

Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8LH

August 2021



by **Laura Pooley**

figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Sarah Veasey

commissioned by **Matthew Knight**
on behalf of **Melberry Development Management Ltd**

NGR: TM 01772 24512 (centre)

Planning ref.: 190335

CAT project ref.: 2021/05b

ECC code: ECC4644

OASIS ref.: colchest3-423913



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1696

August 2021

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	6
7	Conclusion	6
8	Acknowledgements	6
9	References	6
10	Abbreviations and glossary	7
11	Contents of archive	7
12	Archive deposition	7
	Appendix 1 Context list	9
	Figures	after p9
	CAT wsi	
	OASIS summary sheet	

List of tables, photographs and figures

Cover: Stratigraphy in trench T7 including F1, looking west

Table 1	Thickness of layers by trench	3
Photograph 1	Trench T2, looking northeast	4
Photograph 2	Trench T3, looking northeast	4
Photograph 3	Trench T6, looking northeast	5
Photograph 4	Trench T7, looking southeast	5
Fig 1	Site location in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue)	
Fig 2	Results	
Fig 3	Feature and representative sections	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new student accommodation block. Located close to the historic Hythe Quay, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and industrial remains surround the development site.

Evaluation revealed a significant depth of modern deposits within the northwestern half of the site compared to the southeast. This was likely the result of a large 20th-century warehouse being built and then demolished on the southeastern half, with modern waste dumped to the northwest. A modern pit and two natural features were excavated, but there were no significant archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex on 2nd-3rd August 2021. The work was commissioned by Matthew Knight on behalf of Melberry Development Management Ltd in advance of the construction of an eight-storey student accommodation block with associated amenities, landscaping, car parking and groundworks.

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 Dr Richard Hoggett, 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 Evaluation* (CBCAA 2021) written by Dr Richard Hoggett and detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCAA in advance of the project (CAT 2021a).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background includes extracts from CAT Report 1282 and draws on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECC/MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The Hythe has been the port for Colchester probably since the Norman period. The name derives from an Old English word for landing place, and the area was originally known as 'New Hythe'. The earlier landing place, which New Hythe superseded was at Old Heath (*Ealdehythe* – the old landing place), located closer to the mouth of the River Colne. The earliest reference to Old Heath, implying the existence of the New Hythe, is in 1272. The nearby Hythe parish church of St Leonard's (MCC24, MCC3402 and MCC9031) is referenced in 1237, and the earliest reference to the Hythe itself appears to date from 1276 (CAR 1, 47). There are numerous references to private quays, wharfs and warehouses from the 14th century onwards, and by 1823 the quays at the Hythe extended along both sides of the river (CAT Report 232, 21). There are numerous records for current or demolished historic houses and shops within close proximity of the development site, including the 15th- to 16th-century former Perseverance Inn (MCC27),

the late 17th-century house at 106 Hythe Hill (MCC3404) to the 18th-century brick house at 100 Hythe Hill (MCC3400).

There is also the possibility of a Roman quay or bridge in this area, as a Roman road can be traced to within half a mile of the Hythe, from the direction of Mistley. The projected line of this road suggests a crossing point on the river close to the bottom of Hythe Hill.

Near the site on both sides of the river, are warehouses dating from the late 19th century (MCC101000), as well as several, since-demolished, lime kilns (including MCC5169 and MCC5197). Some of these buildings are present on the 1st edition OS maps and suggests there is significant potential for uncovering archaeology of a post-medieval date.

Most of the archaeological investigations within the Hythe have been small sites away from the present river frontage, including 79 Hythe Hill (Brooks 2000), 64-76 Hythe Hill (ECC2627 and MCC2663-6, Shimmin 2004) and subsequent excavation (ECC2590, Benfield 2004) and 9-11 Hythe Quay evaluation (MCC5310, MCC5311 and MCC5312, CAT Report 100). However, no trace of the medieval quay or any Roman structures has been located at the Hythe.

In 2006, CAT monitored four test-pits at 28 Hythe Quay (CAT Report 388), next to the retaining quay wall. They were mostly dug through 18th- to 19th-century brick rubble with some post-medieval pottery. There was no evidence of Roman or medieval activity but a large timber located at the base of one of the concrete structures is thought to have possibly have been part of an earlier quay.

In 2018, CAT conducted an evaluation on the west side of the river, at Bridge House, Hythe Quay (CAT Report 1264). Four trenches were excavated, two of which contained medieval pits and linears, as well as the remains of a medieval (late 12th to 14th century) wall foundation of medium to large compacted stones. Looser patches of compacted medium stones and chalk were uncovered that might represent a second, later, wall foundation (15th to 17th century) but could also have been the remains of either a plinth or surface.

An archaeological evaluation by CAT in 2018 on a site also on Hawkins Road (c 140m west of the current site) revealed a late 17th- or early 18th-century wall foundation, probably from a cellar, which was backfilled in the mid 20th century. Located in a historic area of waterfront activity, this was likely the remains of a wharf or warehouse constructed during this period and demolished during subsequent development in the area (CAT Report 1282).

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)

Seven trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trenches T1-T6 were 20m long by 1.8m wide and T7 was 13m long by 1.8m wide.

The site can effectively be divided into two with the northwestern half approximately 1m higher than the southeastern. This meant that trenches T1 (NW end), T3, T5 and T7 to the northwest were deeper than trenches T1 (SE end), T2, T4 and T6 to the southeast.

Trenches T1 (NW end), T3, T5 and T7 were excavated through three modern layers (L1-L3, 0.86-1.4m thick) and a layer of post-medieval/modern clayey-silt (0.11-0.35m thick) onto natural:

- L1: Modern dump of mid grey silt with significant modern debris inclusions (plastic, concrete, brick, metalwork, etc, none retained) (0.26-0.8m thick).
- L2: Made ground of orange/yellow sand and gravel with modern debris inclusions (0.05-0.43m thick)
- L3: Buried modern topsoil of mid grey/brown silt with modern debris inclusions (0.18-0.25m thick)
- L4: Post-medieval/modern deposit of light brown clayey-silt (0.11-0.35m thick)
- L5: Natural silt and river gravels (0.54-1.55m below current ground level)

Trenches T2, T4, T5 (SE end) and T6 were excavated through a layer of modern dump (L1, 0.15-0.8m thick) on natural (L5).

Sondages were excavated in trenches T2, T5 and T6. There was a post-medieval/modern pit in T5 (F2) and two natural silt patches in T7 (F1) and T1 (F3), all of which were sealed by L4.

Trench no.	Thickness of layer (m)				
	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5
T1 NW end	0.4-0.54	0.31-0.43	0.18-0.25	0.25-0.35	1.35
T1 SE end	0.4-0.44	-	-	-	0.4-0.44
T2	0.25-0.42	-	-	-	0.35-0.42
T3	0.7-0.8	0.35-0.41	0.25	0.15-0.19	1.4-1.5
T4 NW end	0.8	-	-	-	0.8
T4 SE end	0.32	-	-	-	0.32
T5 NW end	0.52	0.65 (depths of individual layers not recorded)			1.17
T5 SE end	0.37	0.35 (depths of individual layers not recorded)			0.72
T6	0.15-0.36	-	-	-	0.15-0.36
T7	0.26-0.53	0.05-0.25	0.2	0.11-0.15	0.54-0.95

Table 1 Thickness of layers by trench



Photograph 1 Trench T2, looking northeast



Photograph 2 Trench T3, looking northeast



Photograph 3 Trench T6, looking southeast



Photograph 4 Trench T7, looking southeast

6 Finds

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of peg-tile (85.9g), a fragment of brick (23.7g) and a piece of clinker/coke (1.7g) came from pit F2 (finds no.1), all of post-medieval/modern date.

7 Conclusion

Evaluation has shown that the northwestern half of the development site is covered in approximately 0.86-1.4m of modern material which seals a 0.11-0.35m deposit of post-medieval/modern clayey-silt. However, to the southeast the development site is covered in only 0.15-0.8m of modern material.

Historic mapping of the area shows that a large warehouse was previously situated on the southeastern half of the site. The warehouse was probably built in the late 1950s or early 1960s, and demolished sometime in the last 20-30 years. The differing heights are most likely the result of the construction and/or demolition of this warehouse, with the southeastern half being lowered and material dumped to the northwest.

There were no significant archaeological remains within the evaluation trenches.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Matthew Knight and Melberry Development Management Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with S Veasey. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Simon Wood.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Benfield, S | 2004 | 'An archaeological excavation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester, in 1999', <i>Journal of the Colchester Archaeological Trust</i> 2 , 34-59 |
| Brooks, H | 2000 | 'Excavations at 79 Hythe Hill, Colchester, Essex, 1994-95', <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 31 , 112-24 |
| Brown, D | 2011
(2nd ed.) | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAR 1 | 1981 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 1: Aspects of Anglo-Saxon and Norman Colchester</i> by Philip Crummy, CBA Research Report 39 |
| CAT | 2021a | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8LH</i> |
| CAT | 2021b | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 100 | 2000 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 9-11 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex: October 2000</i> |
| CAT Report 232 | 2003 | <i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains in and around the site of the proposed Colne barrage, Colchester, Essex: June 2003</i> |
| CAT Report 388 | 2006 | <i>Archaeological watching brief at 28 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex: August 2006</i> |
| CAT Report 1264 | 2018 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JB: April 2018</i> |
| CAT Report 1282 | 2018 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JX: June 2018.</i> |
| CBCAA | 2021 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land at the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester</i> By R Hoggett |
| CifA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CifA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,</i> |

Gurney, D	2003	<i>conservation and research of archaeological materials Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England (HE)	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
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.
O'Reilly, K	2019	<i>Revision A – Phase One Desk Study Report, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JX</i> . Richard Jackson Engineering Consultants
Shimmin, D	2004	'An archaeological excavation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester, in 1999', <i>Journal of the Colchester Archaeological Trust</i> 2 , 58-61

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
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	O nline A ccess to the Index of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1696)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (sections)

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1696)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under project ref. ECC4644.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2021

Distribution list:

Matthew Knight, Melberry Development Management Limited
Dr Simon Wood, 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

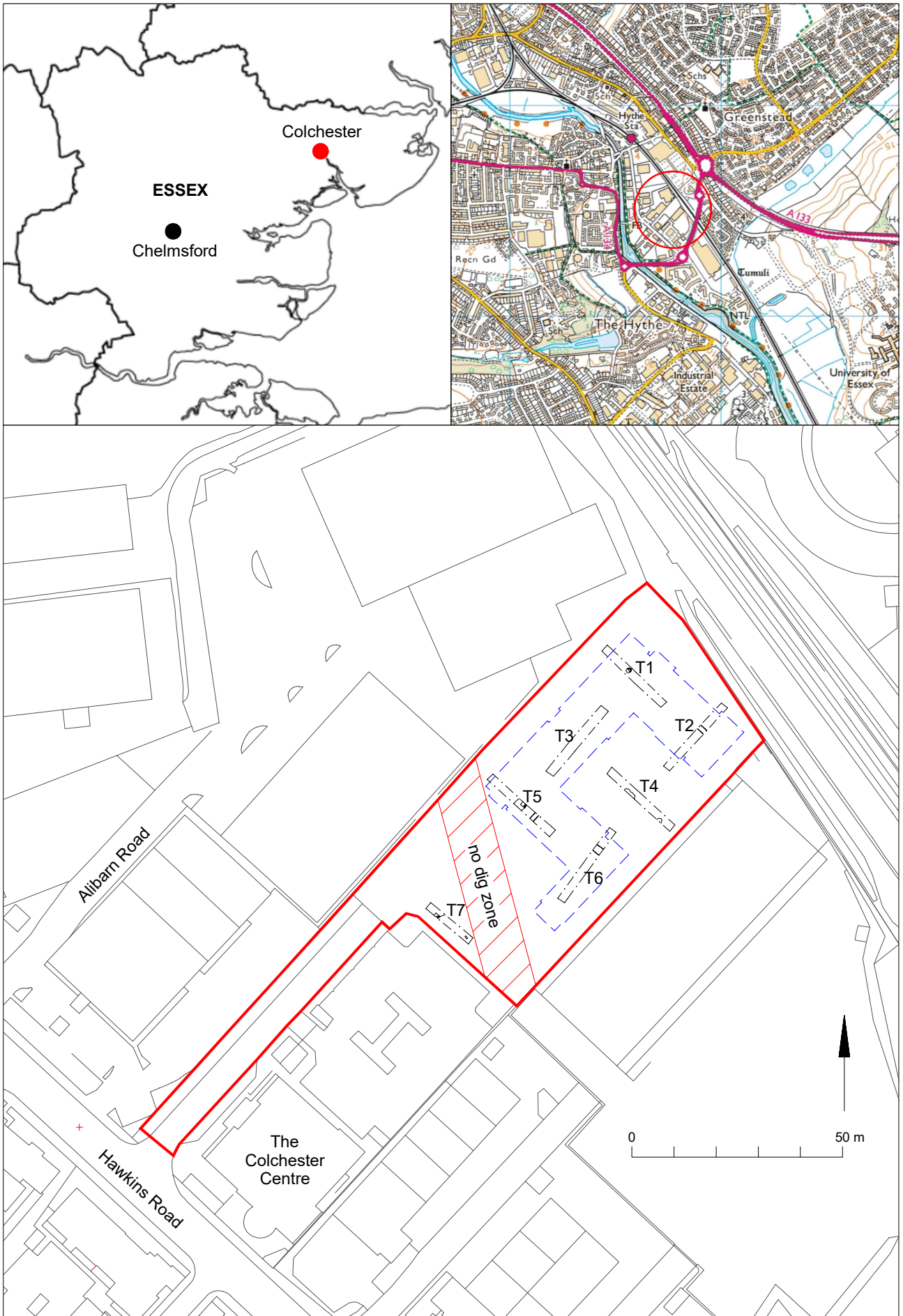
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 12.8.2021

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1		Dump	Mid grey silt with significant modern debris inclusions (plastic, concrete, brick, metalwork, none retained)	Modern
L2		Made ground	Orange/yellow sand and gravel with modern debris inclusions (none retained)	Modern
L3		Buried topsoil	Mid grey/brown silt with modern debris inclusions (brick, coal, none retained)	Modern
L4		Deposit	Light brown clayey-silt with some brick/tile flecks	Post-medieval/ modern
L5		Natural	Silt and river gravels	Post-glacial
F1		Silt patch	Firm, moist medium grey silty-clay, 9% stone	Post-glacial
F2	1	Pit	Firm, moist dark grey silt	Post-medieval/ modern
F3		Silt patch/ tree-rooting	Firm, moist light grey sandy-silt	Undated



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

Fig 1 Site location in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue)

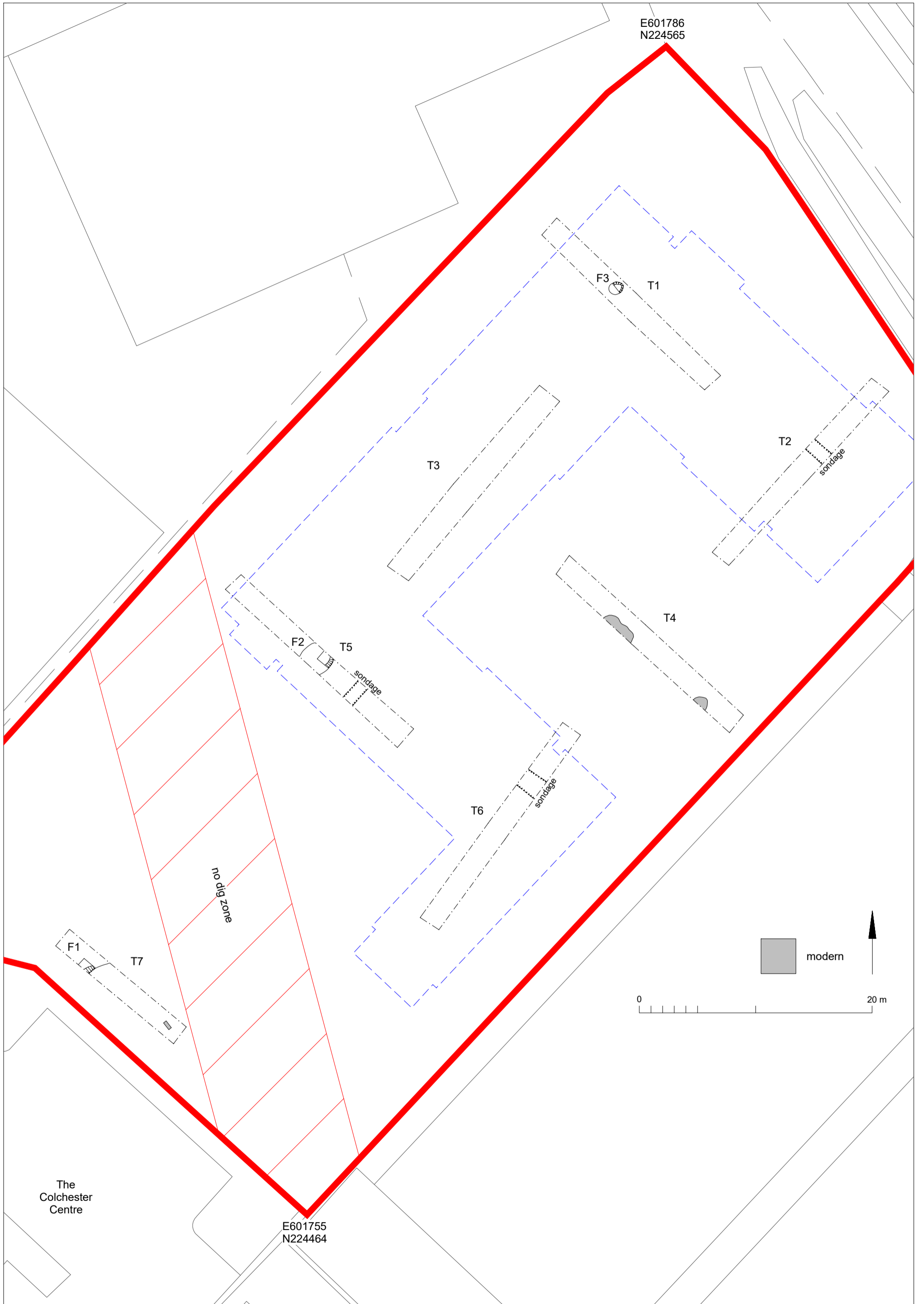


Fig 2 Results.

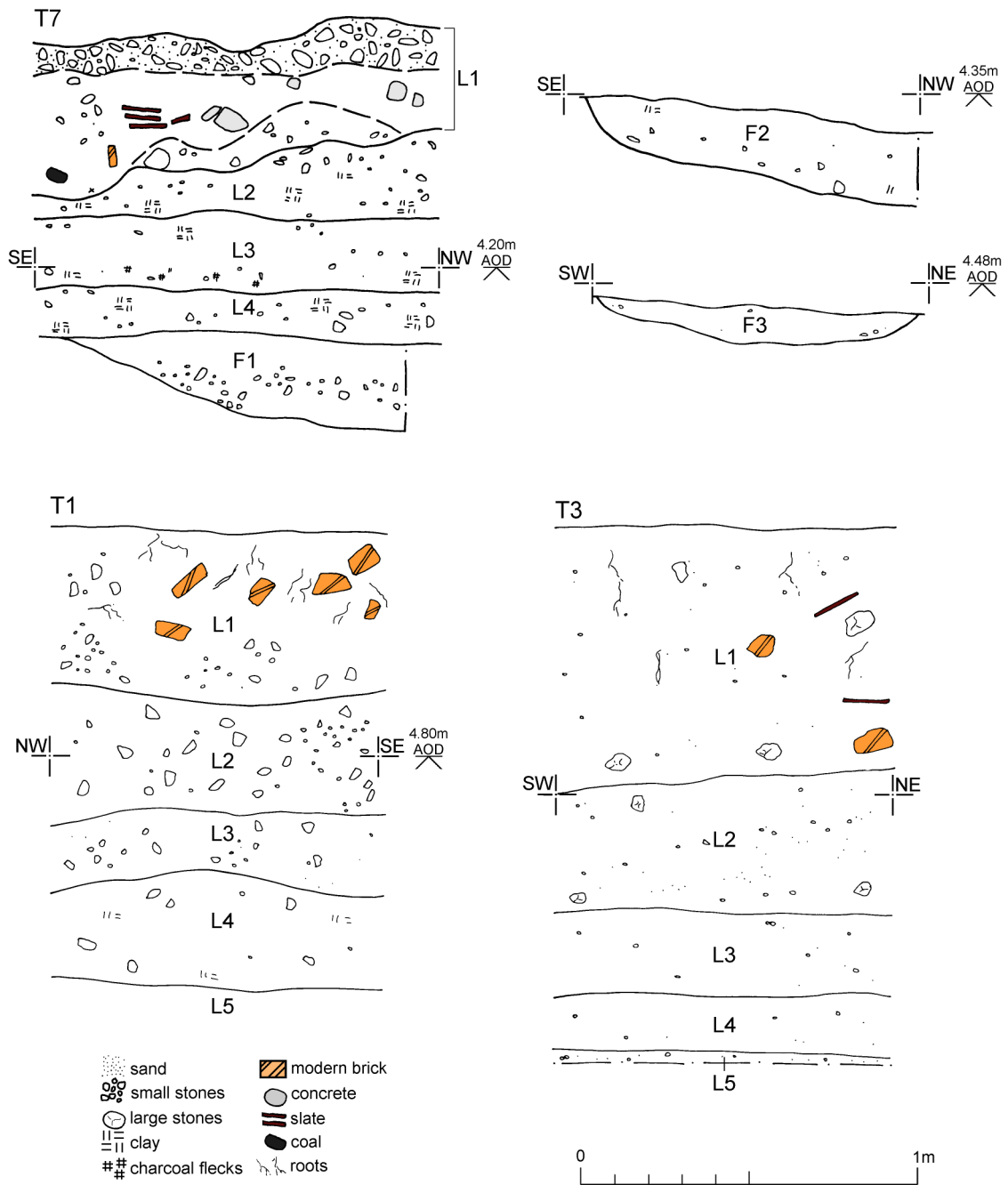


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8LH	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 01772 24512 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2021/05b CHER ref: ECC4644 OASIS ref: colchest3-423913
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 2nd August 2021	Size of area investigated: 0.51ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 1696	
Periods represented: Post-medieval & modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new student accommodation block. Located close to the historic Hythe Quay, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and industrial remains surround the development site.</p> <p>Evaluation revealed a significant depth of modern deposits within the northwestern half of the site compared to the southeast. This was likely the result of a large 20th-century warehouse being built and then demolished on the southeastern half, with modern waste dumped to the northwest. A modern pit and two natural features were excavated, but there were no significant archaeological remains.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett and Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: August 2021

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8LH.

NGR: TM 01772 24512 (centre)
District: Colchester
Parish: Colchester

Planning references: 190335

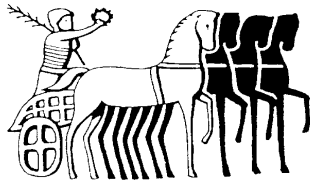
Commissioned by: Matthew Knight
On behalf of: Melberry Development Management Limited

Curating museum: Colchester
CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2021/05b
OASIS project number: colchest3-423913

Site manager: Chris Lister
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 15/06/2021



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 comprises of a c 0.48ha rectangular parcel of scrub land with some patches of hard-standing located within the Hythe area between the River Colne and the railway line. The site is situated to the immediate northeast of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 01772 24512.

Surveys by Richard Jackson Engineering Consultants (O'Reilly, 2019) show that ground levels within the site are approximately 0.5-1m higher than adjacent land to the immediate southwest and investigative boreholes revealed made ground to a depth of 1.4m, sitting above river terrace deposits.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of an eight storey building to provide 282 student bedrooms with associated amenities, landscaping, car parking and groundworks.

Archaeological background (see Fig 2)

The following archaeological background includes extracts from CAT Report 1282 and draws on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECC/MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The Hythe has been the port for Colchester probably since the Norman period. The name derives from an Old English word for landing place, and the area was originally known as 'New Hythe'. The earlier landing place, with New Hythe superseded was at Old Heath (*Ealdehythe* – the old landing place), located closer to the mouth of the River Colne. The earliest reference to Old Heath, implying the existence of the New Hythe, is in 1272. The nearby Hythe parish church of St Leonard's (MCC24, MCC3402 and MCC9031) is referenced in 1237, and the earliest reference to the Hythe itself appears to date from 1276 (CAR 1, 47). There are numerous references to private quays, wharfs and warehouses from the 14th century onwards, and by 1823 the quays at the Hythe extended along both sides of the river (CAT Report 232, 21). There are numerous records for current or demolished historic houses and shops within close proximity of the development site, including the 15th to 16th century former Perseverance Inn (MCC27), the late 17th century house at 106 Hythe Hill (MCC3404) to the 18th century brick house at 100 Hythe Hill (MCC3400).

There is also the possibility of a Roman quay or bridge in this area, as a Roman road can be traced to within half a mile of the Hythe, from the direction of Mistley. The projected line of this road suggests a crossing point on the river close to the bottom of Hythe Hill.

Near the site on both sides of the river, are warehouses dating from the late 19th century (MCC101000), as well as several, since-demolished, lime kilns (including MCC5169 and MCC5197). Some of these buildings are present on the 1st edition OS mapping and suggests there is significant potential for uncovering archaeology of a post-medieval date.

Most of the archaeological investigations within the Hythe have been small sites away from the present river frontage, including 79 Hythe Hill (Brooks 2000), 64-76 Hythe Hill evaluation (ECC2627 and MCC2663-6, Shimmin 2004) and subsequent excavation (ECC2590, Benfield 2004) and 9-11 Hythe Quay evaluation (MCC5310, MCC5311 and MCC5312, CAT Report 100). However, no trace of the medieval quay or any Roman structures has been located at the Hythe.

In 2006, CAT monitored four test-pits at 28 Hythe Quay (CAT Report 388), next to the retaining quay wall. They were mostly dug through 18th- to 19th-century brick rubble with some post-medieval pottery. There was no evidence of Roman or medieval activity but a large timber located at the base of one of the concrete structures is thought to have possibly have been part of an earlier quay.

In 2018, CAT conducted an evaluation on the west side of the river, at Bridge House, Hythe Quay (CAT Report 1264). Four trenches were excavated, two of which contained medieval pits and linears, as well as the remains of a medieval (late 12th to 14th century) wall foundation of medium to large compacted stones. Looser patches of compacted medium stones and chalk were uncovered that might represent a second, later, wall foundation (15th to 17th century) but could also have been the remains of either a plinth or surface.

Evaluation trenches by CAT in 2018 on a site on Hawkins Road (c 140m west of the current site) revealed a late 17th- or early 18th-century wall foundation, probably from a cellar, which was backfilled in the mid-20th century. Located in a historic area of waterfront activity, this likely represents the remains of a wharf or warehouse constructed during this period which was demolished during subsequent development in the area (CAT Report 1282)

Project background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2019 (application No. 190335) involving the *redevelopment of site to provide 282 student bedrooms (sui generis) in an 8 storey building with ancillary ground floor space combining cafe, meeting space, bin store, cycle store, laundry, reception/office, plant rooms and car parking.*

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)

The required archaeological work as stated in the Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021) was for an archaeological evaluation.

Specifically, the brief proposed a series of linear trenches covering a 5% sample of the site. CAT proposes seven trenches, six 20m long (T1-6) and one trench 13m long (T7), all 1.8m wide. This equates to 133m of trenching covering an area of 239.40m².

Trenches are located to avoid the 'no dig zone' protecting the location of a sewer pipe.

Areas may need to be locally widened if there are deep trenches and/or sections across deep features to ensure they are evaluated.

The work is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. It is also required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival, condition and significance of environmental evidence.
- Include a contingency for soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits. In addition, particular attention should be given to the collection of micro-remains preserved within and/or directly over floors.
- Establish the potential for the survival and condition of environmental evidence.
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site.
- 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 investigation 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, c, d)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2020)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 three archaeologist for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Mark Baister/Nigel Rayner

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 (see human remains section below).

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 excavation area and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, 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 the evaluation trenches 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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

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.

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: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

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

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

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 / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: 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 if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). 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 three 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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible

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>

Benfield, S	2004	An archaeological excavation at 64-76 Hythe Hill, Colchester, in 1999', <i>Journal of the Colchester Archaeological Trust</i> , 2 , 34-59
Brooks, H	2000	'Excavations at 79 Hythe Hill, Colchester, Essex, 1994-95', <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> , 31 , 112-24
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . 2nd Edition
CAR 1	1981	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 1: Aspects of Anglo-Saxon and Norman Colchester</i> by Philip Crummy, CBA, Research Report, 39
CAT	2020	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 100	2000	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 9-11 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex: October 2000</i>
CAT Report 232	2003	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains in and around the site of the proposed Colne barrage, Colchester, Essex: June 2003</i>
CAT Report 388	2006	<i>Archaeological watching brief at 28 Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex: August 2006</i>
CAT Report 1264	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JB: April 2018</i>

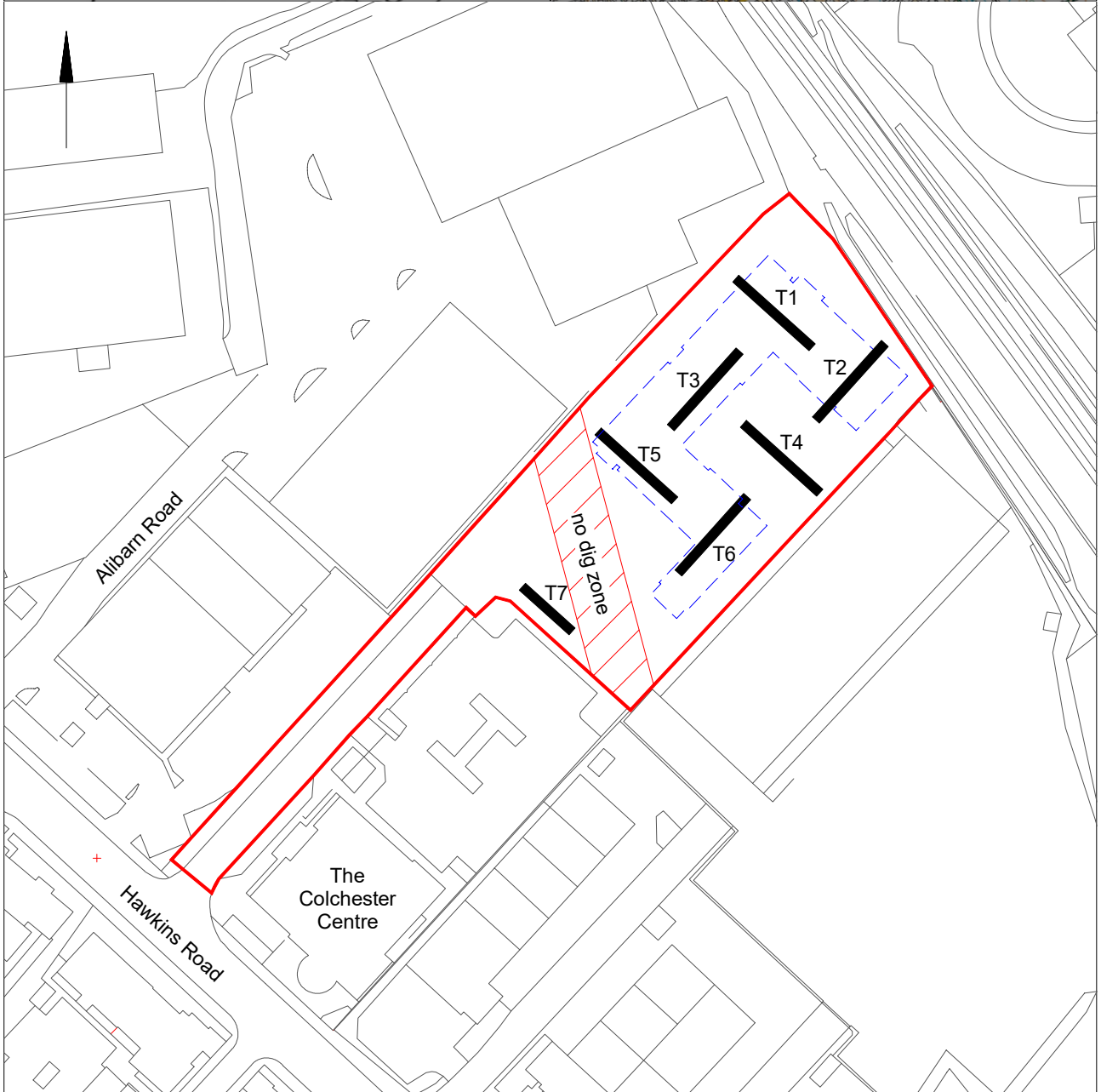
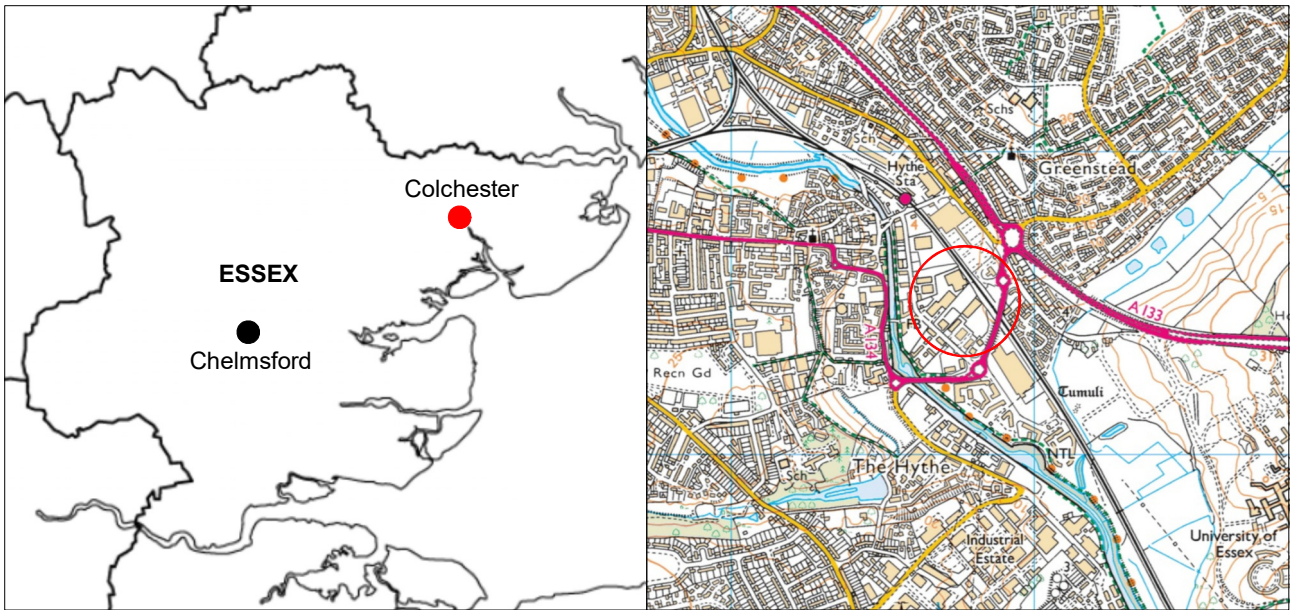
CAT Report 1282	2018	Archaeological evaluation at Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex – June 2018.
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land at the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester</i> By R Hoggett
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
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</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
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.
O'Reilly, K	2019	<i>Revision A - Phase One Desk Study Report, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JX</i> . Richard Jackson Engineering CoInsultants

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 and trench layout in relation to the proposed development

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: colchest3-423913

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8LH
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new student accommodation block. Located close to the historic Hythe Quay, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and industrial remains surround the development site. Evaluation revealed a significant depth of modern deposits within the northwestern half of the site compared to the southeast. This was likely the result of a large 20th-century warehouse being built and then demolished on the southeastern half, with modern waste dumped to the northwest. A modern pit and two natural features were excavated, but there were no significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 02-08-2021 End: 03-08-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	190335 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/05b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4644 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road
Postcode	CO2 8LH
Study area	0.51 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 01772 24512 51.882073199605 0.932013894738 51 52 55 N 000 55 55 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4m Max: 4.5m

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 director/manager	Adam Wightman
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Melberry Development Management Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Archive ID	ECC4644
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4644
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Colchester Centre, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8LH: August 2021
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1696
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ringbound loose-leaf
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	11 August 2021

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=428076> for this page

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