

Archaeological evaluation on the Colchester Royal Grammar School Playing Fields

November 2019



by Dr Pip Parmenter

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley
figures by Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Bronagh Quinn with Elliot Hicks

commissioned by Colchester Royal Grammar School

NGR: TM 9813 2436 (centre)
Planning ref.: 192065
CAT project ref.: 19/11e
ECC code: ECC4402
OASIS ref.: colchest3-374139



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785
email: pp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1501
November 2019

Contents

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

Figures after p6

CAT WSI
OASIS summary sheet

List of maps and figures

Cover: working shot

Photograph 1	Trench 1 – looking east	2
Photograph 2	Trench 3 – looking east	3
Photograph 3	F1 – Amorphous linear feature	3

Fig 1	Site location with proposed development in blue
Fig 2	Results
Fig 3	Feature and representative sections

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on the playing field of the Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new Sports Hall and associated facilities. A single natural linear feature, one sherd of medieval pottery and some modern pottery, clay pipe and slate, were found.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation on the playing field of the Colchester Royal Grammar School, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 21st November 2019. The work was commissioned by the Colchester Royal Grammar School in advance of the construction of a new sports hall with associated facilities and infrastructure 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 an Archaeological Trial Trench 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 is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (ECC and MCC numbers) accessible via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

The development site is situated within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the southwest of the Roman walled town and just outside of an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing) leading out of Balkerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). A number of Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in CAR 9. Of particular note are the remains of a Roman temple tomb excavated within the main grounds of the Colchester Royal Grammar School by CAT in 2005 (CHER MCC2791, CAT Report 345 and the Altnacealgach estate to the northwest where an amphora burial was recorded to the west of Altnacealgach House (MCC7676).

The site is located within an area of cropmarks recorded through aerial photography (ECC348). The cropmarks of the sports ground revealed evidence of the site of a substantial Roman temple complex immediately to the east-northeast of the development site (Temple 6, MCC1959/MCC1962 and MCC8407). The temple was partly excavated in 1947 by AF Hall (ECC869). It is located c 130m east of the site, in the playing fields of the Colchester Royal Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of war and hunting (Crummy 1997, 107). To the northeast of the development site Hall investigated a 100ft wide oval hollow (ECC1784). Hull notes that it was undated and of unknown purpose, however this may have been a Roman pit for the extraction of sands and gravels.

Archaeology work undertaken by CAT within this area of the Sports Ground have been negative. In 1999 a drainage route from Athelstan Road to the pavilion and a temporary portacabin 0.2m wide and 0.6m was monitored. The layers comprised of 0.4m of topsoil over 0.2m of pale brown clay (CAT Report 1000, 99/3e). A single evaluation trench c 100m to the east was excavated in 2002 prior to an extension to the groundsworke's building. The trench revealed 0.1m of topsoil sealing 0.5m of yellow/brown sandy soil with frequent stones and peg-tile fragments, onto an orange/brown sandy natural gravel. No features or finds were found (CAT Report 180, ECC2623).

Approximately 250m southeast of the site is the line of a Roman road running between Gosbecks and the town centre (MCC2529).

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)



Photograph 1 Trench 1 – looking east

Three trial-trenches, 10m long by 1.8m wide, were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All were excavated through topsoil (L1, 0.1-0.2m thick, soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt) buried topsoil (L2, 0.15-0.4m thick, soft, moist, medium grey/brown clayey-silt with 2% stone and 1% tile/brick) and subsoil (L3, 0.1-0.25m thick, soft, moist medium orange/grey clayey-silt). A single fragment of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil in trench 2. As well as this, a piece of modern pottery, two fragments of clay pipe stem and a piece of slate were recovered, all from trench 1, L1. The natural geology (a firm, moist, orangey/yellow silty-sand with 20% stone) was encountered at a depth of 0.5-0.65m below current ground level.



Photograph 2 Trench 1 – looking east

A single amorphous linear feature was visible in trench 2. As well as being irregular in shape, it had irregular sides and base. It was between 0.14 and 0.26m deep, and 0.8 and 1.05m wide was aligned NW-SE. It contained no finds.



Photograph 3 F1 – Amorphous linear feature

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and CBM

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced only two sherds of pottery:

One sherd (5 gr.) of 19th-20th century Staffordshire-type white earthenware (F48D) decorated with a blue-transfer willow pattern print, which came from the layer L1 (1).

One sherd of Colchester-type ware (F21) with a weight of 14 gr., dating from c.1200-1550, from the layer L3 (2).

6.2 Other finds

by Laura Pooley

Two fragments of clay pipe stem (14g) and one fragment of slate (10g) came from L1 in T1 (finds no.1). Both have been discarded.

7 Conclusion

One amorphous linear feature, most likely of natural origin, was revealed during the course of this evaluation. It yielded no finds. Most of the few finds from this evaluation were modern. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil (L3) in trench 2.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the Colchester Royal Grammar School for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Quinn and E Hicks. Figures are by S Carter. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| CAR 9 | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971 – 1985. By N Crummy, P Crummy and C Crossan.</i> |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II, by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy</i> |
| CAT | 2018 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2019 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at the Colchester Royal Grammar School Sports Grounds, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TN</i> |
| CAT Report 180 | 2002 | <i>An archaeological evaluation on Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road), Colchester, Essex. February 2002.</i> |
| CAT Report 1000 | 2016 | <i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984 – 2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report or in the CAT series from 1997). By H Brooks.</i> |
| CBCAA | 2019 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, by J Tipper</i> |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Crummy, P | 1997 | <i>City of Victory: the Story of Colchester. Colchester Archaeological Trust</i> |

Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 20
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	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
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1501)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1501)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

12 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.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2019

Distribution list:

Zuleika Morrison of Barker Associates
Colchester Royal Grammar School
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

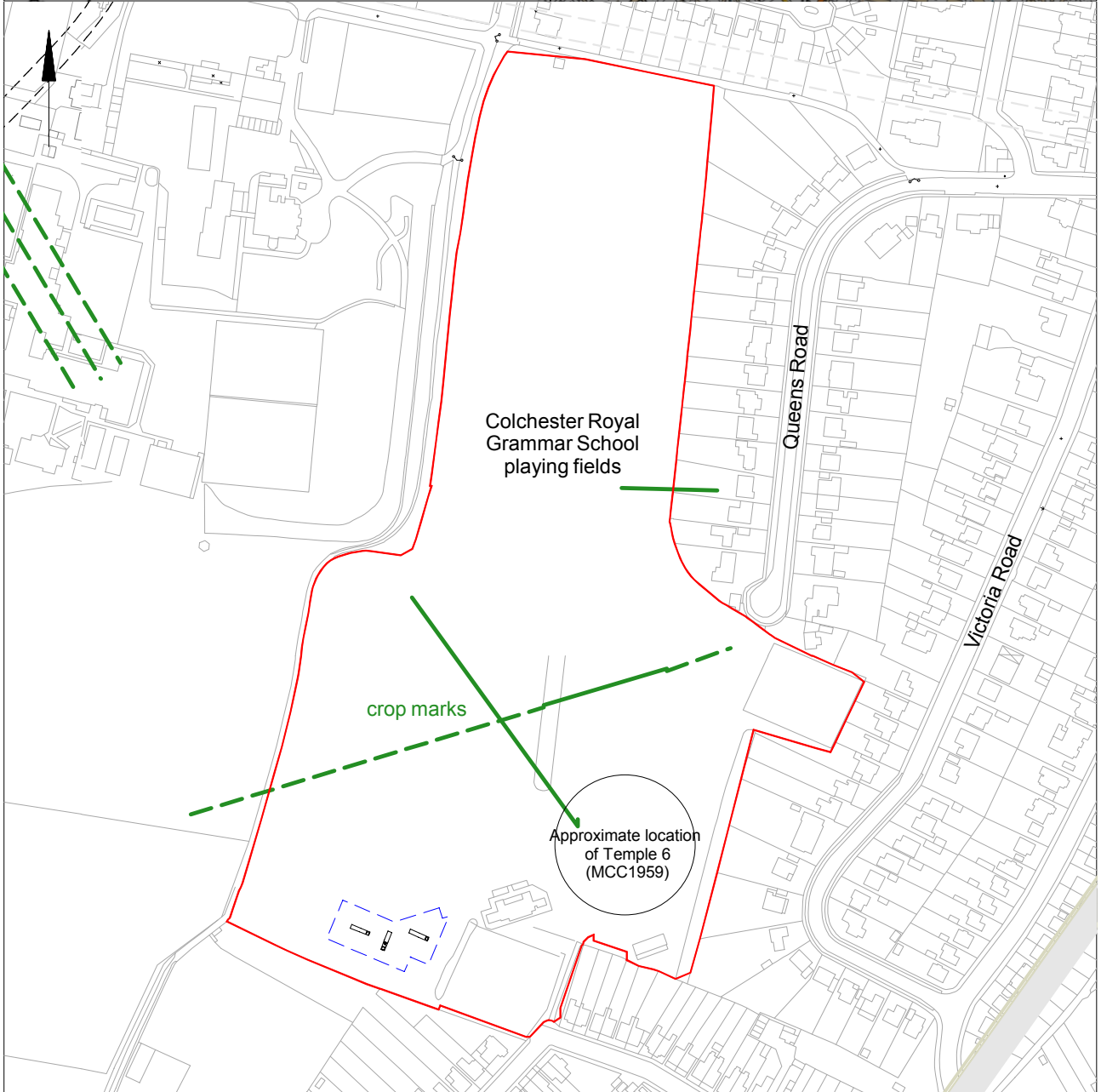
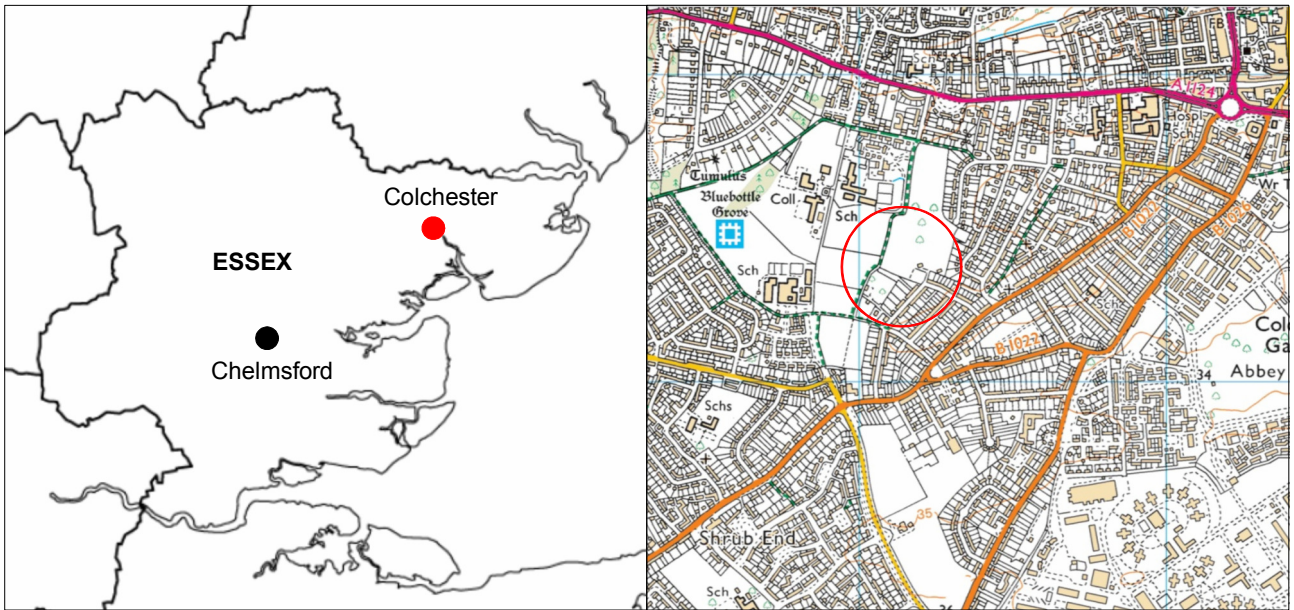
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: pp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 26.11.2019



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

Fig 1 Site location with the proposed development in blue.
 *MCC1959 Hull, M. Rex. 1958. Roman Colchester: Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London. No. XX. pp.236-240



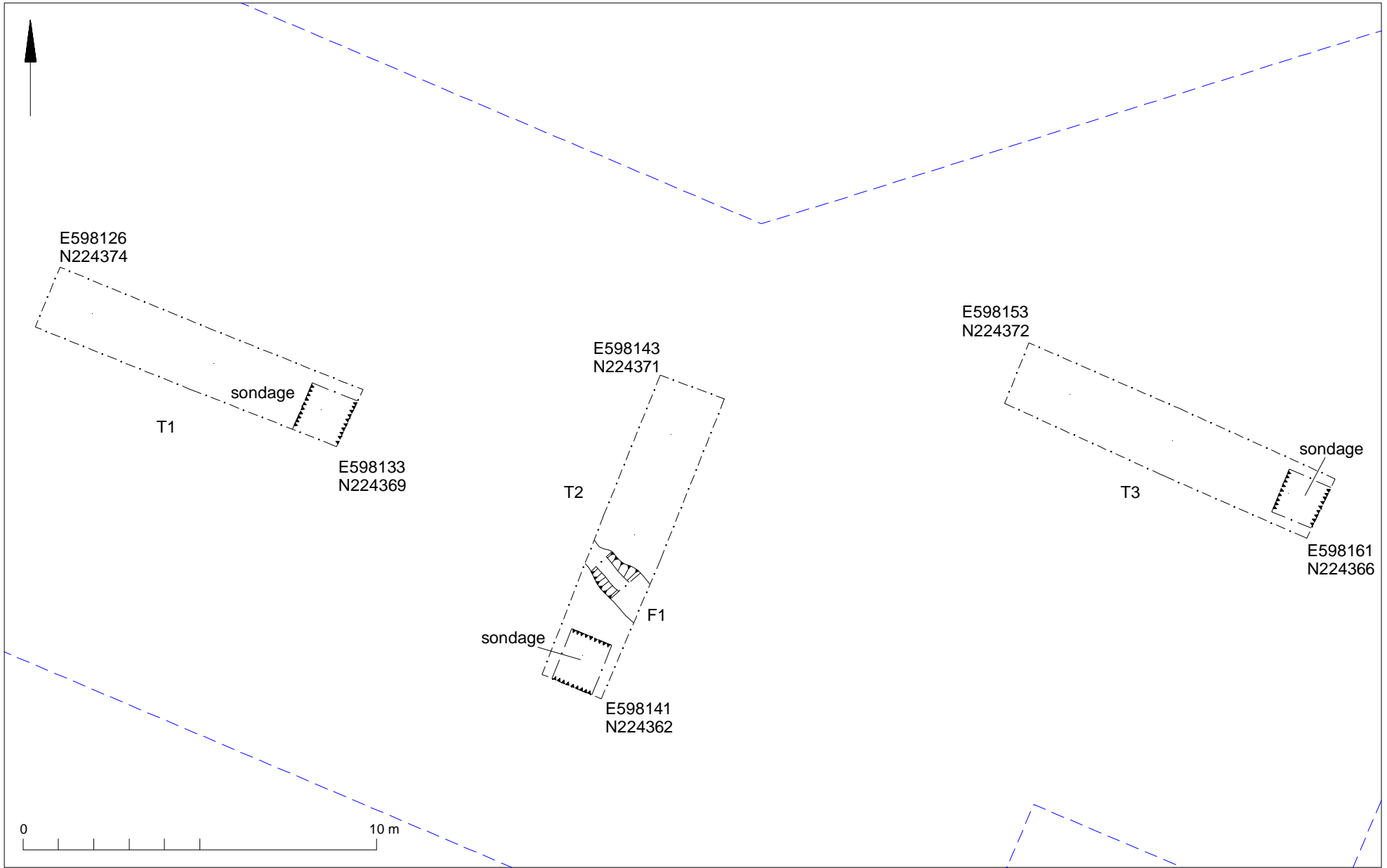


Fig 2 Results.

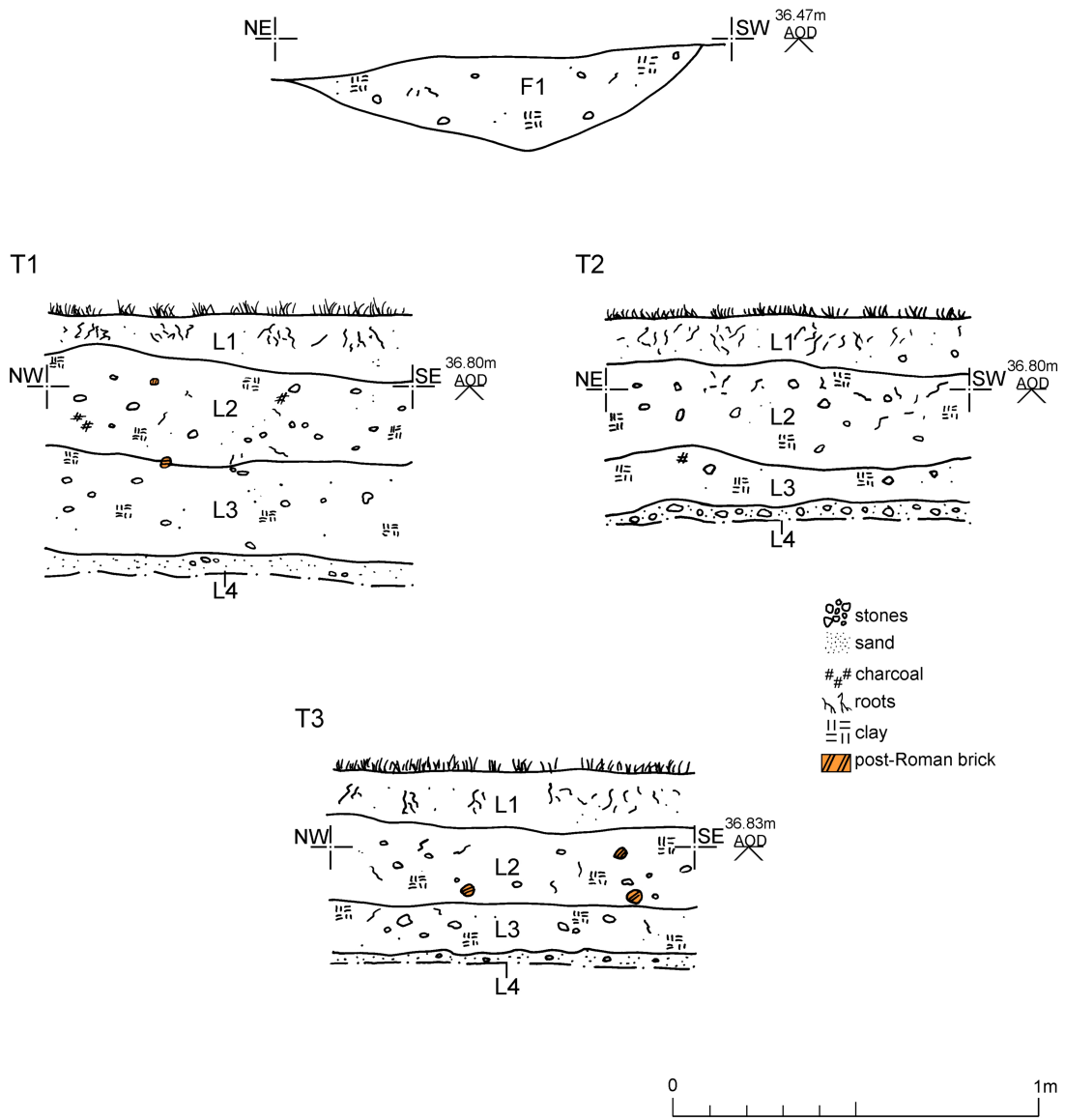


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: <i>Playing field at Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3ND</i>	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 9813 2436 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 19/11e CHER ref: ECC4402 OASIS ref: colchest3-374139
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 21st November 2021	Size of area investigated: 54m2
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: MCC7525-9, MCC7647, MCC2791, MCC7676, MCC1959, MCC1962, MCC8407, MCC2529.
Final report: CAT Report 1501	
Periods represented: Roman, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on the playing field of the Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new Sports Hall and associated facilities. A single natural linear feature and one sherd of medieval pottery was found.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Pip Parmenter	Date of summary: November 2019

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at the Colchester Royal Grammar School Sports Grounds, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TN.

NGR: TL 9813 2436 (centre)

District: Colchester

Pre-planning reference: 192065

Commissioned by: Zuleika Morrison (Barker Associates)

On behalf of: Colchester Royal Grammar School

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER project code: ECC4402

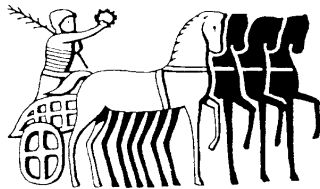
CAT project code: 2019/11e

Oasis project ID: colchest3-374139

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 18/11/2019



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

tel: 01206 501785

email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.67km southwest of the main historic centre of Colchester, at the Colchester Royal Grammar School Sports Ground, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3TN (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9813 2436. The proposed development area is at the southernmost edge of the sports ground. The land is currently a grassed area.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of new sports hall facilities and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (ECC and MCC numbers) accessible via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

The development site is situated within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the southwest of the Roman walled town and just outside of an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing) leading out of Balkerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). A number of Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in CAR 9. Of particular note are the remains of a Roman temple tomb excavated within the main grounds of the Colchester Royal Grammar School by CAT in 2005 (CHER MCC2791, CAT Report 345 and the Altnacealgach estate to the northwest where an amphora burial was recorded to the west of Altnacealgach House (MCC7676).

The site is located within an area of cropmarks recorded through aerial photography (ECC348). The cropmarks of the sports ground revealed evidence of the site of a substantial Roman temple complex immediately to the east-northeast of the development site (Temple 6, MCC1959/MCC1962 and MCC8407). The temple was partly excavated in 1947 by AF Hall (ECC869). It is located c 130m east of the site, in the playing fields of the Colchester Royal Grammar School (Hull 1958). Two votive plaques and a figurine of a stag found during excavations show that the temple was erected to Silvanus, god of war and hunting (Crummy 1997, 107). To the northeast of the development site Hall investigated a 100ft wide oval hollow (ECC1784). Hull notes that it was undated and of unknown purpose, however this may have been a Roman pit for the extraction of sands and gravels.

Archaeology work undertaken by CAT within this area of the Sports Ground have been negative. In 1999 a drainage route from Athelstan Road to the pavilion and a temporary portacabin 0.2m wide and 0.6m was monitored. The layers comprised of 0.4m of topsoil over 0.2m of pale brown clay (CAT Report 1000, 99/3e). A single evaluation trench c 100m to the east was excavated in 2002 prior to an extension to the groundworker's building. The trench revealed 0.1m of topsoil sealing 0.5m of yellow/brown sandy soil with frequent stones and peg-tile fragments, onto an orange/brown sandy natural gravel. No features or finds were found (CAT Report 180, ECC2623).

Approximately 250m southeast of the site is the line of a Roman road running between Gosbecks and the town centre (MCC2529).

Planning background

The current archaeological investigation forms part of the pre-application assessment of the development site for Colchester Borough Council planning application number 192065.

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

Requirement for work (Fig 1-2)

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

Specifically, the brief requested linear trenching to cover a 5% sample of the development area. This equates to three trenches each 10m long and 1.8m wide. The trench may need to be widened in localised areas to facilitate the excavation of deep archaeological features (if encountered)

The evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. 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.

Further archaeological evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

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 2019)
- 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 plus two archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Mark Baister

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.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible.

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 the trench, 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 micromorphical 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

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

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains *in situ* (i.e. a site visit).

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, 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. 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.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

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:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Robin Mathieson/Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

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:

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

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 and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon) if suitable deposits are identified. The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

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. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

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	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971- 85, by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan</i>
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2 by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy</i>
CAT	2019	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 180	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation on Colchester Royal Grammar School playing fields (off Athelstan Road), Colchester, Essex February 2002</i>
CAT Report 345	2005	<i>Roman temple-tomb at Colchester Royal Grammar School, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2005,</i>
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>A 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>
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Colchester Royal Grammar School, Colchester, CO3 3ND. 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>
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 & 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>
Hall, AF	1946	<i>A Roman walled cemetery at Colchester', <i>Archaeological Journal</i>, CI</i>
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

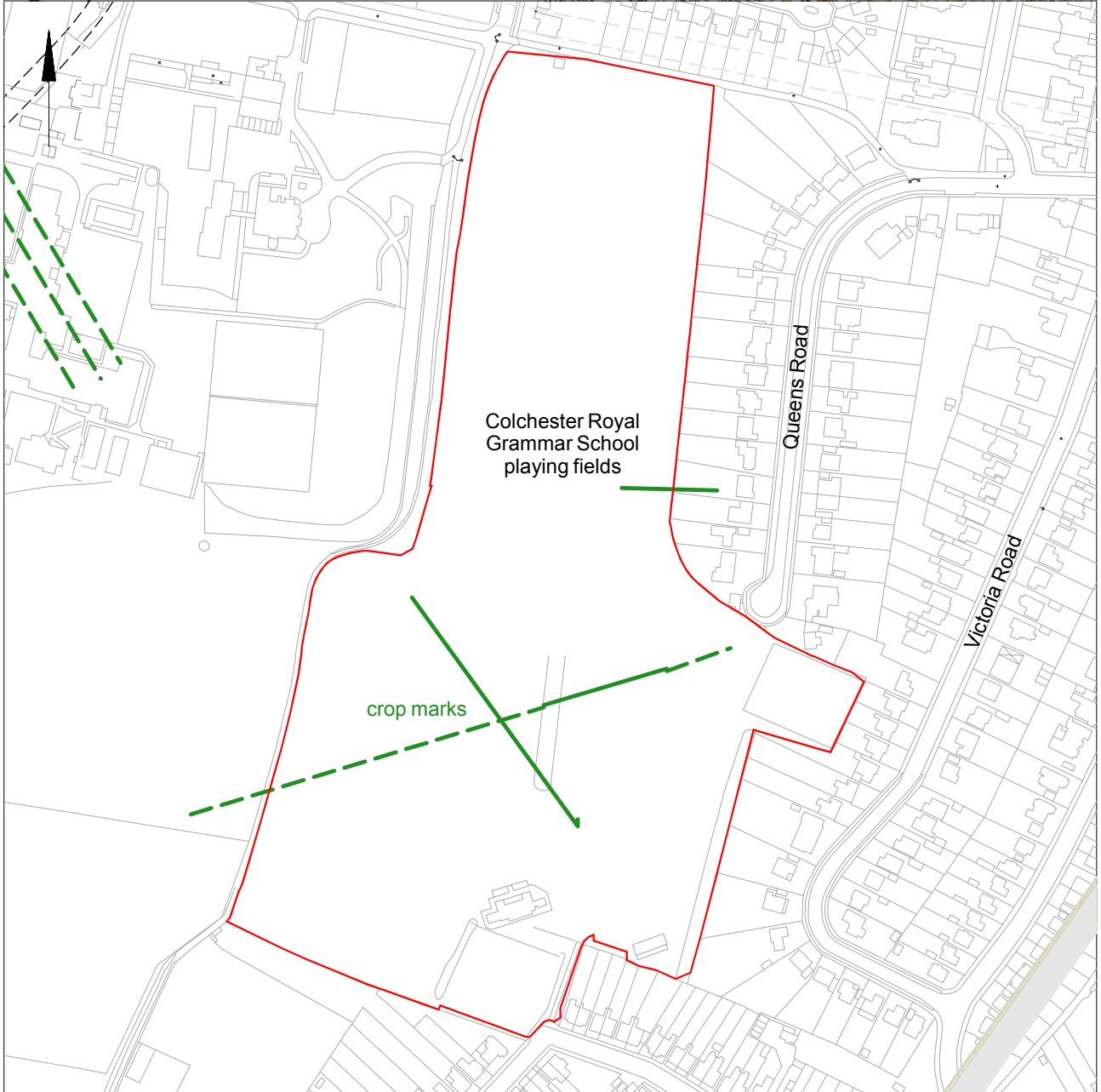
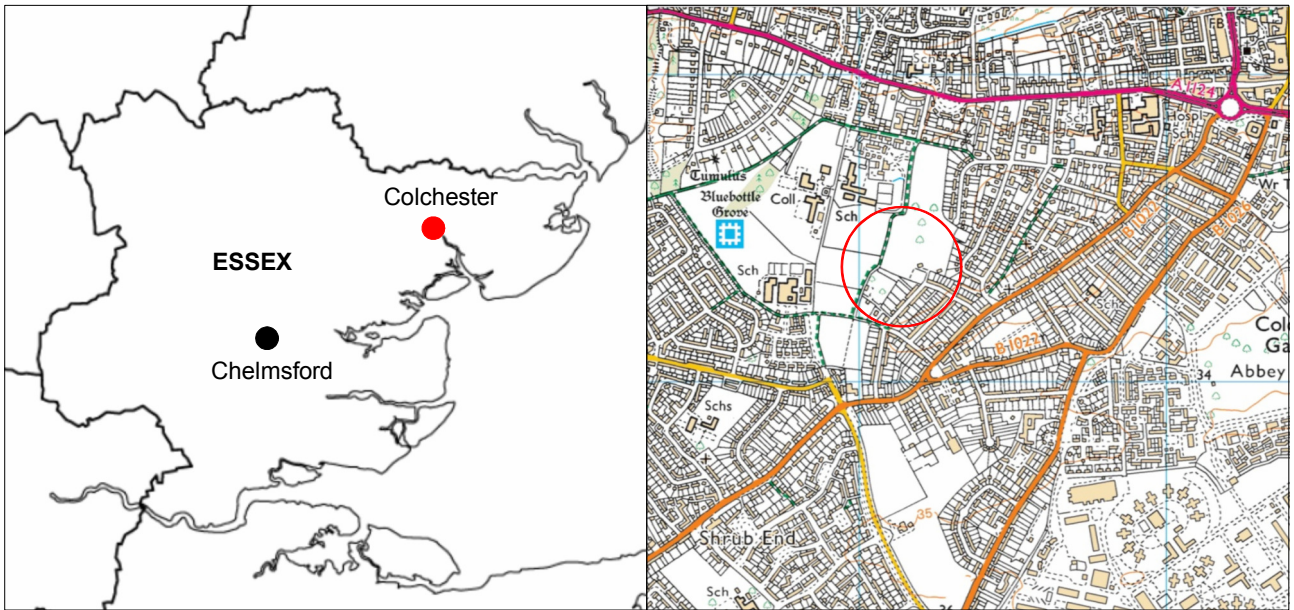
E Holloway



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

tel: 01206 501785

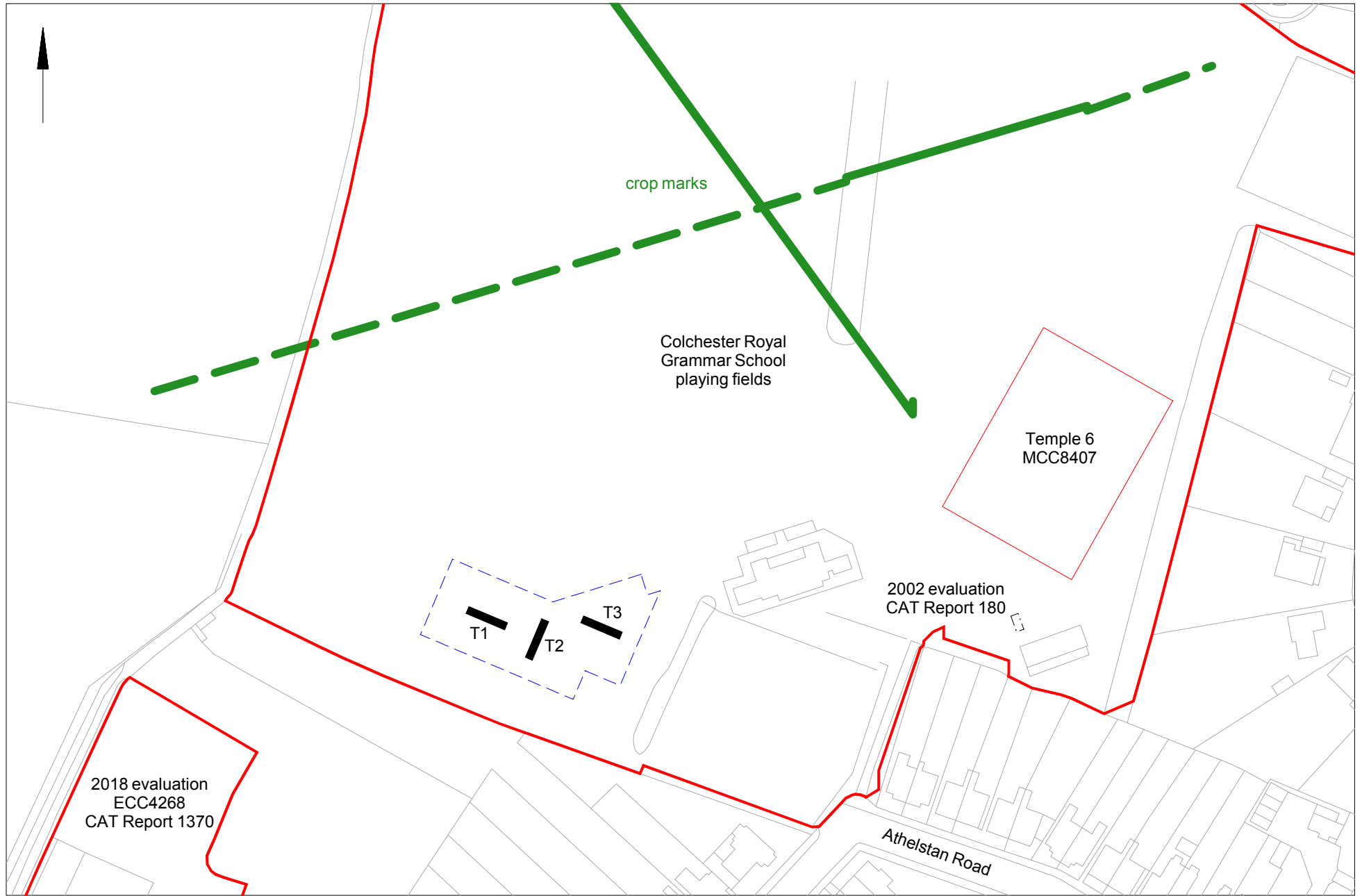
email: eh@catuk.org



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

Fig 1 Site location.





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

Fig 2 Trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

0 50 m

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: colchest3-374139

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at the Colchester Royal Grammar School sports ground, Athelstan Road, Colch
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on the playing field of the Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new Sports Hall and associated facilities. A single linear feature, thought to be natural in origin, was found.
Project dates	Start: 21-11-2019 End: 21-11-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	192065 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/11e - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH None
Significant Finds	POTTERY None
Methods & techniques	"Sample 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 Royal Grammar School Sports Grounds, Athelstan Road, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO3 3TN
Study area	54 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9813 2436 51.882020451779 0.879076284613 51 52 55 N 000 52 44 E Point

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	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	School
Name of sponsor/funding body	Colchester Royal Grammar School

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Pip Parmenter (pp@catuk.org)
Entered on	26 November 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> for this page

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