

# Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US

July 2019



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton  
figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Sarah Carter

**commissioned by Lyndon Hopkins  
on behalf of Colchester County High School for Girls**

NGR: TL 9803 2462 (centre)  
Planning ref.: pre-planning  
CAT project ref.: 19/05u  
ECC code: ECC4349  
OASIS ref.: colchest3-353624



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785  
email: [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1449**  
July 2019

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	2
5	Results	3
6	Finds	4
7	Environmental assessment	7
8	Conclusion	9
9	Acknowledgements	9
10	References	9
11	Abbreviations and glossary	11
12	Contents of archive	11
13	Archive deposition	11

Appendix 1	Ceramic and pottery list	13
------------	--------------------------	----

Figures	after p15
---------	-----------

CAT wsi

OASIS summary sheet

## List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: working shot

Photograph 1	T1 trench shot, looking west	3
Photograph 2	F2 and F3 sxs, looking north northeast	3
Photograph 3	Roman ?antefix	6

Table 1	Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery	4
Table 2	Number and weight of pottery and CBM from features	4
Table 3	Roman pottery fabrics recorded	4
Table 4	Details on the Roman pottery	5
Table 5	Quantities of Roman pottery from specific contexts	5
Table 6	Roman CBM by type	5
Table 7	Quantities of Roman CBM by features	6
Table 8	Approximate dates for the individual features and layers	7
Table 9	Flot contents	8

Fig 1	Site location
Fig 2	Site location in relation to previous archaeological work
Fig 3	Evaluation results
Fig 4	Trench results
Fig 5	Feature and representative sections

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new school building. Two Roman pits, a Roman ditch, and an undatable pit, were uncovered. As during previous investigations conducted at the site, there was no trace of the triple-ditched dyke purported to run through the grounds of the school.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex which was carried out during 8th-9th July 2019. The work was commissioned by Lyndon Hopkins on behalf of Colchester County High School for Girls in advance of the construction of a new school building and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trial Trenched Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (*MoRPHE*) (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (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) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The development site is located within the grounds of Colchester County High School for Girls, a purpose-built complex of buildings opened in 1957 on land that was formerly part of the estate of Altnacealgach House (locally listed), a Victorian mansion designed by acclaimed local architect Horace Darken, built in 1888 to be the home of Arthur Thomas Osborne, heir to a successful brewing business. The school lies to the southwest of the house.

The Altnacealgach estate was located within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), more generally considered the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds to either side of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town to London). Many Roman burials and cremations have been found and reported on in this area (see Hull and CAR 11). In particular a Roman amphora burial was found to the west of Altnacealgach House (CHER MCC7676) and a trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road in 2006 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (CHER MCC3091, ECC FAU report 1711). The school lies some 425m east of Lexden

Tumulus (CHER MCC1356 & MCC7523), an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of bronze, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (a cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound has variably thought to be that of Addedomarus (CAR 11, 85-94, Foster 1986) or Tasciovanus (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

Excavations in 1939 revealed an early Roman curving ditch, possibly the corner of a fort, to the north of the school (CHER ECC851 and MCC2173). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull 1958, 273). It was later shown that these form a continuation of Heath Farm Dyke North (CAR 11, 32). CAT monitored an area on the corner of Norman Way and Park Road for a car park in February 1996 (96/2b, CAT Report 1000). A ditch was recorded running east-west parallel to the footpath but was thought to be medieval or later and not associated to Hull's ditch.

In 1955, prior to the construction Colchester County High School for Girls, a 'triple-ditched dyke' was excavated by R.J. Martin beneath what was to become the main school building. The ditches were 4m wide, although their depths are unknown (CHER ECC714, MCC2177, CAR 11, 127). In addition to this, on the south edge of the school, post holes and a ditch indicated the possible presence of a building with wooden posts surrounded by a diagonal ditch dated to the 2nd century and a large 4.3m deep pit, also dated to the 2nd century. In 1956, excavations undertaken by John Wachter to the east of the school revealed palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (CHER ECC970, MCC8175 and MCC2064-5, CAR 11, 124-126).

CAT has carried out a number of watching briefs and evaluations in this area. A watching brief undertaken by CAT in 2001 on an extension to the school revealed no trace of the ditches of the triple dyke seen in 1955 (CAT Report 155). A further watching brief in 2005 for a new music and careers block recorded four undatable pits or ditches (CAT Report 348). At least two of the ditches of the 'triple-ditched dyke' should have been visible within the footprint of the new building and one of its soakaways, but were not observed. A substantial ditch recorded in a second soakaway was not in alignment with those seen in 1955 and it was concluded that the 'triple-ditched dyke' either turns a corner or in fact does not actually exist.

An evaluation at the County High School for Girls in 2014 in the area of the proposed rear or southern car park revealed a Roman ditch dating to the late 1st century AD (CAT Report 762). The ditch was aligned parallel to the ditches seen in the 1939 excavations (ie. Heath Farm Dyke North). It is unclear is whether the 2014 ditch is merely an agricultural field ditch, or whether it is part of a wider defensive scheme including the Heath Farm Dyke and the 'triple-ditched dyke' on the school site. An evaluation undertaken by CAT in 2016 towards the centre of the County High School for Girls identified a Roman ditch aligned north-east to south-west (CAT Report 975). This was recorded along with five modern and two natural features. Another evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls was carried out in January 2018 in advance of the construction of a multi-functional hall and two additional car parks (CAT Report 1211). The evaluation uncovered three undated pits, two post-Roman pits and two natural features. As during previous investigations at this site, no trace of the triple-ditch dyke was found.

#### **4 Aim**

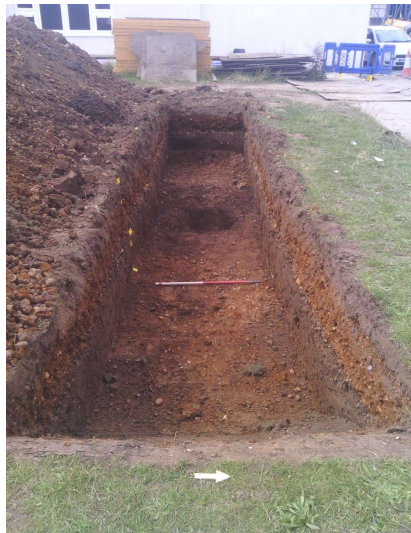
The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

## 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two trial-trenches, both 10m long by 1.8m wide, were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. They were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, 0.2-0.21m thick, soft, dry, medium yellow/grey/brown silty-loam with charcoal flecks and 5% stones), a layer of hoggin (L2, c 0.37m thick, hard, dry orange sand), a modern build-up layer (L3, 0.07-0.1m thick, firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 20% stones) and an accumulation layer (L4, 0.39-0.42m thick, firm, most medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks) onto natural (L5, firm, moist orange/grey sandy-silt).

### Trench 1 (T1): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Roman ditch F1 lay on a NNW-SSE alignment and was 0.8m wide and 0.27m deep.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking west

### Trench 2 (T2): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Two pits, F2 and F3, were excavated. F2, which was of possible 4th-century date, extended beyond the limit of excavation (LOE), and the scope to excavate the feature was limited due to the need to stay within safe working depths, but an exploratory slot determined that it was at least 0.46m deep.



Photograph 2 F2 and F3 sxs – looking north northeast

Undatable pit F3 was cut by F2. F3 also extended beyond the LOE and it was not possible to determine its full dimensions.

Mid 2nd- to early 3rd-century pit F4 also extended beyond the LOE; its exposed extent was 0.85m wide and 0.19m deep.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered 106 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of nearly 28kg (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW/g	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
Roman	26	24.5%	619	2.2%	24	0.45	2
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	80	75.5%	27,251	97.8%	341	-	-
<b>All</b>	<b>106</b>		<b>27,870</b>		<b>263</b>	<b>0.45</b>	<b>2</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Sherds of pottery and CBM were recovered from three pits (F1, F2, F4) although most of this material came from F2 (Table 2).

Feature	Feature Type	No.	%	Weight g	%	MSW g
F1	Pit	12	11.3%	938	3.4%	78
F2	Pit	71	67.0%	26,077	93.6%	367
F4	Pit	23	21.7%	855	3.0%	37
<b>Total</b>		<b>106</b>		<b>27,870</b>		<b>263</b>

**Table 2** Number and weight of pottery and CBM from features

#### Roman pottery

The small collection of Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in CAR 10 (1999) (Table 3). There were only 26 sherds with a weight of 619g (Table 4) and two vessels (rim EVREP) while the rim EVE is 0.45 (Table 4). The mean sherd weight at 24g is high. The Roman pottery was recovered from three pits (Table 5) although most of this material came from pit F4.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
<b>Roman:</b>		
BSW	Black surface ware	Roman
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	Early 2nd-3rd century AD
DZ	Fine oxidised wares	Mid 1st-early 2nd century AD
GA	BB1: Black-burnished ware (category 1)	Early 2nd-4th century AD
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares	Roman
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	Early 2nd-4th century AD

**Table 3** Roman pottery fabrics recorded

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	Rim	Base	Rim EVREP	Rim EVE
BSW	Black surface ware	2	28	14	0	2	0	0.00
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	1	61	61	0	1	0	0.00
DZ	Fine oxidised wares	1	3	3	0	0	0	0.00
GA	BB1: Black-burnished ware (category 1)	13	337	26	3	6	1	0.10
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	3	91	30	0	2	0	0.00
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	6	99	17	3	0	1	0.35
<b>Total</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.45</b>

**Table 4** Details on the Roman pottery

Cxt	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	Rim	Base	Rim EVREP	Rim EVE
F1	Pit	5	98	20	0	1	0	0.00
F2	Pit	1	24	24	0	1	0	0.00
F4	Pit	20	497	25	6	7	2	0.45

**Table 5** Quantities of Roman pottery from specific contexts

The Roman pottery from pit F4 was in a fresh condition and consisted of sherds from three vessels:

A complete base from a Colchester red colour-coated beaker (fabric CZ) dating from the early/mid 2nd until the mid 3rd century AD (CAR 10, 267).

A Cam 37A/38A bowl in fabric KX (black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware) dating from the Trajanic/Hadrianic to the late 2nd or early 3rd century AD (*ibid*, 469).

A Cam 39A plain-rim dish in fabric GA (BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1) dating from the early Antonine to the 4th century AD (*ibid*, 469). There is a black glassy deposit on part of the outer rim face.

This assemblage can be dated to the period from the second half of the 2nd century until the early 3rd century AD.

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

Roman CBM accounted for the majority of the assemblage with 80 sherds with a weight of just over 27kg (Table 6). The mean sherd weight at 341g is high and the material is relatively fresh and unworn. The assemblage includes pieces of tegula, imbrex, flue tile, brick and a possible piece of antefix (Table 6). Roman CBM was recovered from three pits although the majority of this material came from pit F2 (Table 7).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW
RA	Roman <i>antefix</i> (?)	1	86	86
RI	Roman <i>imbrex</i>	10	1,644	164
RT	Roman <i>tegula</i>	40	15,926	398
RB	Roman brick	12	7,926	661

RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	1	9	9
RFT	Roman flue tile	16	1,660	104
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>27,251</b>	<b>341</b>

**Table 6** Roman CBM by type

Feature	Feature Type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g
F1		7	840	120
F2		70	26,053	372
F4		3	358	119
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>27,251</b>	<b>341</b>

**Table 7** Quantities of Roman CBM by features

The box flue tile, which all came from pit F2, was in an unusual fabric which was softer and smooth, slightly laminated, and brown coloured; this fabric was not noted with any of the pieces of tegulae although one sherd of imbrex was in a similar fabric. Some of the flue tile sherds were keyed with comb style decoration while one piece preserved traces of a possible rectangular vent.

The tegulae included several pieces with lower and upper cut aways. There were nine LCAs, all of which came from pit F2, and included examples of the following types (the dates are taken from Warry (2006, 63): A26 (AD 40-120), A27 (AD 40-120), B6 (AD 100-180), C5 four examples (AD 160-260), and D15 two examples (AD 240-380). The wide range of LCA types and dates, which range from the 1st century until the end of the 4th century, from this feature is rather surprising especially given the relatively fresh state of this material.



**Photograph 3** Roman ?antefix

Finally a small piece of CBM possibly from a curved antefix(?), decorated with several radiating rays was recovered from pit F1 (see image above). Antefixes, including several decorated with Medusa heads, have been recovered from a small number of locations in Colchester including the Gilbert School (CAR 6, 252-253, fig. 7.1 no. 1; Hull 1958 209 pl. XXXB).



## Summary

Table 8 provides a brief dating summary for the features which produced datable ceramic finds. These features can probably be dated to the mid-late Roman period.

Feature	Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F1	BSW DZ GX	RA RB RI RT	Roman
F2	GX	RB RFT RI RT with LCAs: A26, A27, B6, C5, D15	4th century AD (?)
F4	CZ GA (Cam 39A) KX (Cam 37A/38A)	RB RI	AD 150-200/220

**Table 8** Approximate dates for the individual features and layers

## 6.2 Iron nails and hobnails

*by Laura Pooley*

Three iron hobnails (2.7g) were recovered from the environmental sample taken from ditch F1 (2). Two are complete at 15-16mm long but the third is missing the shank. The sub-rectangular heads measure 8-9mm by 10-12mm.

Two iron nails were also recovered from the environmental sample taken from pit F4 (7). The first is a square-sectioned shank fragment, 49mm long, weighing 10.7g. The second is much smaller and is also incomplete with part of the head and tip missing, 19mm long, weighing 0.9g.

## 7 Environmental assessment

Environmental samples were taken from F1, F2 and F4. No environmental remains were present in the samples from F2 or F4.

### 7.1 Environmental assessment

*by Lisa Gray, Archaeobotanist*

#### Introduction

One sample was presented for assessment. It was taken from Roman ditch F1 (sample <1>). The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the sample and consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

#### Sampling and processing methods

This sample was taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust and completely processed 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 the 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 uncharred 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; 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.

At this stage numbers given are estimates but where only one item is present that has been noted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been described as such. Charred wood <4mm diameter are described as 'flecks'. Samples this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Fragments smaller than this and larger than 2mmØ were scanned in case any fragments of twig or roundwood survived.

## Results (Table 9)

Sample no.	Context	Description	Sample volume (L.)	Flot volume (L.)	Charred		Uncharred
					Charcoal fragments >4mm	Charcoal flecks <4mm	Root/rhizome fragments
					a	a	a
1	F1	Roman ditch	40	0.01	1	2	3

**Table 9** Flot contents (estimated charred plant macro-remains per litre of sample excluding charcoal flecks, root/rhizome fragments and stem/leaf fragments)

Key to Table 9:

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)]

### **The plant remains**

All that was present in this sample were fragments of charcoal and modern root/rhizome fragments.

### **Fauna**

No faunal remains were found in this sample.

### **Artefacts**

No artefactual remains were found in this sample.

## **Discussion**

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

Nothing with regard to biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for this sample at the time of writing.

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

The plant remains in these samples were preserved by charring. Charring of plant macrofossils occurs when plant material is heated under 'reducing conditions' where oxygen is largely excluded (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2) leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to biological and chemical decay (Campbell *et al* 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. No waterlogged plant remains were present meaning that the area was well-drained with no evidence of standing or running water.

#### **Potential and significance**

It is clear that there is the potential for more charred plant remains to be found if this investigation goes to excavation stage. If the charcoal can be dated then it may be locally significant with comparison possible with other charcoal assemblages from Colchester.

#### **Recommendations for further work on these samples**

If further excavation takes place at this site then bulk soil sampling is recommended because it is clear that charred plant remains survive here. No further work is recommended on this plot unless the charcoal needs identification.

## **8 Conclusion**

Four features – three pits and a ditch – were uncovered during archaeological evaluation at this site. They originated from the period from the mid 2nd to the 4th century, and one was undatable. This is in keeping with the results of archaeological investigations conducted at Colchester County High School for Girls over the past two decades, which have revealed a historic landscape rich in Roman remains. As during these previous phases of work at the site, there was no trace of the triple-ditched dyke reportedly observed during the construction of the school in the 1950s, the precise location of which is still to be determined.

## **9 Acknowledgements**

CAT thanks Lyndon Hopkins and Colchester County High School for Girls for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with S Carter. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

## **10 References**

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

- |   |                   |  |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Asouti, E                                 | 2006              | 'Factors affecting the formation of an archaeological wood charcoal assemblage', retrieved on 13th February 2015 from World Wide Web:<br><a href="http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~easouti/methodology_application.htm">http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~easouti/methodology_application.htm</a> |
| Beijerinck, W                             | 1947              | <i>Zadenatlas der Nederlandsche Flora</i> . Veenman and Zonen, Wageningen.   |
| Boardman, S & Jones, G                    | 1990              | 'Experiments on the effect of charring on cereal plant components', in <i>Journal of Archaeological Science</i> <b>17</b> , 1-11.  |
| Brown, D                                  | 2011<br>(2nd ed.) | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>   |
| Campbell, G, Moffett, L & Straker, V      | 2011              | <i>Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)</i> . Portsmouth: English Heritage.  |
| Cappers, R J T, Bekker, R M & Jans, J E A | 2006              | <i>Digital Zadenatlas Van Nederlands – Digital Seeds Atlas of the Netherlands</i> . Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4. Groningen: Barkhius Publishing, Groningen.  |
| CAR 10                                    | 1999              | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by R Symonds and S Wade  |
| CAR 11                                    | 1995              | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy  |

CAT	2018	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 155	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: September 2001</i>
CAT Report 348	2005	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: May-November 2005</i>
CAT Report 762	2014	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: March 2014</i>
CAT Report 975	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US: June 2016</i>
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>Miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997), by H Brooks</i>
CAT Report 1211	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US: January 2018</i>
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, CO3 3US, by J Tipper</i>
Charles, M	1984	'Introductory remarks on the cereals', in <i>Bulletin on Sumerian Agriculture</i> <b>1</b> , 17-31.
Cifa	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
Cifa	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECC FAU report 1711	2007	<i>Archaeological trial trenching at Essex County Council Offices, Park Road, Colchester, Essex, by T Ennis</i>
Foster, J	1986	<i>The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex, BAR, British Series, 156</i>
Fuller, D	2007	'Cereal Chaff and Wheat Evolution', retrieved on 12th February 2010 from World Wide Web: <a href="http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~tcrndfu/archaeobotany.htm">http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~tcrndfu/archaeobotany.htm</a>
Green, F J	1979	'Phosphatic mineralization of seeds from archaeological sites', in <i>Journal of Archaeological Science</i> <b>6</b> , 279–284.
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> , by S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> , by S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Jacomet, S	2006	<i>Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites – second edition</i> . Basel: Basel University Archaeobotany Lab IPAS
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Reynolds, P	1979	<i>The Iron Age Farm: The Butser Experiment</i> London: British Museum Press.
Robinson, M & Straker, V	1990	'Silica skeletons of macroscopic plant remains from ash' in J M Renfrew <i>New light on early farming. Recent Developments in Palaeoethnobotany</i> . Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 3-13.
Smart, T L & Hoffman, E S	1988	'Environmental Interpretation of Archaeological Charcoal', in C A Hastorf & V S Popper <i>Current Palaeobotany</i> . Chicago and London. University of Chicago Press.
Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles</i> , 3rd Edition, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Warry, P 2006 *Tegulae: Manufacture, typology and use in Roman Britain*

## 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
EHHER	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
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** one box

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1449)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1449)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

## 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.

**Distribution list:**

Lyndon Hopkins  
Colchester County High School for Girls  
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 08.08.2019

**Appendix 1 Ceramic and pottery list**

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	Discard	No.	Weight g	Rim	Base	Form	Comments	Date
F1	Ditch	1	CBM	-	X	3	374	-	-	RI		Roman
F1	Ditch	1	CBM	-	X	1	116	-	-	RB	Burnt	Roman
F1	Ditch	1	CBM	-	X	1	63	-	-	RI		Roman
F1	Ditch	1	CBM	-	X	1	201	-	-	RT		Roman
F1	Ditch	1	CBM	-	-	1	86	-	-	RA	Antefix (?) curved, decorated	Roman
F1	Ditch	1	Pottery	DZ	-	1	3	0	0	-		Roman
F1	Ditch	1	Pottery	GX	-	2	67	0	1	-		Roman
F1	Ditch	1	Pottery	BSW	-	2	28	0	0	-		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	255	-	-	RI		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	647	-	-	RB		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	274	-	-	RFT	Combed, 23 mm thick, softer smoother beige coloured fabric	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	5	1351	-	-	RT	signature, LCA D15	AD 240-380
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	261	-	-	RB		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	213	-	-	RT		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	2	1154	-	-	RT	LCA A27, LCA C5	AD 40-120, AD160-260
F2	Pit	3	Pottery	GX	-	1	24	0	1	-		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	4	84	-	-	RFT	combed, brown softer smooth fabric	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	212	-	-	RFT	combed (worn/damaged comb), 21 mm thick	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	346	-	-	RB	46 mm thick	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	290	-	-	RT		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	4	1587	-	-	RT	LCA A26	AD 40-120

F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	611	-	-	RT		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	184	-	-	RI		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	124	-	-	RB		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	2	344	-	-	RFT	24 mm thick, softer smoother brown fabric	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	1385	-	-	RT	UCA B6	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	578	-	-	RT	LCA B6	AD 100-180
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	1746	-	-	RB	45 mm thick	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	2	1700	-	-	RT	UCA B5, LCA C5	AD 160-260
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	501	-	-	RB	35 mm thick, sign curve	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	9	-	-	RBT		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	8	3398	-	-	RT	LCA C5, UCA B5	AD 160-260
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	197	-	-	RT		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	730	-	-	RB	43 mm thick	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	76	-	-	RFT	brown, smoother softer fabric	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	6	508	-	-	RFT	combed (deep, wide teeth), brown softer smooth fabric, 19-21 mm	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	218	-	-	RT	softer brown fabric	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	4	635	-	-	RT	LCA D15	AD 240-380
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	2	1528	-	-	RB		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	1	103	-	-	RT		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	472	-	-	RT	UCA B6	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	162	-	-	RFT	combed	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	X	2	503	-	-	RI		Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	1	1834	-	-	RB	50 mm thick	Roman
F2	Pit	3	CBM	-	-	5	1833	-	-	RT	LCA C5, UCA B7	AD 160-260



F2	Pit	4	CBM	-	-	2	47	-	-	RFT	combed	Roman
F2	Pit	4	CBM	-	X	2	111	-	-	RT		Roman
F2	Pit	4	CBM	-	X	1	106	-	-	RBT		Roman
F2	Pit	4	CBM	-	-	1	55	-	-	RT	LCA C5 or D15	AD 160-260/240-380
F2	Pit	4	CBM	-	-	1	56	-	-	RFT	combed	Roman
F4	Pit	6	Pottery	CZ	-	1	61	0	1	Beaker	complete base	c.AD 120-250
F4	Pit	6	CBM	-	-	1	93	-	-	RB	cut down?, cube? 47 x 42 x 33	Roman
F4	Pit	6	CBM	-	-	2	265	-	-	RI		Roman
F4	Pit	6	Pottery	KX	-	6	99	3	0	Cam 37A/38A	Plain, fresh	Trajanic/Hadrianic-late 2nd/early 3rd century
F4	Pit	6	Pottery	GA	-	13	337	3	6	Cam 39A	Black glassy deposit on outer rim face	Early Antonine to 4th century
F4	Pit	7	Pottery	GA	-	1	26	0	1			Roman
F4	Pit	7	Pottery	GX	-	3	20	0	0			Roman
F4	Pit	7	Pottery	GX	-	2	14	1	0	Cam 218B/C?		Claudian/Neronian-early 2nd century AD

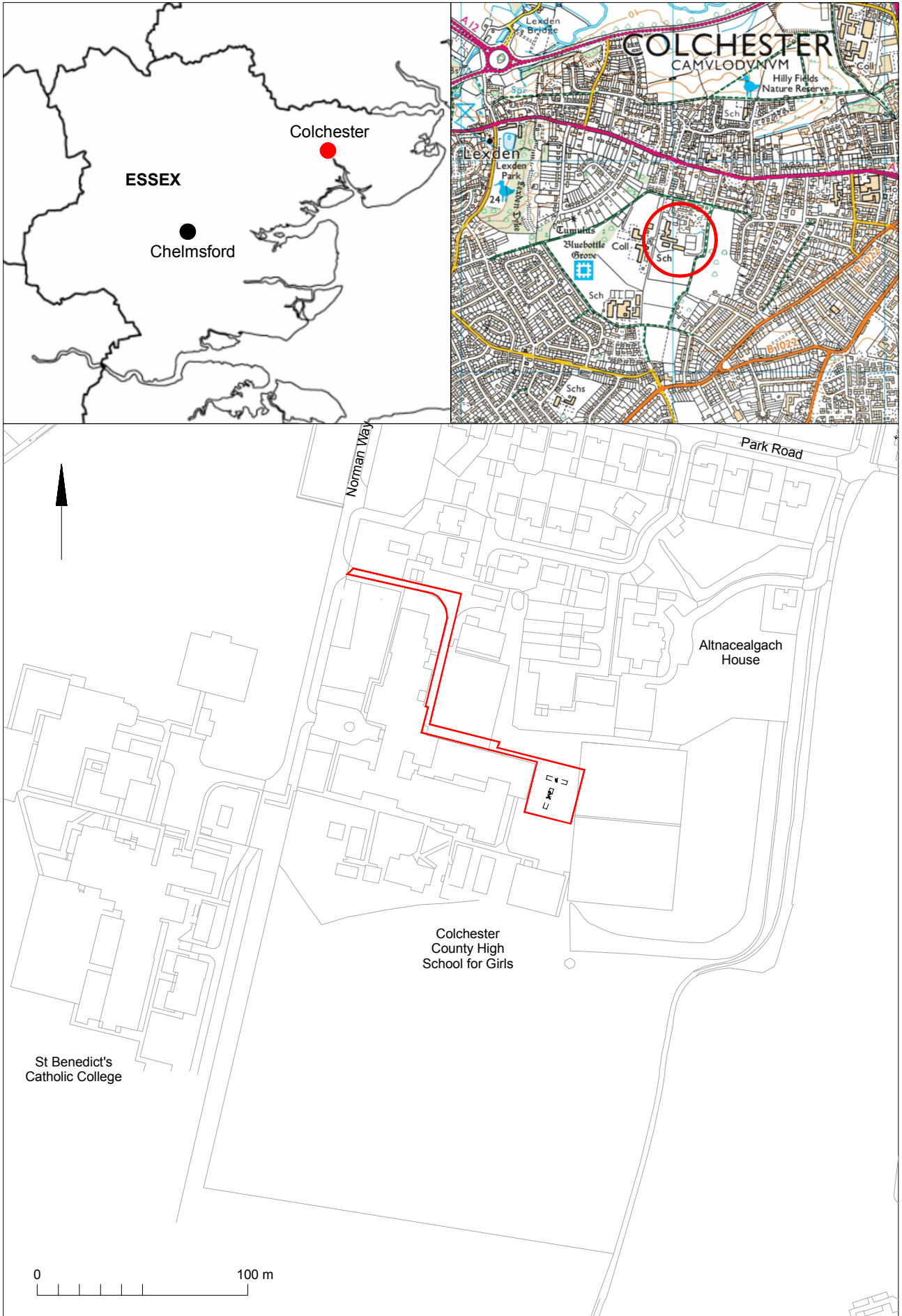


Fig 1 Site location.

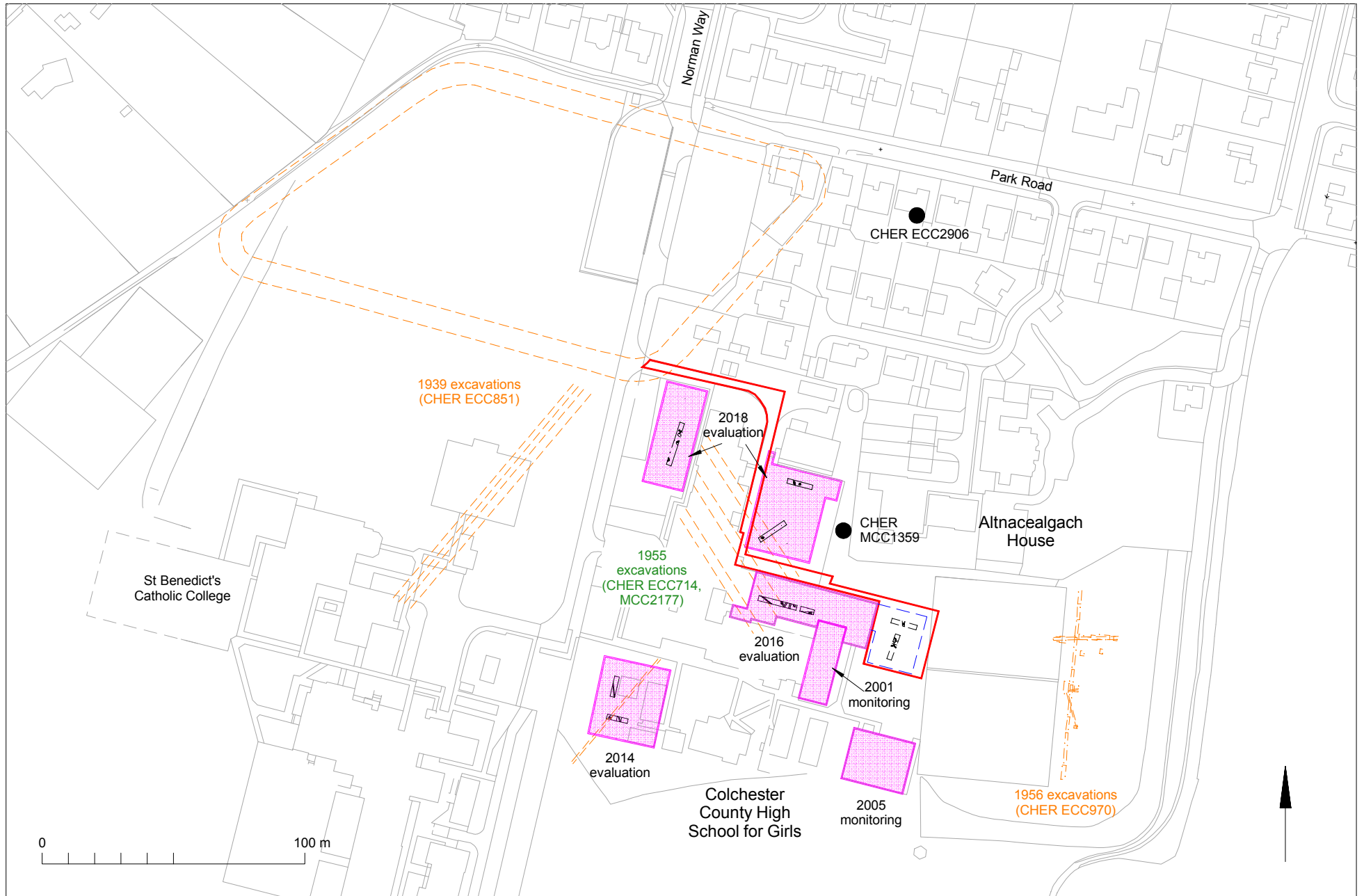
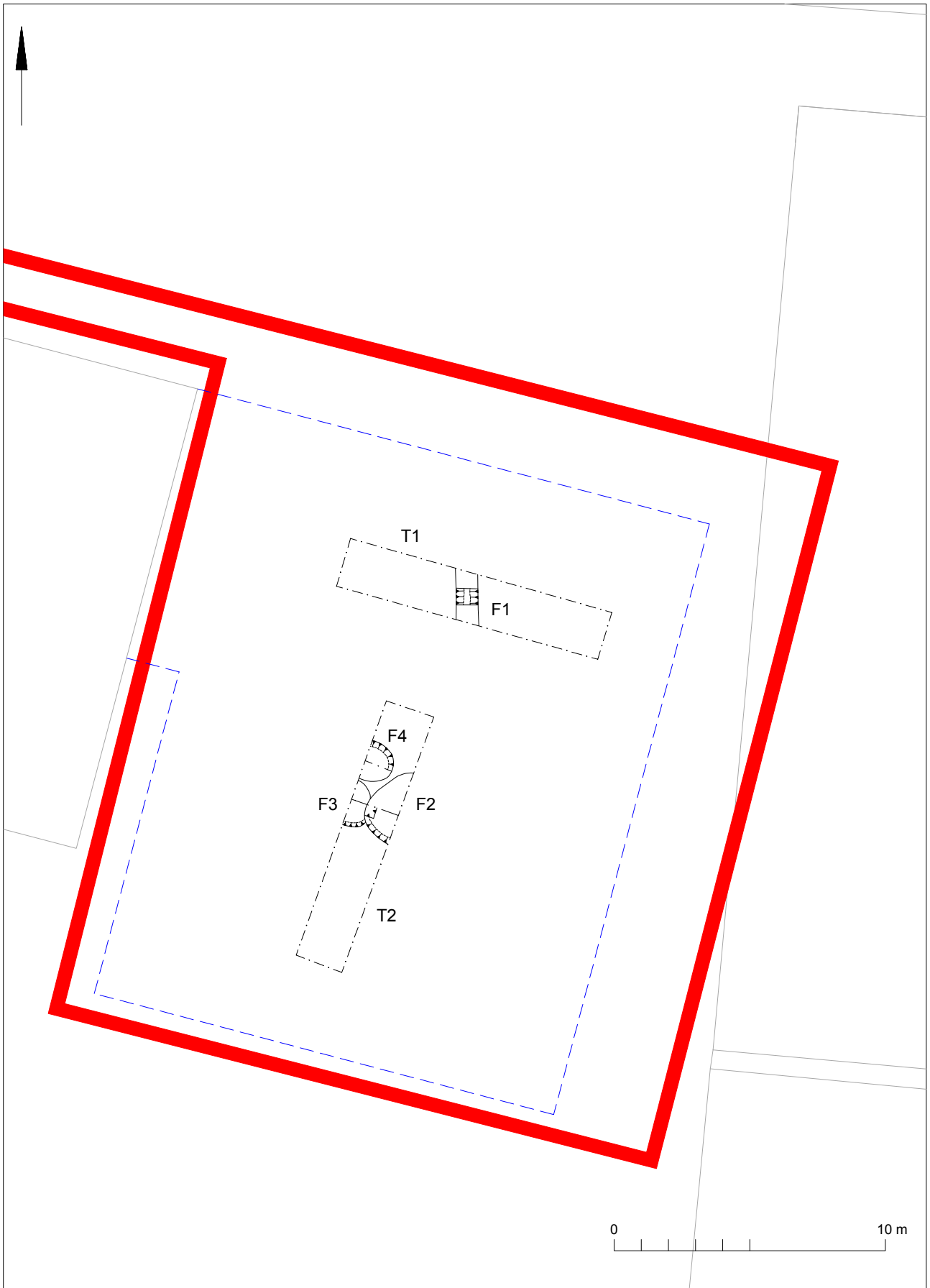


Fig 2 Site location (dashed blue lines) in relation to previous archaeological work.



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

Fig 3 Evaluation results.

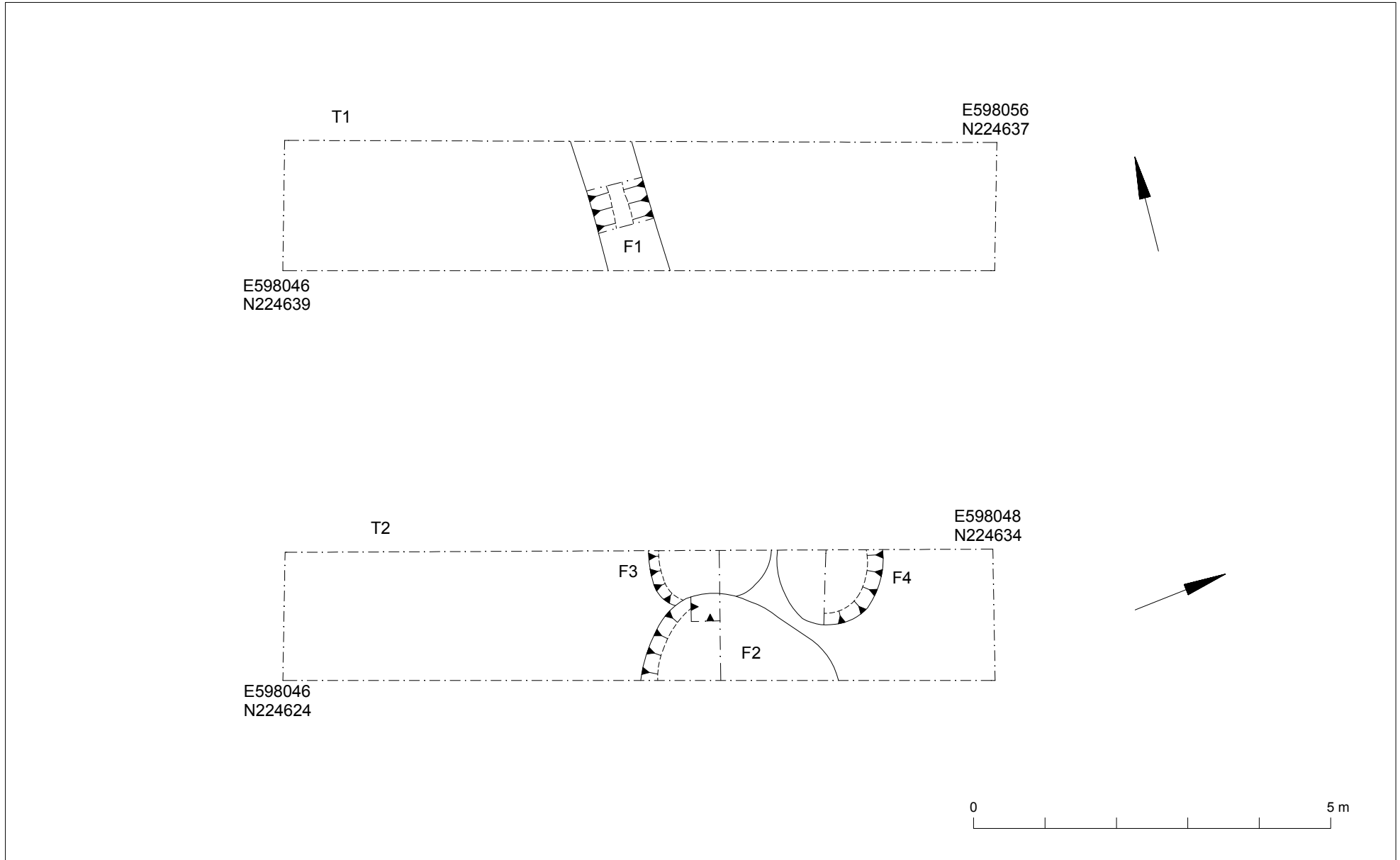


Fig 4 Trench results.

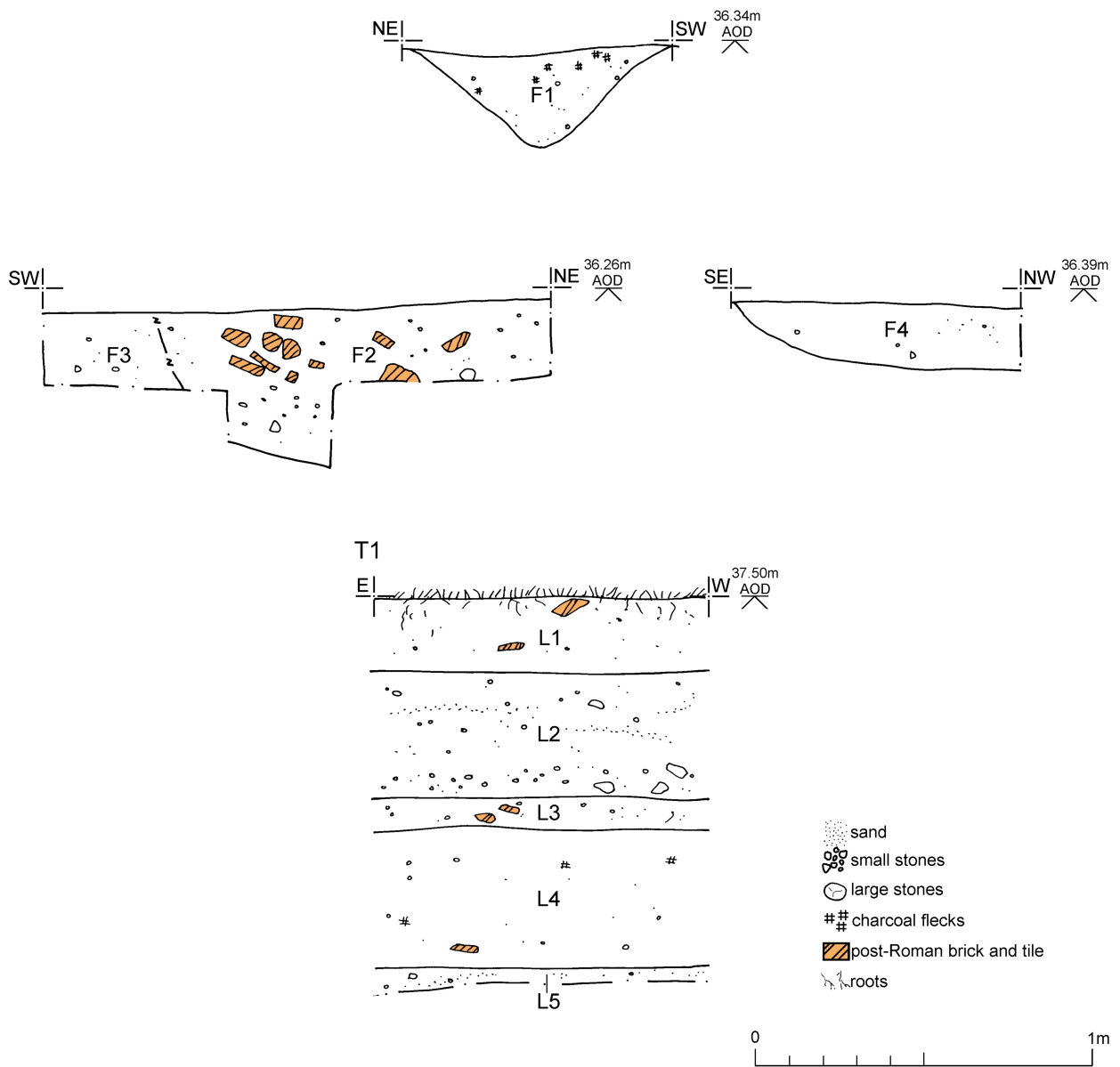


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9803 2462 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 19/05u CHER ref: ECC4349 OASIS ref: colchest3-353624
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 8th-9th July 2019	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.11ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC1356, MCC2064, MCC2065, MCC2173, MCC2177, MCC3091, MCC7523, MCC7525, MCC7526, MCC7527, MCC7528, MCC7529, MCC7647, MCC7676, MCC8175; ECC714, ECC851, ECC970
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1449	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new school building. Two Roman pits, a Roman ditch, and an undatable pit, were uncovered. As during previous investigations conducted at the site, there was no trace of the triple-ditched dyke purported to run through the grounds of the school.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> July 2019

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation  
at Colchester County High School for Girls,  
Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US.**

**NGR:** TL 9803 2462 (centre)

**Planning reference:** pre-planning

**Commissioned by:** Lyndon Hopkins  
**On behalf of:** Colchester County High School for Girls

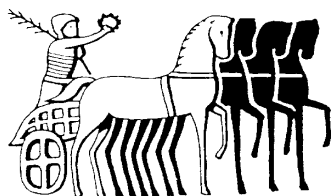
**Curating museum:** Colchester  
**CHER project code:** ECC4349

**CAT project code:** 2019/05u  
**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-353624

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 03/06/2019



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel:* 01206 501785  
*email:* [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)



## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.7km east of Colchester town centre (Fig 1). It lies within the grounds of the Colchester County High School for Girls and is currently in use as a grassed area. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9803 2462.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a new school building and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background (Fig 1)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The development site is located within the grounds of Colchester County High School for Girls, a purpose-built complex of buildings opened in 1957 on land that was formerly part of the estate of Altnacealgach House (locally listed), a Victorian mansion designed by acclaimed local architect Horace Darken, built in 1888 to be the home of Arthur Thomas Osborne, heir to a successful brewing business. The school lies to the south-west of the house.

The Altnacealgach estate was located within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), more generally considered the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds to either side of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town to London). Many Roman burials and cremations have been found and reported on in this area (see Hull and CAR 11). In particular a Roman amphora burial was found to the west of Altnacealgach House (CHER MCC7676) and a trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road in 2006 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (CHER MCC3091, ECC FAU report 1711). The proposed building is only 420m southwest of Lexden Tumulus (CHER MCC1356 & MCC7523) an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (a cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound has variably thought to be that of Addedomarus (CAR 11, 85-94, Foster 1986) or Tasciovanus (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

Excavations in 1939 revealed an early Roman curving ditch, possibly the corner of a fort, to the north of the school (CHER ECC851 and MCC2173). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull 1958, 273). It was later shown that these form a continuation of Heath Farm Dyke North (CAR 11, 32). CAT monitored an area on the corner of Norman Way and Park Road for a car park in February 1996 (96/2b, CAT Report 1000). A ditch was recorded running east-west parallel to the footpath but was thought to be medieval or later and not associated to Hull's ditch.

In 1955, prior to the construction Colchester County High School for Girls, a 'triple-ditched dyke' was excavated by R.J. Martin beneath what was to become the main school building. The ditches were 4m wide, although their depths are unknown (CHER ECC714, MCC2177, CAR 11, 127). In addition to this, on the south edge of the school, post holes and a ditch indicated the possible presence of a building with wooden posts surrounded by a diagonal ditch dated to the 2nd century and a large 4.3m deep pit, also dated to the 2nd century. In 1956 excavations undertaken by John Wachter to the east of the High School for Girls revealed palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (CHER ECC970, MCC8175 and MCC2064-5, CAR 11, 124-126).

CAT have carried out a number of watching briefs and evaluations in this area. A watching brief undertaken by CAT in 2001 on an extension to the school revealed no trace

of the ditches of the triple dyke seen in 1955 (CAT Report 155). A further watching brief in 2005 for a new music and careers block recorded four un-dated pits or ditches (CAT Report 348). At least two of the ditches of the 'triple-ditched dyke' should have been visible within the footprint of the new building and one of its soakaways, but were not observed. A substantial ditch recorded in a second soakaway was not in alignment with those seen in 1955 and it was concluded that the 'triple-ditched dyke' either turns a corner or in fact does not actually exist.

An evaluation at the County High School for Girls in 2014 in the area of the proposed rear or southern car park revealed a Roman ditch dating to the later 1st century AD (CAT Report 762). The ditch was aligned parallel to the ditches seen in the 1939 excavations (ie. Heath Farm Dyke North). What is unclear is whether the 2014 ditch is merely an agricultural field ditch, or whether it is part of a wider defensive scheme including the Heath Farm Dyke and the 'triple-ditched dyke' on the school site. An evaluation undertaken by CAT in 2016 towards the centre of the County High School for Girls identified a Roman ditch aligned north-east to south-west (CAT Report 975). This was recorded along with five modern and two natural features. An evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls in January 2018 in advance of the construction of a multi-functional hall and two additional car parks (CAT Report 1211). The evaluation uncovered three undated pits, two post-Roman pits and two natural features. As during previous investigations at this site, no trace of the triple-ditch dyke was found.

## **The development**

Pre-application consultation with the CBCAA resulted in the recommendation of a trial-trenched evaluation in the area of the proposed new school building.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological evaluation was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological work is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

## **Requirement for work** (Fig 1-3)

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological evaluation by trial trench. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Specifically,

Two linear trenches, each measuring 10m long and 1.8m wide will be evaluated (T1-T2). Areas may need to be locally widened if there are deep trenches and/or sections across deep features to ensure they are evaluated.

The purpose of the trenches is to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if further archaeological investigation is required. Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should provide for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating (radiocarbon and/or archaeomagnetic dating).
- 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.

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

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

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

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

## **Evaluation methodology**

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

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

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*.

Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine trenches, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

### **Site surveying**

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

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

### **Environmental sampling policy**

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

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

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

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

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

### **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless

advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a)

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

prehistoric and Roman pottery: Matthew Loughton  
post-Roman pottery: Howard Brooks  
animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman  
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley  
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley  
flints: Adam Wightman  
environmental processing: Robin Mathieson

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)  
project osteologist (human remains): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)  
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray  
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) /

Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

prehistoric and Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey  
Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)  
Roman glass: Hilary Cool  
Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey  
Small Finds: Nina Crummy  
Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure

is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

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

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis. This can include soil micromorphological assessment, absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice on this.

## Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015b).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

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

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

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

## Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

## Monitoring

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

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

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out. CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

## References

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

Brown, D	2011 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed.)	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II, by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 155	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: September 2001</i>
CAT Report 348	2005	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: May-November 2005</i>
CAT Report 762	2014	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: March 2014</i>
CAT Report 975	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US: June 2016</i>
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997). By H Brooks</i>
CAT Report 1211	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex – January 2018</i>
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, CO3 3US. By J Tipper</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECC FAU report 1711	2007	<i>Archaeological trial trenching at Essex County Council Offices, Park Road, Colchester, Essex. By T Ennis</i>
Foster, J	1986	<i>The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex, BAR, British Series, 156</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole &amp; P Backhouse</i>
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</i>

Hull, MR	1957	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, <b>20</b>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway



Colchester Archaeological Trust,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785  
email: [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)



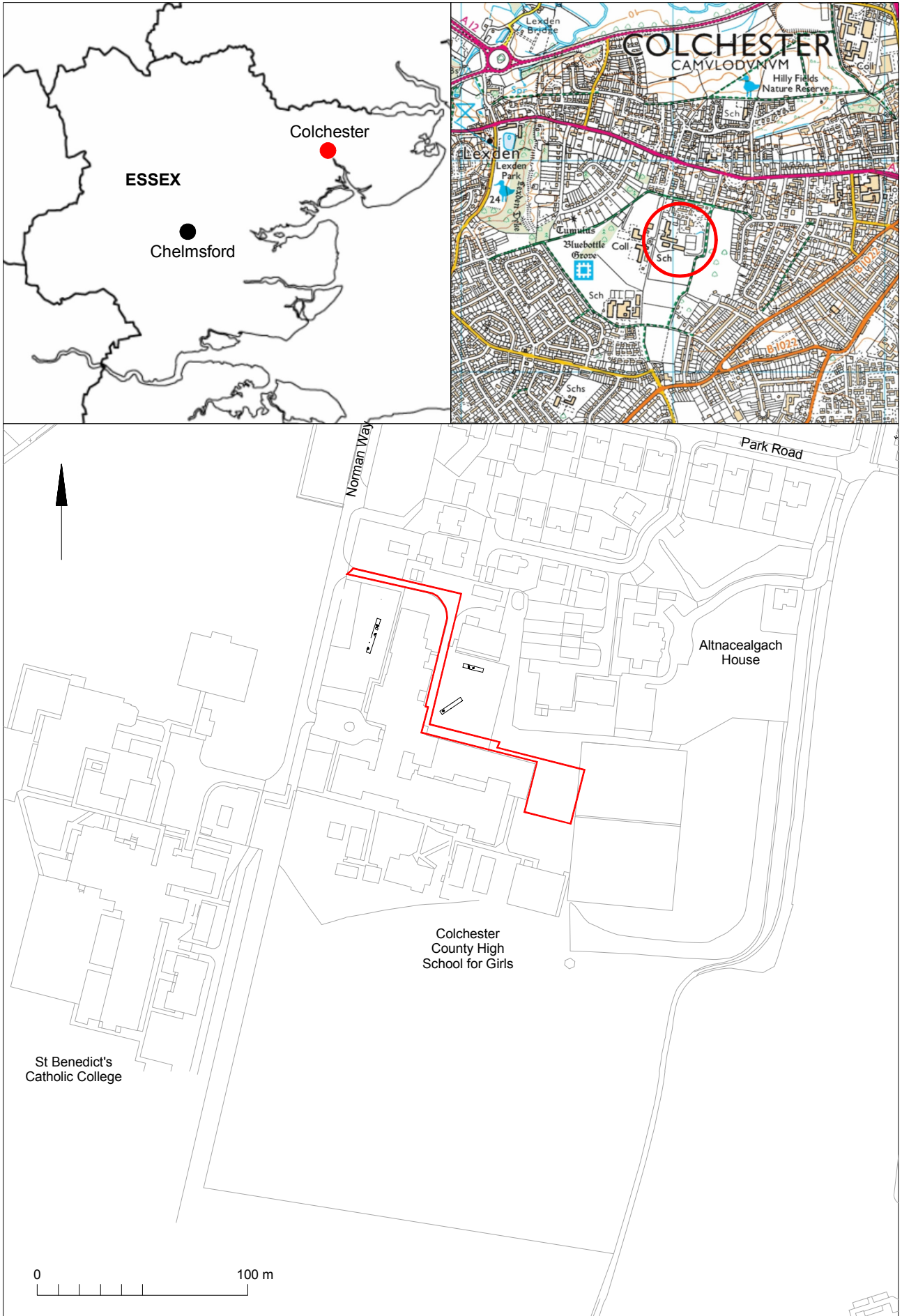


Fig 1 Site location.

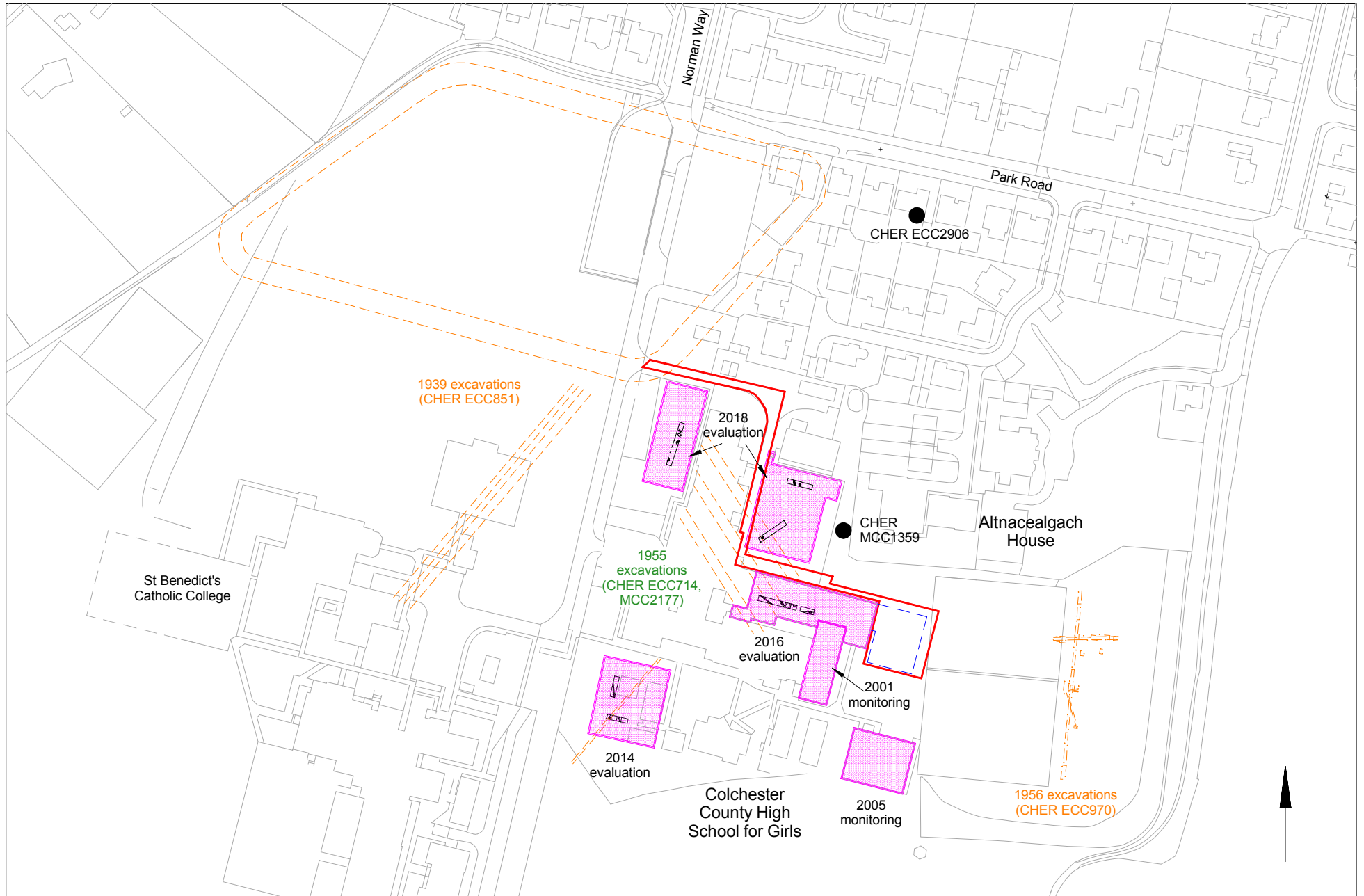
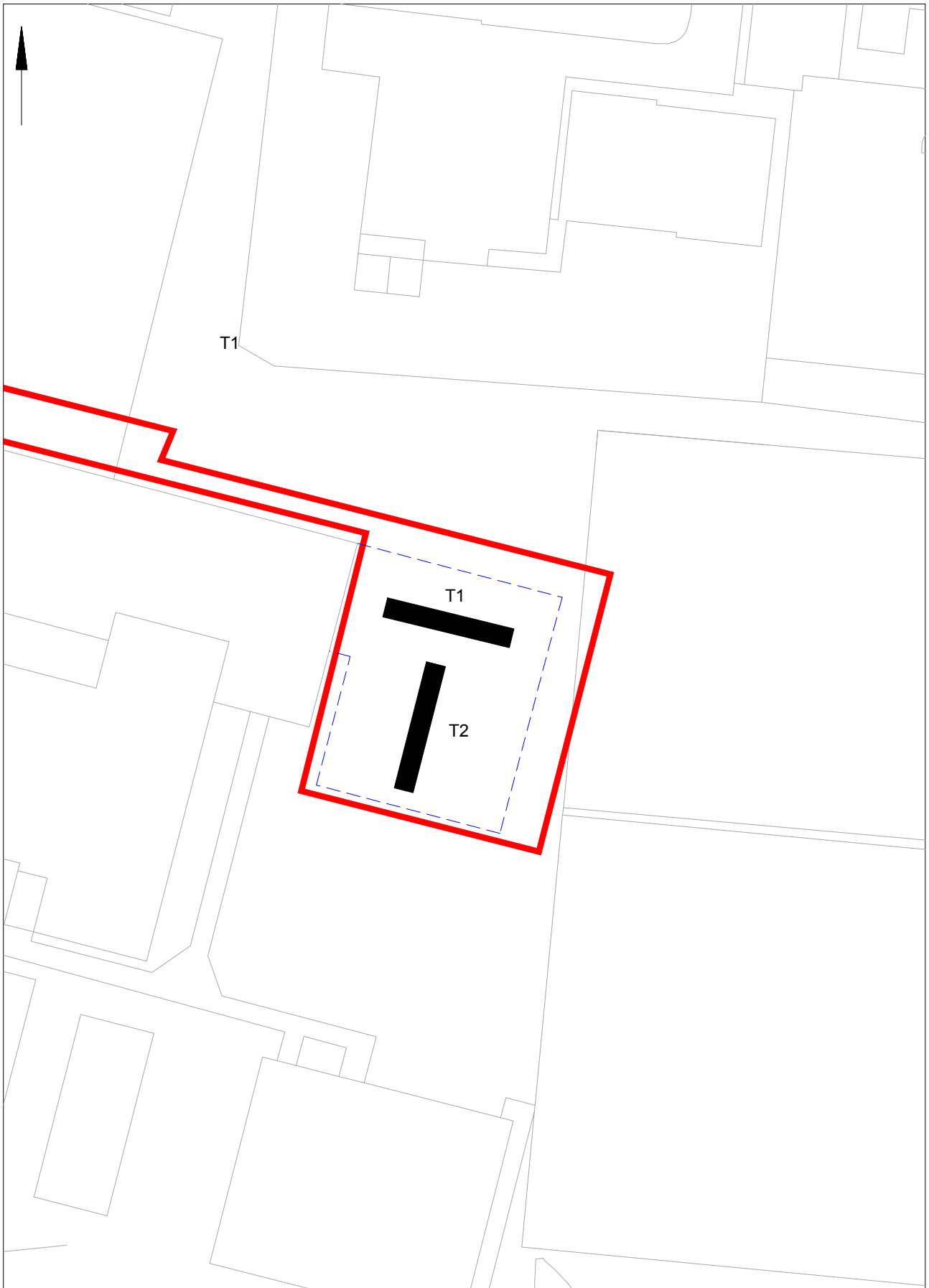
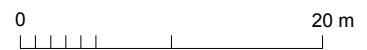


Fig 2 Site location (dashed blue lines) in relation to previous archaeological work.



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

Fig 3 Trench plan.



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-353624**

### Project details

Project name	An archaeological trial-trenched evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, C
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new school building. Two Roman pits, a Roman ditch, and an undatable pit, were uncovered. As during previous investigations conducted at the site, there was no trace of the triple-ditched dyke purported to run through the grounds of the school.
Project dates	Start: 08-07-2019 End: 09-07-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/05u - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4349 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-353624 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO3 3US
Study area	0.11 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9803 2462 51.884391069941 0.877774356543 51 53 03 N 000 52 39 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.75m Max: 36.46m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	School
Name of sponsor/funding body	Colchester County High School for Girls

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	ECC4349
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4349
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4349
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US: July 2019

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1449
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk">http://cat.essex.ac.uk</a>
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	8 August 2019

## OASIS:

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

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

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=362861> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)