

Colchester  
Archaeological  
Trust

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>CAT Report 1471</b>  | <b>Parish:</b> Colchester                 |
| <b>St Helena School</b><br><b>Sheepen Road</b><br><b>Colchester</b><br><b>Essex</b>   | <b>Planning reference:</b> 190581         |
|   | <b>CHER Event no.:</b> ECC4378            |
|   | <b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-366605       |
| <b>Address:</b><br>St Helena School<br>Sheepen Road<br>Colchester<br>Essex<br>CO3 3LE | <b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 9878 2581       |
|   | <b>Number of site visits:</b> 1           |
|   | <b>Dates of visit:</b> 3rd September 2019 |

**Nature of the work:** Searching through spoil for artefacts.

**Reason for condition:** The site lies within an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

**Results:** The excavation of twelve test-pits to determine the presence of archaeological remains prior to the erection of a free-standing canopy was due to be monitored by a CAT archaeologist. Postholes were excavated in these locations without archaeological supervision, however, and so, as a remedial measure, CAT archaeologists searched the spoil from the groundworks to recover any artefacts.

Each of the postholes was approximately 0.3m by 0.3m and, according to the contractors who carried out the work groundworks, were excavated to a depth of 0.4-0.6m. The spoil consisted of a soft, dry light/medium grey/brown silty-sand which was presumably a levelling layer underlying the tarmac surface of the playground, and so it appears that the groundworks did not penetrate beyond modern horizons.



**Photograph 1** Working shot

Two sherds of Roman pottery, nineteen sherds of Roman and post-Roman brick and tile (including a possible fragment of burnt Roman daub-brick), a secondary hand hammer flint flake and nine pieces of animal bone, including parts of a dog's proximal ulna, two cow teeth and two scapula pieces (also probably cow), were recovered.

**Recorded by:** Dr Elliott Hicks

**Date:** 12th September 2019



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

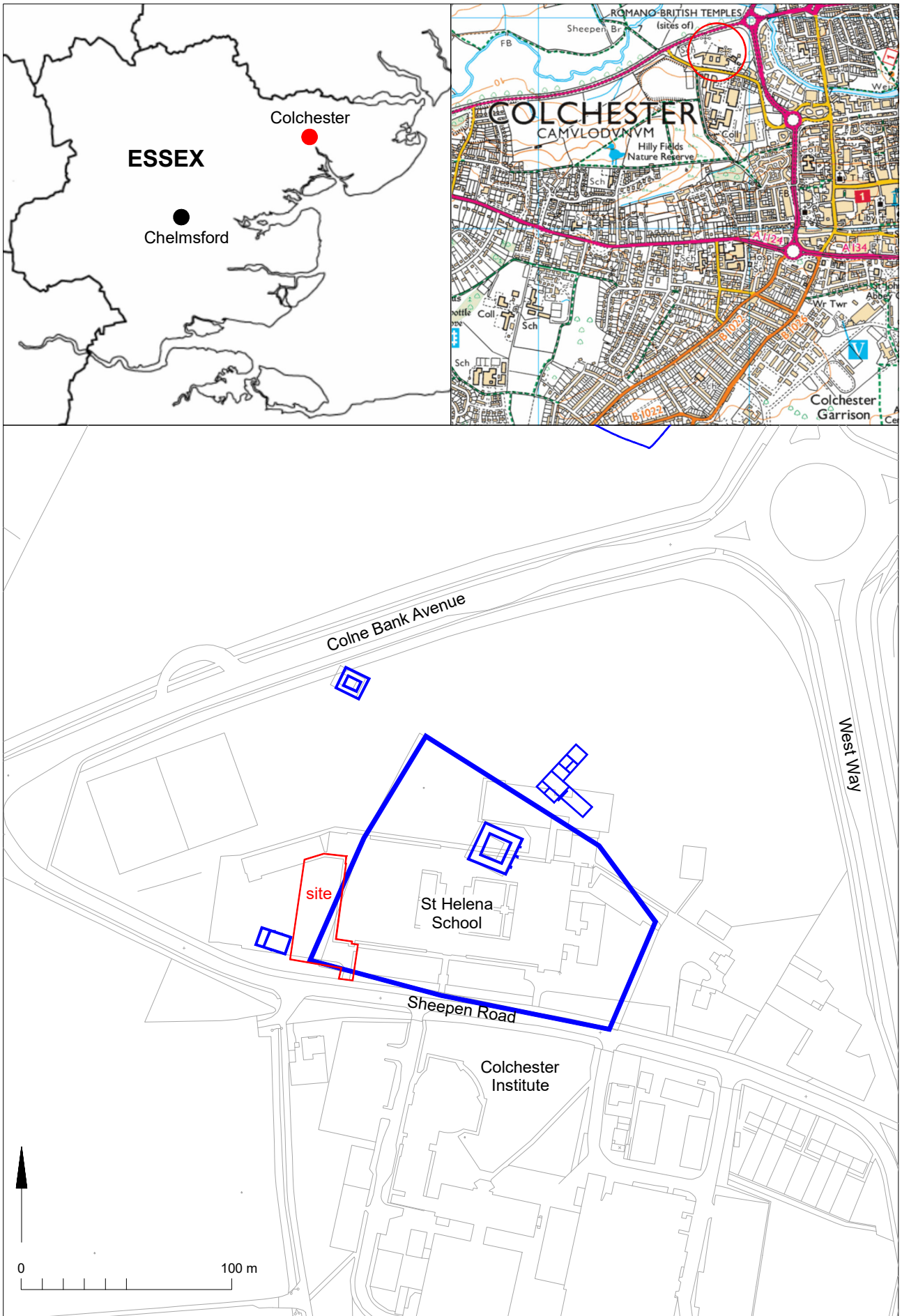
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*Checked by:* Philip Crummy

*Date:* 16.09.2019



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Fig 1 Site location, showing location of Roman temple complex (in blue).

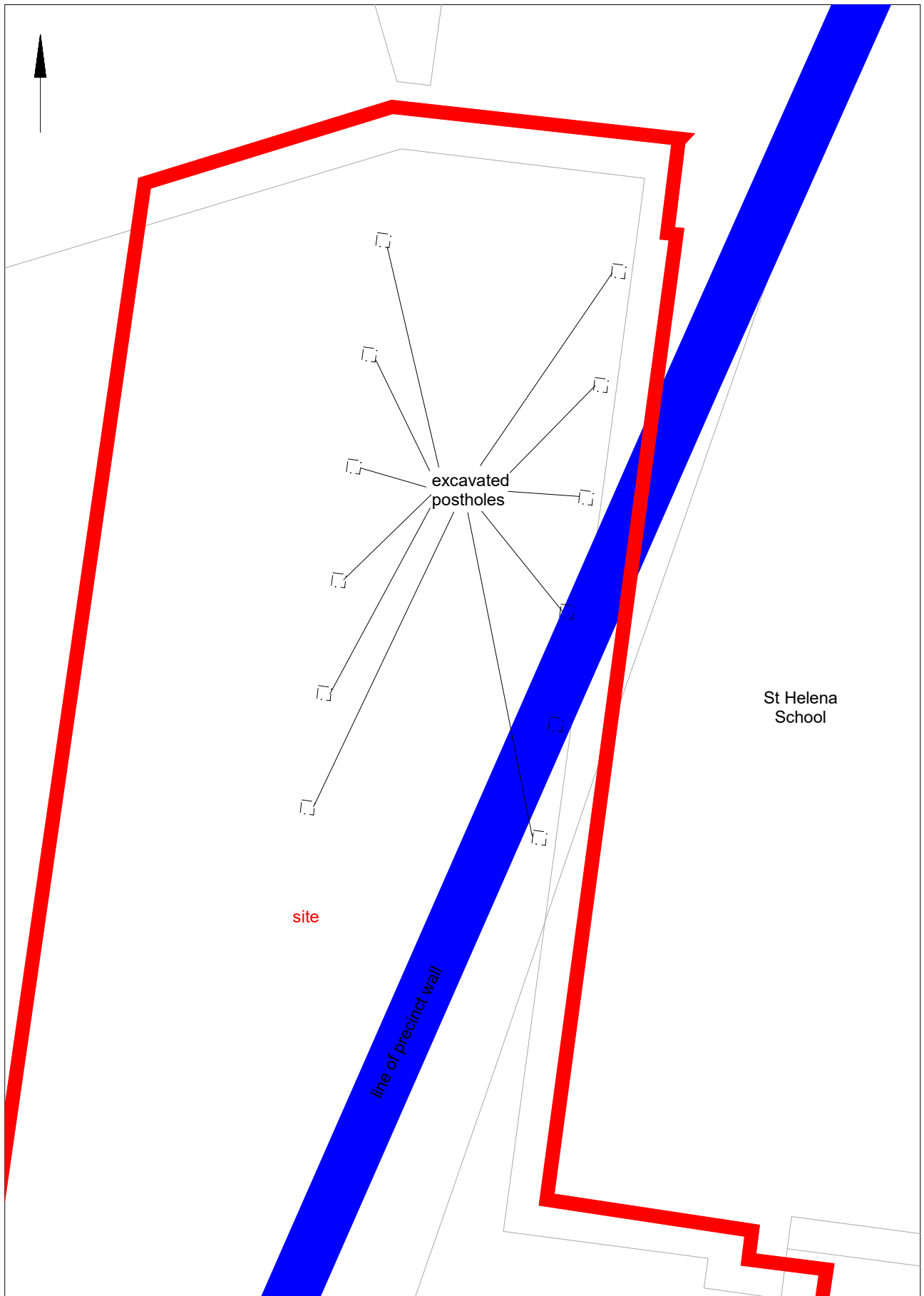


Fig 2 Posthole locations in relation to line of precinct wall.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-366605**

### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | Archaeological monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: September 2019   |
| Short description of the project       | Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of a series of postholes to accommodate an outdoor awning was due to be carried out at St Helena School, Colchester. The remains of a Roman temple complex are located within the site, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The projected works were undertaken without archaeological supervision, and so, as a remedial measure, archaeologists sifted through the spoil to search for artefacts. Two sherds of Roman pottery, some Roman and post-Roman brick and tile, a flint flake and animal bone were recovered. The excavations did not appear to have penetrated beyond modern horizons. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 03-09-2019 End: 03-09-2019   |
| Previous/future work                   | Yes / Not known   |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECC4378 - HER event no.   |
| Any associated project reference codes | colchest3-366605 - OASIS form ID  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project   |
| Site status                            | Scheduled Monument (SM)   |
| Current Land use                       | Community Service 1 - Community Buildings   |
| Significant Finds                      | ANIMAL BONE Uncertain   |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Roman   |
| Significant Finds                      | CBM Roman   |
| Significant Finds                      | CBM Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | CBM Post Medieval   |

### Project location

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Country       | England                                      |
| Site location | ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER St Helena School |
| Postcode      | CO3 3LE                                      |
| Study area    | 0.09 Hectares                                |

Site coordinates TL 9878 2581 51.894809586343 0.889344249981 51 53 41 N 000 53 21 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator HISTORIC ENGLAND

Project design originator Elliott Hicks

Project director/manager Chris Lister

Project supervisor Chris Lister

Type of sponsor/funding body School

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID ECC4378

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4378

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.

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Entered on 17 September 2019



# OASIS:

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