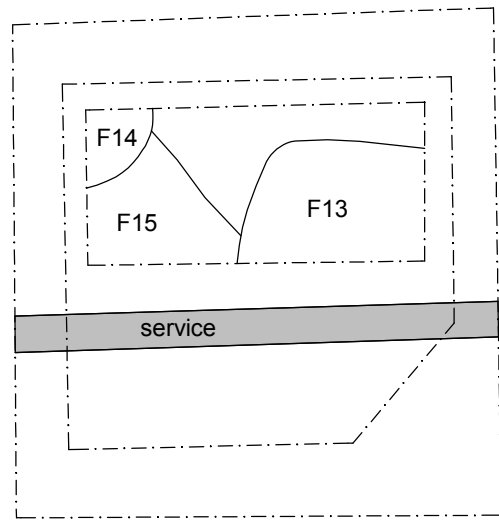
Test-pit 4 (TP4)



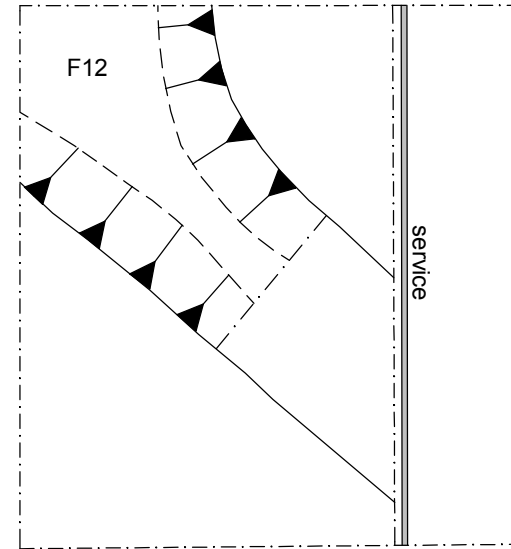
Test-pit 5 (TP5)

Fig 5 Detailed plans: test-pits TP2-TP5

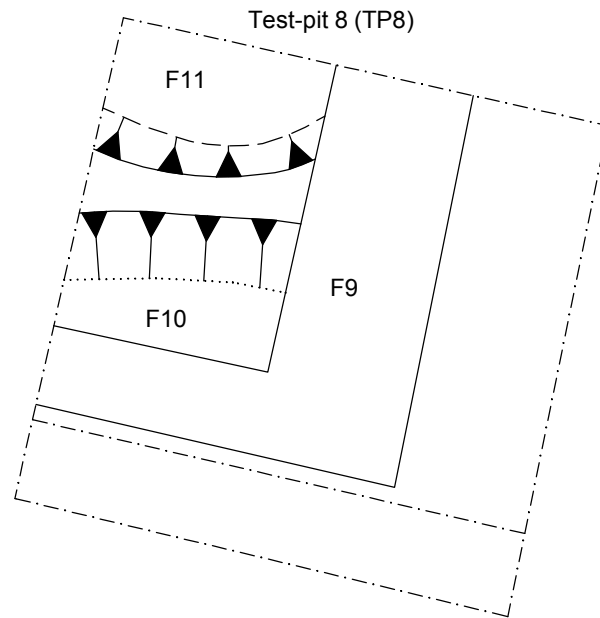




Test-pit 6 (TP6)



Test-pit 7 (TP7)



Test-pit 8 (TP8)

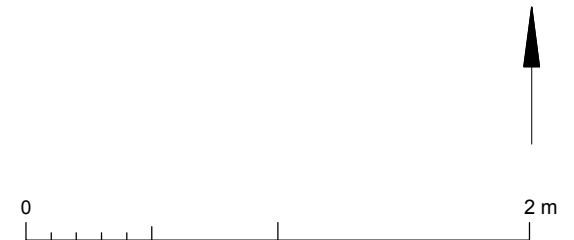


Fig 6 Detailed plans: test-pits TP6-TP8

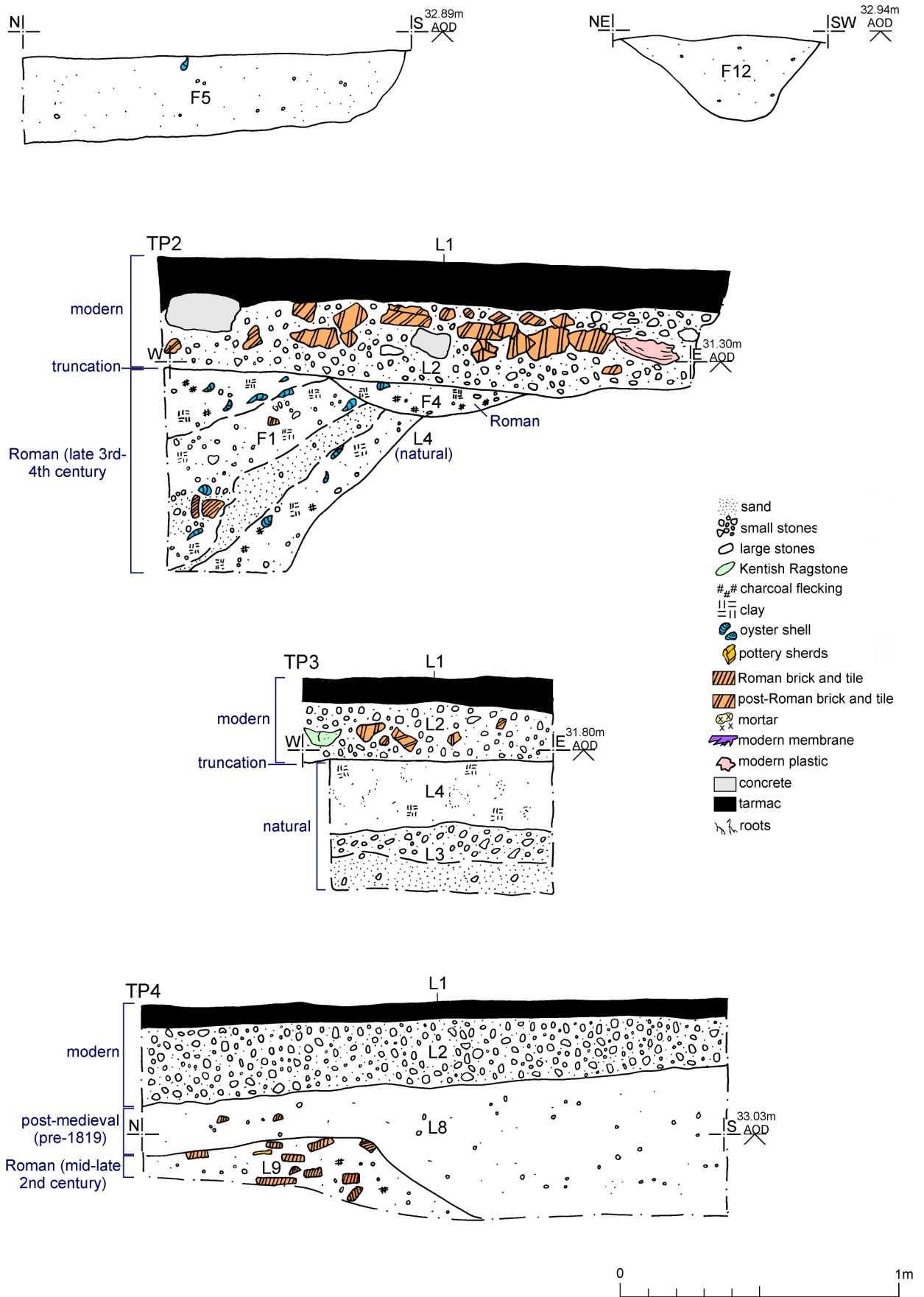


Fig 7 Feature and representative sections.

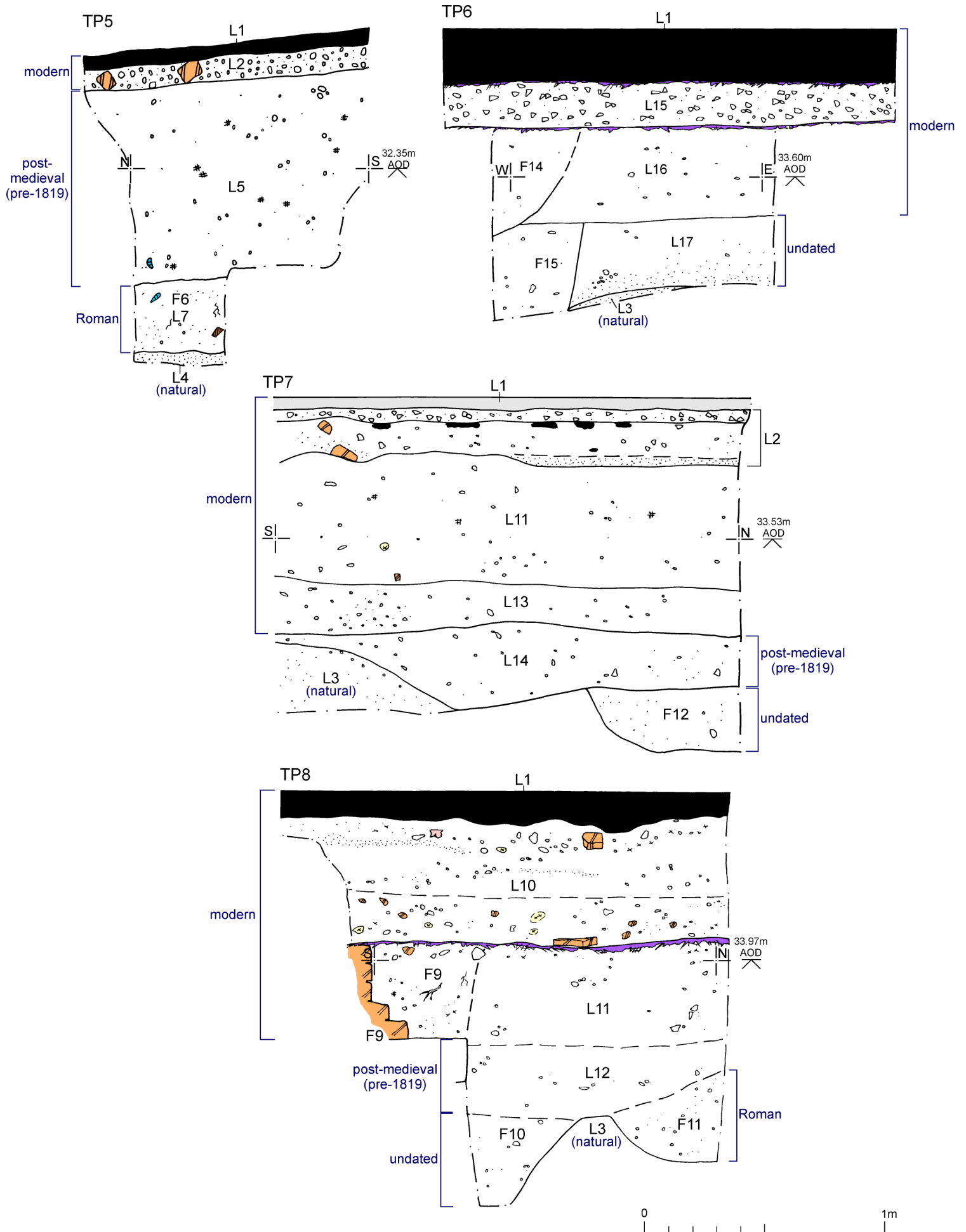


Fig 8 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NB	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 98923 24878 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 18/03m CHER ref: ECC4165 OASIS ref: colchest3-314501
<b>Type of work:</b> Test-pit evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 31st March & 28th April 2018	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 1.9 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.33	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> NHLE no. 117069; CHER: MCC1079, MCC1081, MCC1366, MCC1812, MCC2133, MCC2427, MCC2498, MCC2676, MCC7647, MCC7654, MCC8545; EHER: 11859, 13139
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1255	
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern, post-medieval, Roman	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> A stage 1 archaeological evaluation by test-pitting (seven test-pits) was carried out in the north and south car parks of Essex County Hospital, Colchester in advance of the redevelopment of the site, to ascertain the depths of significant archaeological horizons. The hospital is located on the site of a Roman cemetery where excavations in 1820-1 uncovered the Colchester Sphinx sculpture from an elaborate tomb. Roman kilns were also recorded on the site.</p> <p>Four test-pits were excavated in the north car park revealing at least five Roman/probably Roman pits and the remains of a Roman structure, possibly an oven or kiln, in test-pits 2, 4 and 5. There were no significant archaeological remains in test-pit 3. Roman contexts were recorded at depths of 0.4-0.95m below current ground level.</p> <p>Three test-pits were excavated in the south car park revealing significant depths of modern and post-medieval remains. Sealed beneath were an unidentified cut Roman feature, an unidentified and undated cut feature, an undated ditch and an undated pit/grave. These remains were recorded at depths of 0.81-1.35m below current ground level.</p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> Hull, M R (1958) <i>Roman Colchester</i> RRCSAL 20	

<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> June 2018





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**WRITTEN SCHEME OF  
INVESTIGATION FOR AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

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**ESSEX HOSPITAL  
LEXDON ROAD  
COLCHESTER**

**March 2018**

**Author:**  
**Robert Masefield**

**Approved by:**  
**Simon Blatherwick**

**Report Status:**  
**Final**

**Issue Date:**  
**March 2018**

**CgMs Ref:**  
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## FIGURE 1

Site Location (after CAT)

## FIGURE 2

Proposed trench locations, showing archaeology within the immediate vicinity of the Essex County Hospital

## Appendix 1

CBC Brief (Tipper 2017)

## Appendix 2

Team Structure

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is for trial trenching at Essex County Hospital, Hospital Road, Colchester CO2 3NB (TL 98923 24878) and has been prepared by CgMs Heritage (part of RPS), in association with Colchester Archaeological Trust on behalf of Essex Housing. The proposed development area (henceforth 'the Site') is located 350m south-west of the historic walled town of Colchester and covers an area of 1.9 hectares and is located to the south side of Lexden Road west side of Hospital Road, and east side of Gray Road (TL 98923 24878) (Figs 1 &2).
- 1.2 Archaeological evaluation is to inform archaeological potential specifically within the car park zones of the Site (c. 2805m<sup>2</sup>), ahead of a planning application for a residential estate, including conversion of key existing hospital buildings and demolition of the remainder, landscaping and parking.
- 1.3 Archaeological evaluation works are to be in accordance with a Brief provided by the CBC Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) (Tipper 2017 - Appendix 1). The Brief states that GPR survey should take place within the car parks followed by a 5% by area trial trenching exercise within the car parks (a 140m<sup>2</sup> area). In his brief Jess Tipper clarified that 'several parts of the site will not be available until demolition has taken place (and will have to be evaluated at a later date, following demolition).'
- 1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the GPR survey and including an eight trench trial trench distribution comprising 5% by area of the car parks was provided in 2017 (Waterman October 2017).
- 1.5 The ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was completed in accordance with the WSI in October 2017 (SUMO Survey 2017). The results are provided in Section 2 below.
- 1.6 CAT were commissioned to complete the summarised trenching aspect following the GPR survey. However, due to logistical issues only one of these trenches, adjacent to the Nurses Home, was possible to complete in 2017 (CAT November 2017). The results are summarised in Section 2 below.
- 1.7 CgMs Heritage (part of RPS) were appointed by Essex Housing to provide consultancy support in March 2018. It was subsequently agreed by Jess Tipper that the present WSI will become the active document for taking forward the yet to be completed aspects.
- 1.8 Due to various logistical restrictions of the still operational hospital, it was agreed that the above scope can be modified to allow for a first stage of seven 2x2m test pit trenches within the line of the proposed trenches. Whether the remainder of the agreed trench lines will need to be completed pre-determination will be determined based on the nature of the TP results.
- 1.9 This document is specifically designed to provide a sound basis for excavation and post excavation practice for the completion of the trial trench and any subsequent works. The WSI sets out proposals for the archaeological work including treatment of finds, production of a report, and deposition of the archive. The WSI mirrors standards and practices contained in Guidelines

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on Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester (Colchester Borough Council 1996. revised 1999). The Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) requires this document in order to formally approve the scope of the evaluation and the aims and methods for archaeological recording and reporting. The WSI is prepared by CgMs Heritage (part of RPS) in association with CAT and will be adhered to by CAT.

- 1.10 This WSI is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) which includes the following:

**“...local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting.**

**Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.”** (Section 12, Paragraph 128)

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## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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- 2.1 Drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravel formed up to around 3 million years ago. This is occasionally in a clay matrix, and is sometimes capped by about 300mm of 'cover loam'. Archaeology predominately of Roman date has been recorded at depths of c.400- 800mm across the Site.
- 2.2 Ground level is between c.34.5 and c.36m AOD with a gentle slope down from south to north.
- 2.3 Some areas have been subject to slight terracing for parking and building platforms and areas adjacent to Oxford Road are higher than the corresponding NW areas.
- 2.4 The archaeological and historical setting of the Essex Hospital Site and its surrounding area has been comprehensively explored in the desk-based assessments (Purcell 2014; CgMs 2015; Waterman June 2017; Oct 2017) and will only be summarised here. Waterman (2017) provided a Historic Environment Baseline with a 250m study area to which the reader is referred all available records. Key sites at Site and within the study area are discussed referenced here.

### **a) Palaeolithic and Mesolithic**

- 2.5 The town has produced at least six Acheulian hand-axes of Palaeolithic date, but there is no specific evidence of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity within the study area.

### **b) Neolithic and Bronze Age**

- 2.6 Neolithic and Bronze Age finds within the study area itself are limited to a Neolithic axe, Neolithic to early Bronze Age stone axe and a Bronze Age cremation urn (MCC 4857, 4858 & 7671) to the north-east.
- 2.7 Neolithic and Bronze Age features (mainly pits) have been identified during the Colchester Garrison Alienated Land project within Areas C1, C2 south-east of the Site, with a further example nearby within Flagstaff Road (CAT 2011). There are currently no Neolithic or Bronze Age finds known from the Site. The Colchester Garrison Area C1 pits contained both Mildenhall Ware and Peterborough Ware which may have been transitional between the middle/late Neolithic traditions (CAT Report 412, 2011).
- 2.8 Late Bronze Age occupation pits were identified in 2004/5 and 2013 to the west of Abbey Field, in Alienated Land Areas J1 and H (CAT 2011).

### **c) Iron Age and the Oppidum**

- 2.9 The site falls within the western area of the pre-Roman (late Iron Age) oppidum of Camulodunum (CAR 9). The only above-ground traces of this oppidum are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system that surrounded it. The oppidum has only two main confirmed centres of activity: at Gosbecks Farm (1km south-west of the Site), which was a Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman rural farmstead (and possibly the home of the Catuvelluni tribe's king, Cunobelin); and Sheepen (0.7km north-west of the Site), which was the industrial and trading centre and included

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Cunobelin's mint. The edge of the Sheepen Scheduled Monument is located from 150m to the north-west. Sheepen was continuously occupied from the Late Iron Age (at least the reign of Cunobelin) through the Roman period. Apart from these large centres there were a number of smaller domestic and farming sites in the oppidum.

2.10 A scatter of Late Iron Age cremations burials have been found within the oppidum, whilst the famous Lexden Tumulus (kingly cremation burial mound) Scheduled Monument is located c.1.4km to the west of the Site.

2.11 No Iron Age features or finds were located by CAT during the trenching to date (CAT Nov 2017).

**d) Roman**

2.12 The wider historical and archaeological background for Site has been extensively reported previously (Purcell 2014; CgMs 2015; Waterman June 2017; Oct 2017) and is not reiterated in full here.

2.13 Setting aside the post-medieval and modern development of the hospital at Lexden Road by far the most relevant period of activity for the Site itself relates to the Roman period.

2.14 The location was only 350m to the south-west of the Roman town (Colonia) whilst the Roman circus, a Scheduled Monument, was situated from 700m to the south-east (CAT 2011). The Site's high archaeological potential relates to its extra-mural location with its north-east quadrant dissected by a major north-east/south-west aligned arterial Roman Road that lead south-west from the Balcerne Gate (western gate) of the Roman town, through the Site and on towards Gosbecks Roman temple site. The route, via a junction located beneath the adjacent Grammar School, also provided direct access to the major Colchester to Londinium route (Fig 2; Hull 1958; CAR9).

2.15 Another metalled road or track leading towards the junction at the Grammar School may intersect the extreme south-east corner of the Site route (the route having been noted at the Boy's High School to the east).

2.16 Hull (1958) also observed a third gravel road running east-west through the Site during works conducted on the west wing of the hospital. This was observed at a depth of c.0.8m below the level of Hospital Road. Given its oblique line to the major road to the west, this is unlikely to have been a significant route. One possibility is that it was an access to burial plots.

2.17 Extra mural cemeteries were quickly instigated from the mid to late 1st century AD in zones a few hundred metres beyond the town wall. These were initially focused either side of roads. The 'Western Cemetery' (MCC7647) is otherwise known as the Lexden cemetery due to large concentrations of early to late Roman burials found adjacent to Lexden Road (the Gosbecks to Balcerne Gate Roman road is crossed by Lexden Road immediately north of the Site).

2.18 At least 12 Roman burials have previously been found within the hospital site itself no doubt associated with the major Roman road (Fig. 2). Inhumation graves (MCC1081; 2427) and cremations (MCC1081, 2498) along with high status tombstones (MCC1366; 2676) have been found within the Site during periods of hospital construction. The main cluster of known burials were located at the Operating Theatre site. These were mainly urned cremations. However,

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several others have been found within the central northern area (northern car park) and the inference is that much of the Site may have been associated with burial.

- 2.19 The radar survey (Sumo Services 2017) suggests several possibilities in the northern (visitors) car park not far from the mausoleum (related finds noted above). In reality it is highly unlikely that radar will reliably identify the majority of cut archaeological features including graves. Nevertheless, these readings require further investigation to ascertain their nature and significance.
- 2.20 Associated funerary sculpture from the Site includes a famous stone sphinx and another bronze sphinx (MCC2133; MCC7654; EHER 11858) which were found in 1820/1 in the garden of the hospital, and are depicted on the 1876 Ordnance Survey map, just beyond the north-west corner of the hospital (see Fig. 2; Purcell 2014 fig 4.4). These 'votive' sphinxes were probably associated with a high status mausoleum/ tomb or shrine.
- 2.21 Other evidence of mausoleums, shrines or high status domestic buildings along with finds of Purbeck stone have been reported for the central and western areas and have been inferred by two wall lines and 'tessellated floors' (MCC1079). Several mausoleums have been previously excavated in Colchester's cemeteries, including within the former Hyderabad Garrison and south of Napier Road and the Roman Circus c. 1km to the south-east (CAT 2011), whilst excavations west of the Site at Colchester Royal Grammar School encountered a temple-tomb, inhumations and cremations and a 'cremation furnace'.
- 2.22 One or possibly two kilns were also recorded (MCC1812; EHER13139) were also recorded during hospital construction periods.

**e) Saxon and Medieval**

- 2.23 There are no records of sites or finds of these periods at the Site, although 14 records of medieval date are recorded within the study area. Most relate to the 13th century monastery of the Crouched Friars 120m to the east, whose church and cemetery have been investigated in 2004 and 2007 (MCC472 & 468).

**f) Post-medieval and modern**

- 2.24 Two records within the study area relate to the period. The first is the approximate position of a Parliamentarian (New Model Army) fort based on the Siege of Colchester map. Part of a star-shaped fort of the Siege that had straddled Mersea Road was recently excavated at the former Hyderabad Barracks (to the south of the town walk).
- 2.25 The other is the Hospital itself (MCC5212) built 1819 and subsequently expanded later in the 19th century with three wings added to the south side. Further buildings, including the Nurse's Home were added in the first half of the 20th century (see Purcell 2014 for map regression and full history of the hospital).



**g) Initial assessment of impact levels based on previous work**

- 2.26 The various excavations, watching briefs and SI monitoring exercises ahead of the present residential re-development process, together with the historic investigations, indicate deposits and/or features containing moderate to large quantities of Roman cultural material in most instances. The key investigations undertaken to date within the site are illustrated on Fig 2.
- 2.27 The implication of widespread archaeology will be further informed by the proposed archaeological test pits/trenches.
- 2.28 The depth at which deposits containing Roman artefacts have been encountered is almost universally shallow, usually between c.0.4 and 0.6m below present surface level, (the road identified by Hull close to Hospital Road was at c.0.8m depth). Therefore it currently appears that Roman archaeology is densely distributed across the Site from a shallow depth.
- 2.29 The 2017 CAT trial trench that forms the first stage of the present evaluation exercise found two Roman pits and a Roman ditch containing domestic material, rather than funerary features. These were 0.4-0.6m bgl (CAT Nov 2017). Philip Crummy has, however, suggested the possibility that some pits identified by CAT and Pre Construct Archaeology's investigations might alternately represent antiquarian intrusions into Roman graves - This is postulated on the basis of a potential disconnect between a high status cemetery area and domestic pitting, given these appear shallow for quarries.
- 2.30 Further evidence for pits (possibly including large gravel producing quarries for adjacent road metalling, as found on other large local cemetery areas including the Colchester Garrison J1 site at the former Cavalry Barracks – CAT 2011) has been suggested by the OA East monitored boreholes and window samples - particularly associated with the eastern area of the Site.
- 2.31 The PCA 'test pit evaluation' in August 2015 (PCA 2016) - identified stratified Roman deposits and areas of Roman pitting along the west boundary of the site (six, 1.5m square test pit trenches). NB PCA trench T6 probably identified the same Roman ditch as CAT's 2017 Trench (CAT November 2017). PCA note high status Roman metal artefacts and domestic material.
- 2.32 The following is a summary of the results ('overburden' = topsoil, tarmac & make-up deposits).
- TP1 - (Nurses Home garden area - possible tessellated pavement location area) found possible Roman quarry pits (road metalling gravels), 9034g Roman pottery  
Overburden - 0.48m; Roman deposits 0.32m plus
  - TP2 - (Nurses Home garden) either no archaeology or within a large quarry pit?  
Overburden 0.46m; Roman feature 0.72m+
  - TP3 - (NW area of Site) no archaeology  
Overburden 0.58m over natural
  - TP4 - west side Oxford Rd. no archaeology

Overburden 0.6m over natural

- TP5 - (Nurses Home garden)

Overburden 0.22m; 'Roman subsoil' 0.6m - Roman feature (quarry?) - 0.66m+

- TP6 - (SW corner) - 2 Roman pits

Overburden 0.44m - layer/Roman features 0.42m+

2.33 The PCA summary stated:

*'The Site has a high potential for significant archaeological remains of Romano-British date associated with the walled town of Colchester...'*

*'The Test pitting recorded the presence of stratified deposits associated with high quantities of Roman building material, pottery of 1st-3rd century date, animal bone indicative of domestic activity and some high status metal artefacts. The findings are in keeping with the known Roman activity previously recorded in the area, although no direct evidence of in-situ kilns, high status buildings or mausoleums was seen in the Test pits.'*

*Geotechnical work the preliminary impression of the site is that deposits of archaeological significance are present across much of the site, having been disturbed in places by the construction of the hospital and any surrounding landscaping...'*

2.34 Further SI Monitoring (Oxford Archaeology East Sept 2017): Survey comprised nine window samples along the eastern and southern sides of the Site (one abandoned), and three small test pits along the east and north sides of the site. Notably deposits containing Roman pottery and other finds were recovered from six (of eight - although the two with no deposits did not reach the sufficient depth to do so) windowless sampler boreholes and all three test pits.

2.35 All SI investigations deeper than 0.4m encountered deposits containing Roman finds. Average depth of modern overburden.

2.36 The following depths and dating of deposits was recorded:

- WS1 - 0.35m overburden - 0.35m Roman deposit/feature
- WS2 - 0.4m overburden - 0.82m Roman feature fill
- WS3 - 0.64m overburden - 0.86m Roman feature fill
- WS4 - 0.24m overburden - not excavated further
- WS5 - 0.18m concrete - 0.34m plus Roman feature fill
- WS6 - no data (CAT trench 1 adjacent - 0.4-0.6m overburden over Roman features)
- WS7 - 0.24m overburden - 0.7m Roman feature fill
- TP1 - 0.20m overburden - 1.98m Roman pit fill (quarry?)

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- TP2 - 0.24m overburden - 0.52 and 0.58m deep Roman pits
  - TP3 - no data
  - TP4 - 0.34m overburden - 0.16m modern bank

2.37 Ground Penetrating Radar survey (Sumo Services Ltd) were undertaken in the north and south car parks (2017) with a cluster of possible features of interest in the northern car park. The report suggested the possibility these might represent graves. Other features were uncertain in origin but might be intrusions or made ground.

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## 3 STRATEGY AND AIMS

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- 3.1 The Brief (Tipper 2017); Appendix 1 requires a 5% by area trenching coverage of the car parks, which equates to 140m<sup>2</sup> (Fig 2).
- 3.2 This will comprise the first stage of (pre-demolition/ pre-determination trenching). The Brief also notes that several parts of the Site will not be available until demolition has taken place (and will have to be evaluated at a later date, following demolition).
- 3.3 An 8 trench evaluation shown on Fig 2 was agreed by Waterman and the CBCAO in the autumn of 2017 (six 10x2m and two 5x2m trenches). Only one of these trenches (a 5x2m trench on grass at the Nurses Home) was undertaken due to hospital operational restrictions. There remain 3 trenches in the southern (staff) car park and 4 trenches in the northern (public) car park, to complete. However, potential available working periods are currently restricted to the Easter Holiday period and future Bank Holiday weekends due to the operational status of the hospital.
- 3.4 For this reason Jess Tipper has agreed that the evaluation can be staged, with use of 2x2m archaeological test pits as the first stage. The test pits will be phased to begin with 4 test pits (within the line of the previously agreed trench locations), in the northern car park in the Easter period, followed by three 2x2m test pits, similarly paced at one end of the agreed trench locations) within the southern car park in a subsequent (provisionally May) Bank Holiday weekend. These archaeological test pits (shown as pink squares within the proposed trench layout on Fig 2) will provide key information on presence/importance and depth of archaeology to assist with detailed design progressing, whilst containing working periods to very restricted windows. As this is an iterative process the requirements and timing to complete the trenches will be subsequently discussed and agreed with the CBCAO.
- 3.5 This method statement is in accordance with the research design developed in consultation with CBC and complies with the guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (NPPF) and with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (ClfA 2014). CAT (the contractor) will liaise closely with RPS (the Archaeological Project Managers and advisors to Essex Housing) with respect to all important matters concerning the co-ordination and management of the project. The CBC archaeological officer (CBCAO) will be kept fully informed of all archaeological developments.
- 3.6 All archaeological evaluation test pits/trenches will be monitored and 'signed off' by the RPS Archaeological Project Manager and the CBCAO monitor prior to backfilling.
- 3.7 No reinstatement other than machine bucket compaction and tracking will be undertaken by the archaeological contractor and any waste materials will be stored on Site but not remove at this stage.
- 3.8 The Brief (Tipper 2007) has the following aims
- '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.'

3.9 A further general aim is

- To recover sufficient evidence to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of the archaeological features within the affected area

3.10 Specific Aims: The specific aims have to an extent been informed by previous investigations as follows:

- To establish the presence/absence Neolithic to Early Bronze Age activity;
- To establish the presence/absence of later Bronze Age/ earlier Iron Age activity;
- Inform how the landscape was used and to what level of intensification, prior to the construction of Camulodunum;
- To elucidate the nature of spatial organisation within this area of the oppidum;
- To address the question of the effect of the establishment of the Roman town;
- Elucidate the presence/absence and density of Roman burials within this area of the Western Cemetery;
- Establish the likely presence/absence of funerary monuments based on building remains and/or artefacts;
- Confirm the presence/absence of buried remains associated with the major Roman Road
- To identify presence/absence of archaeological remains associated with the previously identified Roman kiln/s;
- To establish whether there is clear evidence for domestic occupation at the Site and whether tessellated floors found previously are domestic or ritual in function;
- To identify presence/absence elements of the Roman to post-Roman landscape; and
- To identify presence/absence of any remains potentially associated with the Siege of Colchester offensive line.

3.11 A final aim is to hold discussions with the CBC Archaeological Officer following the evaluation and its reporting, to facilitate an initial understanding (subject to detailed design) of the likely parameters of any required mitigation works.

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## 4 METHOD STATEMENT

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### a) Test Pit and Trenching Evaluation

- 4.1 The northern car park test pits will be excavated first, followed by the southern car park test pits and then the remaining trench lengths (at the appropriate time).
- 4.2 A second trial trench evaluation will be required to be designed and implemented following demolition of non-retained buildings to slab level.
- 4.3 Machining protocols: Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) will provide a mechanical excavator and undertake the archaeological evaluation. CAT will require any known services that might be encountered by the trench positions as shown on Figure 2 to be notified to them by Essex Housing. The trenches will also be CAT scanned ahead of cutting as a further precaution.
- 4.4 A CAT archaeologist will observe the machining. Significant archaeological deposits will not be removed by machine unless sanctioned by the CBC Archaeological Officer. In circumstances where vertical stratigraphy is found or where archaeology is vulnerable the machining will be monitored by a senior member of staff. Care will be taken to ensure that machines used do not rut, compact or otherwise damage buried or exposed archaeological features and deposits ahead of recording. No potentially significant archaeological deposits will be removed prior to recording and sampling (if necessary) to provide an adequate understanding of their character.
- 4.5 Surveying: Following the overburden stripping temporary bench marks will be surveyed with respect to an Ordnance Survey datum and all features and deposits will be recorded relative to their OD height. The TBM's will be shown on the site location plans.
- 4.6 The exposed surface of the natural will be hand cleaned sufficiently to define any archaeological features present. This process will facilitate accurate planning and allow for metal detected finds to be correctly assigned following an initial scan of the site.

Complex areas (areas of intercutting features, surviving layers, where features are complex in form or where surface finds may be plotted) will be planned by hand, usually at a scale 1:20. These plans will be located via total station, scanned, vectorised and imported via CAT's CAD programme on the OS grid-based plan. Less complex areas of the site (where features are absent or rare and of simple form) will be planned using a total station with the data input directly onto CAD and the OS tiles. There will be no site grid on the ground. All site plans will show OS grid points and spot levels and will be fully indexed and related to adjacent plans. It is not anticipated that single context recording will be appropriate. However, should particularly complex sequences of deposits or features be encountered, then single context recording will be undertaken. A uniform site plan will be produced showing all site features.

### b) Sampling Strategy

- 4.7 Archaeological investigation will be by hand and will respect the stratigraphy of archaeological layers, features, deposits and structures. Each context will be excavated in sequence. Occasionally further use of the mechanical excavator may be required. Such techniques are only

appropriate for the removal of homogenous low-grade deposits that may give a “window” into underlying levels. They will not be used on complex stratigraphy and the deposits to be removed must have been properly recorded first. If encountered horizontal deposits (e.g. layers) should be hand excavated or sample excavated in 1m grid squares and should not be removed by machine.

4.8 The following sampling strategy will be adopted to ascertain the nature, depth, date and state of preservation of archaeological features as well as the stratigraphical relationships of these deposits and features to one another.

- (i) Normally 50% of the fills of all pits and other discrete archaeological features will be excavated. However, in the event that complex areas of pitting are encountered a representative sample will be excavated (although all will be planned). Tree throw holes will not normally be investigated.
- (ii) At least 20% of the exposed lengths of ditches will be excavated (although in practice within the narrow trenches 50% or the full exposed length may need to be excavated). The segments will be placed to provide adequate coverage of the ditches and will include excavation of all terminals and intersections. A flexible approach will be adopted to the location of excavation samples such that areas of exposed ditch fill with higher artefact or ecofact content may be targeted. A lower excavation sample ratio of ditches will only be acceptable in the event that the research aims will not be further advanced. Any such reduction in sample ratio will be agreed with CBC and RPS.
- (iii) At least 50% excavation of ring gullies will include excavation of the terminals and sections at each side to the rear of the gully. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphical relationships and concentrations of artefactual material.
- (iv) In the event that stone structures, hearth or kilns are encountered, these will be cleaned in sufficiently to establish their basic plan within the trench, function and date with stratigraphic associations recorded where clear in plan. Should floor levels be encountered, these will be fully exposed within the trench confines.
- (v) Human burials including cremations will be cleaned sufficiently to identify as such but will not be excavated at this stage unless damaged by the machining process. Human remains will only be excavated after obtaining the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, as required by the Burials Act of 1857 (amended 1981). The discovery of human remains will be reported to the local coroner. Other structured or placed deposits will be recorded and retained as “small finds”. Should sufficient human bone be exposed to warrant specialist examination *in situ*, a human bone specialist may be required to attend to examine the remains (subject to CBCAO requirements).
- (vi) Metal detectors will be used to scan for metallic finds on spoil heaps, vacated areas, areas of modern disturbance and during the excavation of key archaeological features or deposits.
- (vii) Any ‘dark earth’ deposits will be subject to and excavation and environmental sampling.

**c) Recording**

4.9 The following procedures will always be initiated:

- (i) All features will be planned either by means of a total station or hand drawn plans where appropriate.
- (ii) Sections: all sectioned and excavated archaeological features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10, or at a smaller scale (if appropriate). All sections will be levelled to ordnance datum.
- (iii) All archaeological features, layers or deposits will be allocated unique context numbers prior to any hand excavation including contexts for which there is no archaeological interpretation or definition. All archaeological features, layers or deposits will be recorded on pro-forma context sheets detailing: character, contextual relationships, a detailed description, associated finds, interpretation and cross referencing to the drawn, photographic and finds records. On-site matrices will be compiled during the excavation such that the results of the written stratigraphical records may be fully analysed and phased.
- (iv) An adequate photographic record of the investigation will be made of all archaeological features and deposits. Standard record shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. The record will include working and promotional shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operations. All photographic records will include information detailing: site code; date; context(s); section number; a north arrow and a scale. All photographs will be listed and indexed on context record sheets.
- (v) A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological features, deposits or layers encountered will be produced. The detailed hand drawn plans will be related to the site, and O.S. national grid and be drawn at an appropriate scale, generally 1:20. Where necessary e.g. when recording an inhumation, additional plans at 1:10 scale, or where appropriate 1:20 will be drawn. The O.D. height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.
- (vi) A record or index will be maintained of all site drawings and these will form part of the project archive. All site drawings will contain the following information: site name; site number and code; scale; plan or section number; orientation, date and compiler.

**d) Treatment of Samples**

4.10 Industrial residues will be recorded and sampled in accordance with the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA, 1993) guidelines. The presence of such residues will always be recorded and quantified fully, even where comprehensive retention is considered to be inappropriate. Large technological residues will be collected by hand. Separate samples (c.10ml) will be collected where appropriate for identification of hammer scale and spherical droplets. The advice provided in the Historic England/ Metallurgy Society document Archaeometallurgy in archaeological projects, will be referred to. Structural remains will be similarly recorded in accord with the SMA guidelines.

4.11 The environmental sampling policy is as follows. CAT is advised by the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science. In consultation with Val Fryer, CAT will bulk sample



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any potentially rich environmental layers or features in addition to all reliably dated deposits. These will be assessed by VF, and future sampling policy on other excavations areas will follow her advice. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, then the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science and/or VF will be asked onto site to advise. Pollen is not expected to survive within these soils, but should deep deposits with pollen preservation potential be encountered column samples will be retrieved for laboratory analysis.

4.12 In addition to retrieving environmental evidence (above), bulk sampling will be used to collect charcoal for potential C14 dating.

4.13 The procedures set in 'A guide to sampling deposits for environmental analysis' (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) and 'Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)' (English Heritage 2011) will be consulted. The following procedures will be followed unless otherwise amended following consultations between RPS, the Historic England Advisor in Archaeological Science, the bioarchaeologist and the Site Director:

- (i) 40 litre bulk samples (or 100% of smaller contexts) of anthropogenic concentrations will be taken and of selected deposits where remains are not visible (but may nevertheless occur). These shall include well sealed deposits, floors, hearths etc.
- (ii) Monoliths for pollen analysis will be taken as appropriate to answer specific research questions.
- (iii) 40 litre bulk samples will be taken (if possible) from a selected sample of closely dated pits and from undated features. These deposits will be sampled regardless of whether or not there are visible macrofossils or molluscs.
- (iv) Whole fill samples from a selection of post-holes of definable structures will taken for assessment.
- (v) Cremations and other "special deposits" will be 100% sampled and sieved for the retrieval of remains.
- (viii) 100% recovery of animal bones will be undertaken from the soil samples. It is possible that 100 litre samples for bone may also be necessary in some circumstances.

**e) General Methodology**

4.14 All works will be undertaken by a team of professional archaeologists. The proposed team structure is given in the appendix (end of document).

4.15 All work will be according to CAT Policies and Procedures (2000), and will be informed by Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991), the MoRPHE Project Managers Guide (English Heritage, 2006) and Guidelines on Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester (Colchester Borough Council 1996, revised 1999).

4.16 Animal and human burials, including cremations, will only be excavated should they have been damaged by their exposure. A Ministry of Justice (MOJ) licence is required for the excavation of

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human remains. Where a licence for their excavation is issued by the MOJ, the requirements of that licence will be followed.

- 4.17 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.
- 4.18 For purposes of deposition of the archive, a museum accession code will be obtained through Colchester Museum. This will be used this as the site code.
- 4.19 The Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA) will be followed.
- 4.20 Following completion of the manual excavation and recording the trenches will be backfilled flush with ground level. There are no proposals to reinstate the surfaces with simple backfilling of trenches the agreed method.
- 4.21 Industrial residues will be recorded and sampled in accordance with the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA, 1993) guidelines. The presence of such residues will always be recorded and quantified fully, even where comprehensive retention is considered to be inappropriate. Large technological residues will be collected by hand. Separate samples (c.10ml) will be collected where appropriate for identification of hammer scale and spherical droplets. The advice provided in the English Heritage/ Metallurgy Society document Archaeometallurgy in archaeological projects, will be referred to. Structural remains will be similarly recorded in accord with the SMA guidelines.
- 4.22 The environmental sampling policy is as follows. CAT is advised by the East of England Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (Zoe Outram). In consultation with Val Fryer, CAT will bulk sample any potentially rich environmental layers or features in addition to all reliably dated deposits. These will be assessed by Val Fryer, and future sampling policy on other excavations areas will follow her advice. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, then the of England Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science and/or Val Fryer will be asked onto site to advise. Pollen is not expected to survive within these soils, but should deep deposits with pollen preservation potential be encountered column samples will be retrieved for laboratory analysis.
- 4.23 In addition to retrieving environmental evidence (above), bulk sampling will be used to collect charcoal for potential C14 dating. A contingency for absolute dating is allowed for (should it be required).
- 4.24 The procedures set in '*A guide to sampling deposits for environmental analysis*' (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) and '*Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*' (English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 2002) will be consulted. The following procedures will be followed unless otherwise amended following consultations between RPS, the Historic England Advisor in Archaeological Science, the bioarchaeologist and the Site Director.

- 
- (i) 40 litre bulk samples (or 100% of smaller contexts) of anthropogenic concentrations will be taken and of selected deposits where remains are not visible (but may nevertheless occur). These shall include well sealed deposits, floors, hearths etc. A representative range of features should be sampled and environmental sampling should include undated, as well as dated, archaeological contexts.
  - (ii) Monoliths for pollen analysis will be taken as appropriate to answer specific research questions.
  - (iii) 40 litre bulk samples will be taken (if possible) from a selected sample of closely dated pits. These deposits will be sampled regardless of whether or not there are visible macrofossils or molluscs.
  - (iv) Whole fill samples from a selection of post-holes of definable structures will taken for assessment.
  - (v) Any excavated cremations and other “special deposits” will be 100% sampled and sieved for the retrieval of remains.
  - (vi) 100% recovery of animal bones will be undertaken from the soil samples. It is possible that 100 litre samples for bone may also be necessary in some circumstances.

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## **5 PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY**

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- 5.1 Public access will not normally be provided to the trenches although the archaeological works will be visible from adjacent public areas.

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## 6 HEALTH AND SAFETY

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- 6.1 CAT will provide a Risk Assessment for the project for the agreement of Essex Housing prior to the commencement of the works.
- 6.2 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard safety policy (CAT 2017), which will be adhered to.
- 6.3 No personnel will work in deep or unsupported excavations. The sides of all excavations or trenches deeper than 1.2 metres will be stepped or battered. Due to the difficulty of working in shored trenches, shoring will be avoided wherever possible. Safety helmets will worn by personnel in deep trenches or other potentially unsafe positions. All deep trenches shall be fenced off and will be clearly indicated by “deep excavation” signs.
- 6.4 The archaeologist(s) will not enter an area under machine excavation without alerting the machine driver to his/her intention.
- 6.5 The archaeologist(s) shall remain alert and take due care not to impede the progress of moving machinery. He/she shall stand well back from the turning circle of an excavator’ buckets and cabs.
- 6.6 Spoil will be stored at a safe distance away from trench edges.
- 6.7 Suitable accommodation will be provided for staff to shelter from inclement weather and during breaks. Hand washing facilities will be provided.
- 6.8 CAT will provide any necessary protective footwear, high-visibility jackets, and safety helmets. All staff and visitors to the site will be expected to wear full PPE at all times.
- 6.9 The RPS project manager will be provided with a list of all personnel working on site each day by the CAT Supervisor.
- 6.10 CAT scanning will be undertaken prior to and during machine excavation.

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## 7 FINDS

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- 7.1 Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the research aims or are of intrinsic interest. All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed according to the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No.2, the Council for British Archaeology's First Aid for Finds (Third Edition, 1998) and the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Guidelines for Finds Work (1992). Iron finds may require X-rays prior to conservation and similarly residues on pottery may require study ahead of any conservation which may be appropriate.
- 7.2 All finds and bones will be recorded, collected and labelled according to their individual stratigraphical context. Finds from each archaeological context will be allocated an individual finds tray and waterproof labels will be used for each tray to identify unique individual contexts. Each label will be marked with the appropriate context number in waterproof ink and will be securely attached to each tray.
- 7.3 A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Colchester Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.
- 7.4 All lifting, conservation or other on-site treatment of delicate finds will be done by Colchester Museums' staff. It is anticipated that robust items such as intact cremations will be lifted by site staff.
- 7.5 The site archive will be presented to Colchester Museums in accordance with the requirements for conservation and storage as outlined in Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester Museums (Colchester Borough Council 1996).
- 7.6 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. Any other finds remain for the landowner to assess and dispose of.
- 7.7 Finds work will be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' published booklet Guidelines for Finds Work.
- 7.8 Agreement with the landowner will be sought for deposition of the finds and paper archive. Arrangements for the finds to be viewed by the landowner will be made if he/she wishes.
- 7.9 The following specialists have been approached for artefact and environmental analysis:
- Francesca Boghi – Human Bone
  - Adam Wightman - animal bone;
  - Stephen Benfield – prehistoric pottery
  - Stephen Benfield late Iron Age and Roman pottery;
  - Joanna Bird - Samian
  - Laura Pooley/Ernest Black – Roman Brick/tile
  - Dr Hilary Cool – Roman glass

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- Dr John A Davies – Roman coins
  - Nina Crummy – Small finds
  - Sue Tyler- Saxon Pottery
  - Helen Walker – Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery
  - Hazel Martingell - Lithics
  - Lynn Keys – Metalworking residues;
  - Pat Wiltshire- pollen analysis
  - Peter Murphy - Environmental
  - Val Fryer- Archaeo-botanist
  - Jackie Makinley- Cremations.

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## 8 REPORTING

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- 8.1 At the start of work an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded to the OASIS website. A copy of the OASIS online form should be included as an appendix to the report. A copy of the WSI should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 8.2 A Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) Event number must be obtained the CBCAO; this will be the unique reference number for the work in the CHER.
- 8.3 Following completion of fieldwork an evaluation report will be completed within 4 weeks and submitted to CgMs part of RPS for distribution to the CBCAO for his approval. The report will be marked DRAFT until agreed. Following acceptance, a single digital and hard copy of the report should be presented to both the CHER and Essex HER. A hard copy of the report should be deposited with the archive at Colchester and Ipswich Museum.
- 8.4 Copies of the final report will also be issued to the CgMs part of RPS and Essex Hospital.
- 8.5 Expert advice and reporting (in relation to cultural artefacts and ecofacts) will be provided by individual Specialists appointed as appropriate.
- 8.6 All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the Historic England procedural document, Management of Archaeological Projects (1991).
- 8.7 The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide (EH 2006) will be adhered to with regard to post-excavation management in relation to this and any subsequent mitigation that may be required.
- 8.8 The report should include relevant background context information.
- 8.9 At the end of the project, a copy of the digital vector plan, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, will be sent by CAT to CBC for integration in the CHER. AutoCAD files should be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).

### **b) Publication**

- 8.10 Minimum publication will consist of a note in the Colchester Archaeologist. The evaluation stage reporting will be summarised in an overall publication for the Site should mitigation result.



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## 9 ARCHIVE AND FINDS DEPOSITION

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- 9.1 All retained artefacts will be cleaned, conserved and packaged in accordance with the requirements and guidelines of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's' Conservation Guidelines No. 2, the Council for British Archaeology's First Aid for Finds (Second Edition, 1987), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Guidelines Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives Published December 2014. Small finds will be boxed separately from the bulk finds. Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Colchester Museum storage systems. A full archive will be prepared to standards outlined in Management of Archaeological Projects: 2 (English Heritage 1991).
- 9.2 The full archive will be deposited at Colchester Museums, subject to RMPA Services Plc consent and subject to the guidelines and requirements of MAP 2, as soon as is practicable, and within six months of completion of publication text on the project. All requirements for archive storage as given in Colchester Borough Council's Guidelines for the standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester, will be followed.
- 9.3 Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Colchester Museums.
- 9.4 Photographic archive is to be presented as follows: original digital data on CD Roms, hard copies of digital photos on high quality paper, or as otherwise requested by Colchester Museums.
- 9.5 CD Roms of material held on computers will be presented to Colchester Museums, along with bound copies of printouts.
- 9.6 Deposition of the archive will be confirmed in writing to CBCAO, and a summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to CBCAO.
- 9.7 The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service, or similar digital archive repository (<http://ads.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 9.8 All artefacts recovered from the archaeological excavation shall be deposited at the Colchester Museums. All recovered artefacts shall be fully catalogued, shall constitute one single deposit and shall be deposited within two years of the completion of the archaeological evaluation.

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## 10 STAFFING, TIMETABLE AND INSURANCE

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- 10.1 The overall archaeological project will be managed by Robert Masefield CMIa (CgMs Heritage part of RPS). The archaeological contractor CAT will be managed by Chris Lister. The evaluation will be directed in the field by Adam Wightman, Nigel Rayner and/or Chris Lister. The experience of the project team is included in the Appendix of this method statement.
- 10.2 The first stage of test pitting will be undertaken over a 4 day period in Easter 2018. A CAT team of 7 staff is envisaged to investigate the test pit trenches, with backfilling currently envisaged to take place by hand on Easter Monday.
- 10.3 The insurance requirements remain as previously stated in the original Waterman WSI (Waterman October 2017) including:

*Insurance*

*The archaeological contractor (CAT) shall hold Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details will be supplied on request.*

*CgMs part of RPS and the archaeological contractor shall not be liable to indemnify the Client against any compensation or damages for or with respect to:*

- ... the use or occupation of land (which has been provided by the Client) by the Project or for the purposes of completing the Project. Interference whether temporary or permanent with any right of way, light, air or water or other easement or quasi easement which are unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement;*
- any other damage (other than damage to buried services which is the responsibility of the Contractor) which is the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement*

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## 11 MONITORING

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- 11.1 A programme of monitoring of the project in the field shall be agreed in advance between CAT, RPS, Essex Housing and CBCAO.
- 11.2 Any variation or modification to the project programme in terms of working or recording either on site or off will be fully discussed and agreed with RPS, Essex Housing and CBC in advance.
- 11.3 Jess Tipper and Rob Masefield will meet with CAT on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March to review and sign off test pits as appropriate.
- 11.4 Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed between RPS, Essex Housing, CBCAO and CAT prior to their being carried out.
- 11.5 The involvement of CBCAO shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

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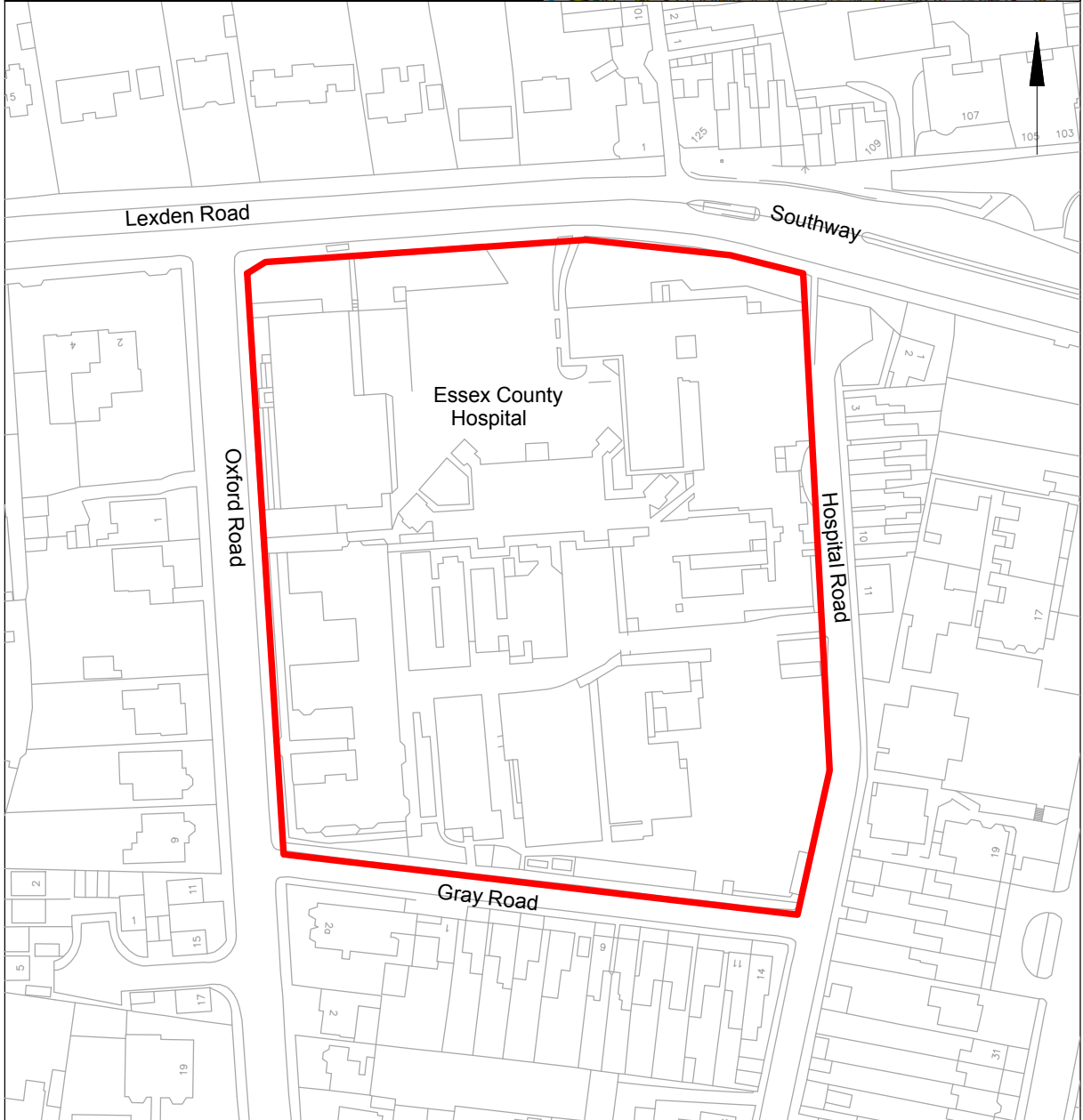
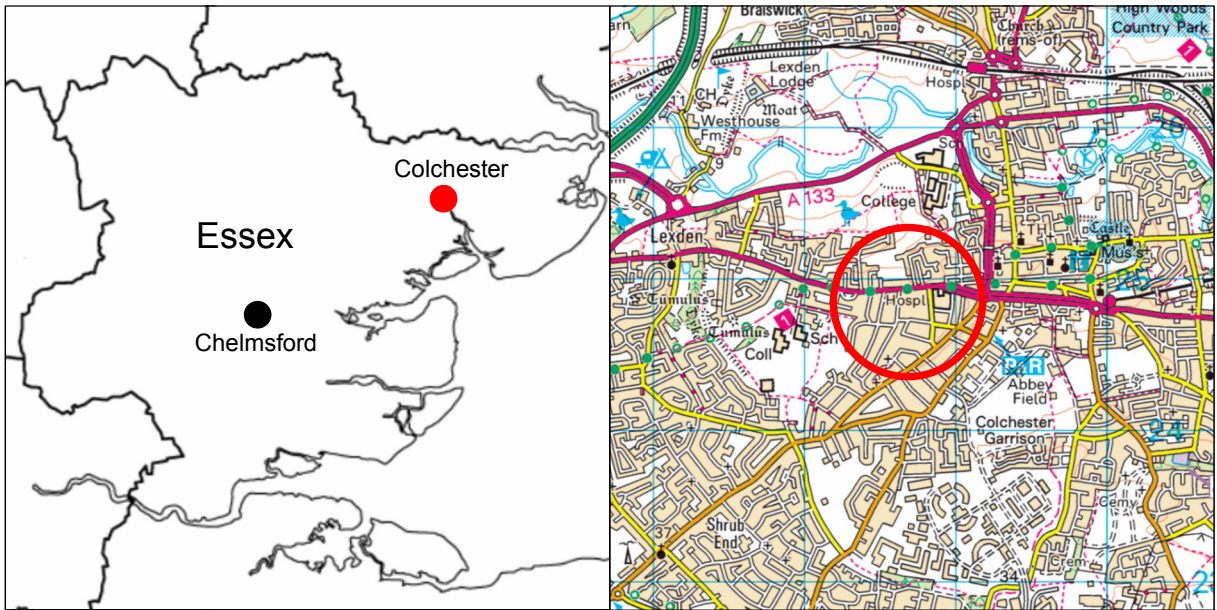
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## FIGURE 1

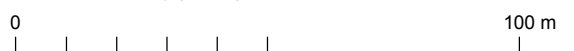
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Site Location (after CAT)



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Fig 1 Site location



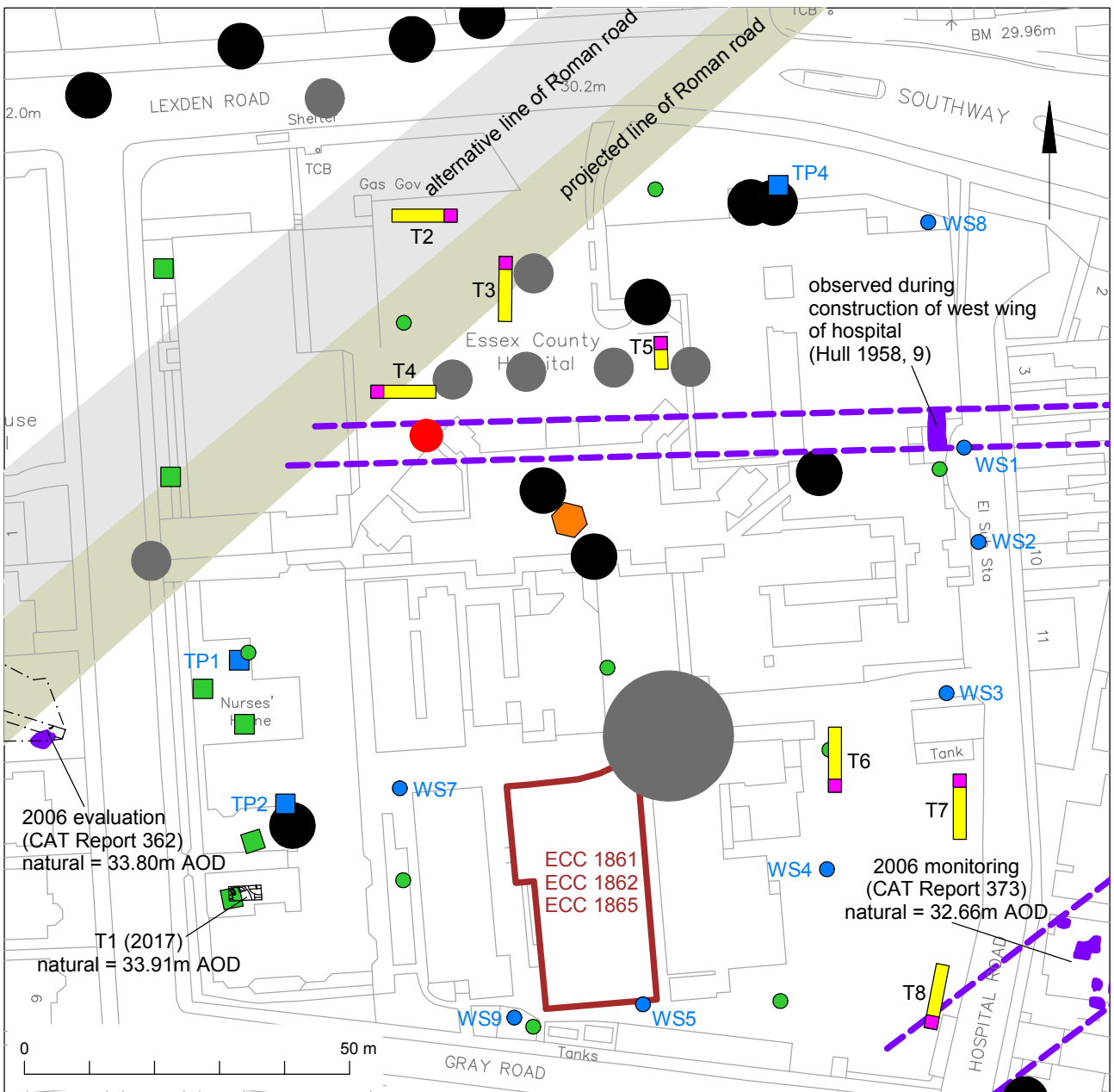


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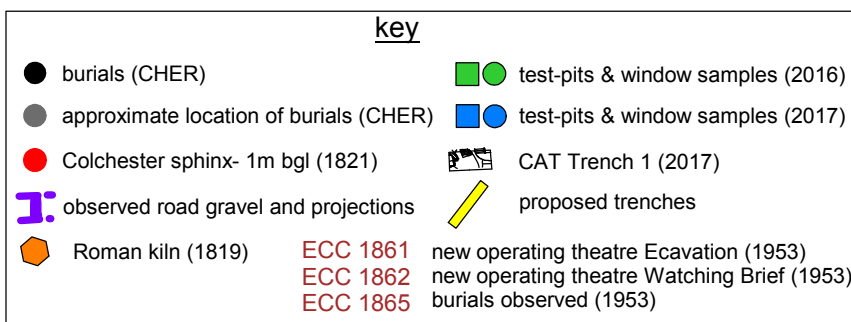
## FIGURE 2

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Proposed trench locations, showing archaeology within the immediate vicinity of the Essex County Hospital



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- WS1- 0.35m overburden [0.35m+ Roman feature]
- WS2- 0.4m overburden [0.82m+ Roman feature]
- WS3- 0.64m overburden [0.86m+ Roman feature]
- WS4- 0.24m overburden
- WS5- 0.18m concrete [onto fill of ?Roman feature 0.34m+]
- WS7- 0.24m overburden [0.7m Roman feature]
- WS8- 0.39m overburden [bank material 0.22m]
- WS9- 0.25m overburden
- TP1- 0.2m overburden (1.98m deep Roman pit)
- TP2- 0.24m overburden (0.52/0.58m Roman pits)
- TP4- 0.34m overburden (bank material 0.16m+)
- CAT Trench 1- 0.4-0.6m overburden onto Roman pits(2) & ditch

Fig 2 Proposed trench locations, showing archaeology within the immediate vicinity of the Essex County Hospital

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## **APPENDIX 1**

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CBC Brief (Tipper 2017)

**Planning Services**

**Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation**

AT

Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3NB

**GRID REFERENCE:** TL 9892 2487

**SITE AREA:** c.1.65 ha. in total  
Lexden Road (front) car park c.1425m<sup>2</sup>  
Hospital Road (rear) car park c.1380m<sup>2</sup>

**THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:** Jess Tipper  
Archaeological Advisor  
Tel. : 01206 508920  
E-mail: jess.tipper@colchester.gov.uk

**Date:** 6 July 2017

**Summary**

- 1.1 The location of proposed development, the Essex County Hospital, could affect important below-ground archaeological deposits.
- 1.2 The applicant is required to undertake a GPR survey and trial-trenched archaeological evaluation of the open areas of the site (front and rear car parks) prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation. This information should be incorporated in the design and access statement, in accordance with the NPPF (paragraphs 128, 129 and 132), in order for the LPA to be able to take into account the particular nature and the significance of any below-ground heritage assets at this location.  
  
Further trial trenched evaluation will be required across the site following the demolition of existing buildings; this work will be the subject of a separate brief.
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), for each stage of the evaluation, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council (CBC).
- 1.4 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

## Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The site of this development is an area of high archaeological interest, and high potential, recorded in the Colchester Historic Environment Record. Various Roman archaeological discoveries, indicative of high status buildings and elaborate funerary monuments, are recorded from this site, including the remains of Roman tessellated pavement and walls, the 'Colchester sphinx' and cremation and inhumation remains. A desk-based assessment has been prepared by Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Limited (June 2017).

## Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation

- 3.1 A ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey is required of the proposed development area. A trial area should be surveyed to assess the results of this survey technique, before the entire area is surveyed and decisions on the need to survey the entire area should be made on the basis of these preliminary results.
- 3.2 A pre-determination trial-trenched evaluation is required of the front and rear car parks (c.2805m in total area) to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. The trial-trenched evaluation must also enable the significance of any anomalies defined by GPR survey to be accurately quantified.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area of the car parks, which is 140.00m<sup>2</sup>. please note that several parts of the site will not be available until demolition has taken place (and will have to be evaluated at a later date, following demolition).

The trenches shall be positioned to sample all parts of the car parks, although the trench layout should be reviewed once the results of the GPR survey are reported; the layout may need to be adjusted to test any GPR anomalies. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, in a systematic grid array.

Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in 78.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

Proposals should be put forward in the WSI for the detailed hand excavation/sampling of any 'dark earth' or surface deposits.

- 3.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by CBC before fieldwork begins.

## **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by CBC, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

## **Reporting and Archival Requirements**

- 5.1 The project manager must consult the Colchester and Ipswich Museums' Documentation Officer to obtain an accession number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work. In addition, Event numbers must be obtained from CBC's Archaeological Officer for each stage; this will be the unique reference number for each piece of work in the Colchester Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.2 The trenching report should present the results of the evaluation in the spatial and temporal context, relating the site to the information, including historic maps, held in the Essex Record Office.
- 5.3 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Colchester and Ipswich Museums' Store. The project manager should consult the archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and in accordance with the Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums (2008).
- 5.4 It is a policy of CBC 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. It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from the Institute of Conservation (ICON).
- 5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).

- 5.6 A copy of each report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to CBC for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Colchester HER.
- 5.7 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with CBC. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.8 Following acceptance of each draft report, a .pdf digital copy (in PDF/A or PDF/Archive format) should be presented to the Colchester HER.
- 5.9 A digital vector plan should be included with each report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Colchester HER. AutoCAD files should also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).
- 5.10 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded.
- 5.11 A copy of the WSI should be appended to each report.
- 5.12 This brief remains valid for six months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

## **Standards and Guidance**

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The geophysical survey should follow the Historic England guidance *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008). The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## **Notes**

The Chartered Institute of Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors ([www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net) or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in Colchester Borough and the archaeological advisor will provide advice on request. CBC does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

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## APPENDIX 2

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### Team Structure

#### RPS PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

##### CgMs RPS Archaeological Project Manager

Rob Masefield

#### LIST OF CAT TEAM MEMBERS

##### Project Management

Chris Lister

##### Site Manager

Chris Lister

##### Site staff

Ben Holloway, Adam Wightman, E Holloway and three Others.

##### Finds

E Holloway

##### Metal detecting

Brian Hurrell

##### Finds Consultants

Stephen Benfield (CAT) LIA/Roman pottery

Joanna Bird (Guildford) Samian ware

Ernest Black (Colchester) Roman brick/tile

Paul Sealey Prehistoric Pottery/ amphora

Hilary Cool (Nottingham) Roman glass

Nina Crummy (Colchester): Small finds



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Julie Curle (Sylvanus: Archaeological, Natural History and Illustration Services) Human and Animal bone.

John Davis (Norwich Museum) Roman coins

Val Fryer (Loddon) Environmental processing

Nick Lavender (ECC) Prehistoric pottery

Hazel Martingell (Braintree) Lithics

Rachel Ballantyne (EH) Environmental policy

Valerie Rigby (British Museum) LIA ceramics

Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums) Roman Amphoras

Susan Tyler (ECC) Saxon Pottery

Helen Walker (ECC) post-Roman pottery.

#### Graphics

C Lister, E Spurgeon, J Chittenden, H Brooks

#### Report writing

B, Holloway, H Brooks,

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## RPS EXPERIENCE

### Robert Masefield

Office: Cottons Centre, London Bridge

Position in Company: Director

Qualifications / Memberships: FSA, CMIFA, MA, BSc

Date of Birth: 15 October 1969

Key Clients: Taylor Wimpey, RMPA Services, Southern Water, Cemex UK, Countryside Properties, Gatwick Airport Limited

Robert has over 20 years experience in British archaeology and has been with RPS for ten years. He has recently transferred to the London office. Experienced in the production of Environmental Impact Assessments and Statements, the design and management complex archaeological projects and the preparation of proofs of evidence, he also has extensive experience of undertaking negotiations on behalf of clients.

#### Experience Includes:

- Delivery of compliance with Town and Country Planning, Ancient Monuments, Conservation Area and Listed Building legislation, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Construction Design Management (CDM) regulations; and the Highways Agency Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB vol 10 & 11)
- Provision of Environmental Statement chapters including Great Western Park (George Wimpey & Taylor Woodrow), Colchester New Garrison (RMPA/ MoD) Didcot, Radcot Farm Mineral Extraction (Oxfordshire), Priors Green, Takeley (Countryside Properties), The Wixams, Elstow, Bedfordshire (National Power/JJ Gallagher), Barrington Quarry, Cambridgeshire (Cemex), Sheerness WTM (Peel Ports), plus several ES's on behalf of Southern Water (Bognor–Littlehampton, Bexhill & Hastings and Brighton & Hove).
- Project Design and Management on watching briefs evaluation and excavation projects including production of written schemes of investigation and Research Agendas.

Management and design of the 160ha Colchester New Garrison and linked Urban Village projects including identification and successful retention within the scheme of Britain's first Roman circus, excavation of major cemetery site and excavation of prehistoric and Roman sites within Camulodunum.

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## **DETAILS OF CAT TEAM MEMBERS**

### SENIOR SITE STAFF

#### Philip Crummy MA, FSA, MIFA

Philip is a very experienced field archaeologist, and the longest-serving director of excavations at any major archaeological organisation in Britain. Since joining CAT (or Colchester Excavation Committee as it was then, and Colchester Archaeological Unit soon after) as Site Director in the early 1970s, he has supervised or directed large urban projects including Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane, Butt Road, and Culver Street, as well as numerous small projects. Philip's publication record is outstanding, and includes sole or joint authorship of eight of the Colchester Archaeological Report series, principally volumes 1, 3, 6, 9, and 11. He also produces major parts of the CAT annual magazine *The Colchester Archaeologist*. He has also contributed to *Britannia*, *Post-medieval Archaeology*, and several of the BAR series. His most recent work *City of Victory* is one of the local bestsellers in bookshops in Colchester. He lectures widely.

#### Stephen Benfield BA, Cert Archaeol (Oxon) (CAT)

After working in farming Banking, Estate Agency, and in a Jobcentre, Stephen discovered archaeology. His first involvement with Colchester archaeology was in 1985, working on a Manpower Services Commission sponsored project, assisting in processing the enormous collection of Roman pottery from excavations in the town. After that he studied for his post-graduate Certificate in Archaeology at Oxford. Returning to CAT, he has since worked on many CAT projects at various supervisory and directorial positions, including the major projects at Stanway Iron Age burial site and Gosbecks Roman temple/theatre complex. Stephen has also, through much hands-on experience, built up a considerable working knowledge of LIA and Roman ceramics. He now completes ceramic assessments and full reports for CAT, drawing on the unrivalled catalogues provided by the standard Colchester works *Camulodunum* (Hawkes & Hull 1947), *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958) and now CAR 10, and by examining the fabric series held at CAT headquarters.

#### Ben Holloway BSc AIFA

Ben joined CAT staff in June 2000, a graduate in Archaeology from Bournemouth University. Ben has conducted fieldwork in Scotland and the Isle of Man. Since joining the Trust Ben has carried out extensive work in Colchester at various supervisory and project positions including evaluations and excavations at Colchester Garrison PFI (including the circus), St Marys Hospital and Colchester 6th Form College. His work in Essex includes the Sandon Park and Ride Site, Skyline 120 Business Park at Great Notley, Dry Street, Basildon and the Stanhope industrial park Stanford-le-hope.

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## **FINDS SPECIALISTS**

### **Joanna Bird FSA (Guildford) Samian**

Joanna is one of the country's top Samian specialists. Among her large corpus of work is a contribution to the blockbuster Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-86.

### **Ernest Black (Colchester) Roman brick/tile**

Ernie is a Colchester schoolteacher with a wide interest in archaeology and the classical world. In this sense, he is following in the footsteps of A.F. Hall and Mike Corbishley who were also local schoolmasters. He has developed his specialism by large scale hands-on experience with Roman brick and tile, and has contributed to the Archaeological Journal Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85.

### **Dr Hilary Cool FSA MIFA (Nottingham) Roman glass**

Yet another graduate of the University of Wales, Hilary is now a freelance glass and finds specialist, and has written many reports on glass from Colchester sites, including contributions to Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85, and Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993). Among her major works is the internationally selling Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester 1971-85.

### **Nina Crummy (Colchester) Small finds**

Nina first worked in the early 1970s as finds assistant on the major urban excavations in Colchester for the Colchester Excavation Committee (later the Trust). Over the next twenty years she built up an unrivalled working knowledge of small finds of all types. She has collaborated in most of the Colchester Archaeological Reports, and was principal author of the best-selling Colchester Archaeological Reports 2 (Roman small finds), 4 (The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9) and 5 (The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85). She recently worked for the Museum of London, and was instrumental in the recent transfer of and the massive improvement in accessibility to archaeological archives in London. She now works freelance on small finds reports for CAT, HBAS, and other bodies including Winchester Excavation Committee.

### **Julie Curle (Sylvanus: Archaeological, Natural History and Illustration Services) Human and Animal Bone**

Julie has over 16 years of experience in archaeology and in particular finds for the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Norfolk Museums Service. Currently working as a freelance specialist in both human and animal bone and illustration. She has been producing faunal and Human remains reports for many years and produces assessment and analysis reports for clients across the East Anglian region. She has her own extensive bone reference collection built up over many years. Her particular interests in faunal remains are animal husbandry and pathologies. She has also worked as a conservator, particularly on Pleistocene vertebrates and a wide variety of

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archaeology and natural history projects at the Norwich Castle Museum. Julie is also an extra-mural lecturer with the University of East Anglia, teaching Animal bones in Archaeology.

Dr John A Davies (Norwich Museum) Roman coins

John has, for some years, written reports on Roman coins from Colchester excavations. He specialises in barbarous radiates, and has contributed to British Numismatic Journal on that topic. Among his other publications is a contribution to Colchester Archaeological Report 4: The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9, and Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993).

Nick Lavender (to follow)

Hazel Martingell BA, FAAIS (Braintree): Lithics

Hazel has for many years worked as a lithics illustrator and specialist, undertaking work for The British Museum, ECC Field Archaeology Unit and for London and Cambridge Universities, to name but a few. Since 1987 she has been self-employed and has excavated at a Middle Stone Age site at Gorham's Cave, Gibraltar as well as writing and illustrating worked flint reports for CAT, ECC FAU, and the British Museum. Her impressive publication record includes reports on sites from around the globe. Closer to home she has published work in *Essex History and Archaeology*, The *East Anglian Archaeology* Monograph series, *Antiquity* and *British Museum Occasional Papers*. Hazel is a fellow of the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors and a founder member of the Lithics Study Group, London.

Rachel Ballantyne (EH) Environmental (to follow)

Valerie Rigby (British Museum) LIA ceramics

Val is one of the country's leading authorities on later prehistoric ceramics in general, and traded wares in particular. She has published widely. Her major work include Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968-72 (Britannia Monograph Series 7, with Ian Stead). On a more local level, she has contributed to the magisterial Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-88, and to Ros Niblett's Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum (Council for British Archaeology Research Report 57, 1985).

Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums) Amphoras/prehistoric pottery

Paul has worked at Colchester Museum since the late 1970s. His PhD specialism was Roman amphoras, a topic on which he writes specialist reports for Colchester sites. His main areas of interest are prehistory and the Roman period, and he has developed a familiarity with those periods and their ceramics. He has published widely. His major works include Amphoras from the 1970 excavations at Colchester Sheepen (British Archaeological Report 142, 1985), contributions to Ros Niblett's Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum (Council for British Archaeology Research Report 57, 1985). He regularly contributes to Essex Archaeology & History.

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## Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation (Phase 2) at Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NB
Short description of the project	A stage 1 archaeological evaluation by test-pitting (seven test-pits) was carried out in the north and south car parks of Essex County Hospital, Colchester in advance of the redevelopment of the site, to ascertain the depths of significant archaeological horizons. The hospital is located on the site of a Roman cemetery where excavations in 1820-1 uncovered the Colchester Sphinx sculpture from an elaborate tomb. Roman kilns were also recorded on the site. Four test-pits were excavated in the north car park revealing at least five Roman/probably Roman pits and the remains of a Roman structure, possibly an oven or kiln, in test-pits 2, 4 and 5. There were no significant archaeological remains in test-pit 3. Roman contexts were recorded at depths of 0.4-0.95m below current ground level. Three test-pits were excavated in the south car park revealing significant depths of modern and post-medieval remains. Sealed beneath were an unidentified cut Roman feature, an unidentified and undated cut feature, an undated ditch and an undated pit/grave. These remains were recorded at depths of 0.81-1.35m below current ground level.
Project dates	Start: 31-03-2018 End: 28-04-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	18/03m - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4165 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.33 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	STRUCTURAL REMAINS Roman
Monument type	PIT/INHUMATION BURIAL Roman
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	CUT FEATURES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Modern
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATIONS Modern
Monument type	DISTURBANCE Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	IRON NAILS Roman
Significant Finds	SHELL Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	PAINTED WALL PLASTER Roman
Significant Finds	GLASS Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Methods & techniques	""Test Pits""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road
Postcode	CO3 3NB

Study area 1.9 Hectares  
Site coordinates TL 98923 24878 51.886388619191 0.890882422174 51 53 11 N 000 53 27 E Point  
Height OD / Depth Min: 31.16m Max: 33.3m

#### Project creators

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

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2018.33  
Physical Contents "Glass","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","Animal Bones","Ceramics"  
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2018.33  
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey","other"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2018.33  
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey","other"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological evaluation by test-pitting, Stage 1, Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NB: March-April 2018  
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