



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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**CAT Report 1763**

**Archaeological monitoring in front of the Mercury Theatre, Balcerne Gate, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PT: July-August 2021**

**Planning reference:** 171964

**CHER Event no.:** ECC4682

**OASIS ref.:** colchest3-503940

**Grid Reference:** TL 99274 25193 (centre)

**Number of site visits:** 2

**Dates of visit:**

26th July and 10th August 2021

**Nature of the work:** Observation of road strip in advance of the laying of a new road surface

**Reason for condition:** The site lies adjacent to the Roman Balcerne Gate.

**% of total seen:** 100% of the groundworks.

**Results:** The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a condition set by Dr Richard Hoggett of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

A section of road surface measuring approximately 508 square metres was reduced through 0.04m (40mm) of modern tarmac. To the north of the road, the old pavement was also removed to allow for new block pavers to be laid. No archaeological horizons were encountered as groundworks did not go below modern layers.



**Photograph 1** Stripping the old road surface, looking east



**Photograph 2** New road surface and pavements, looking west



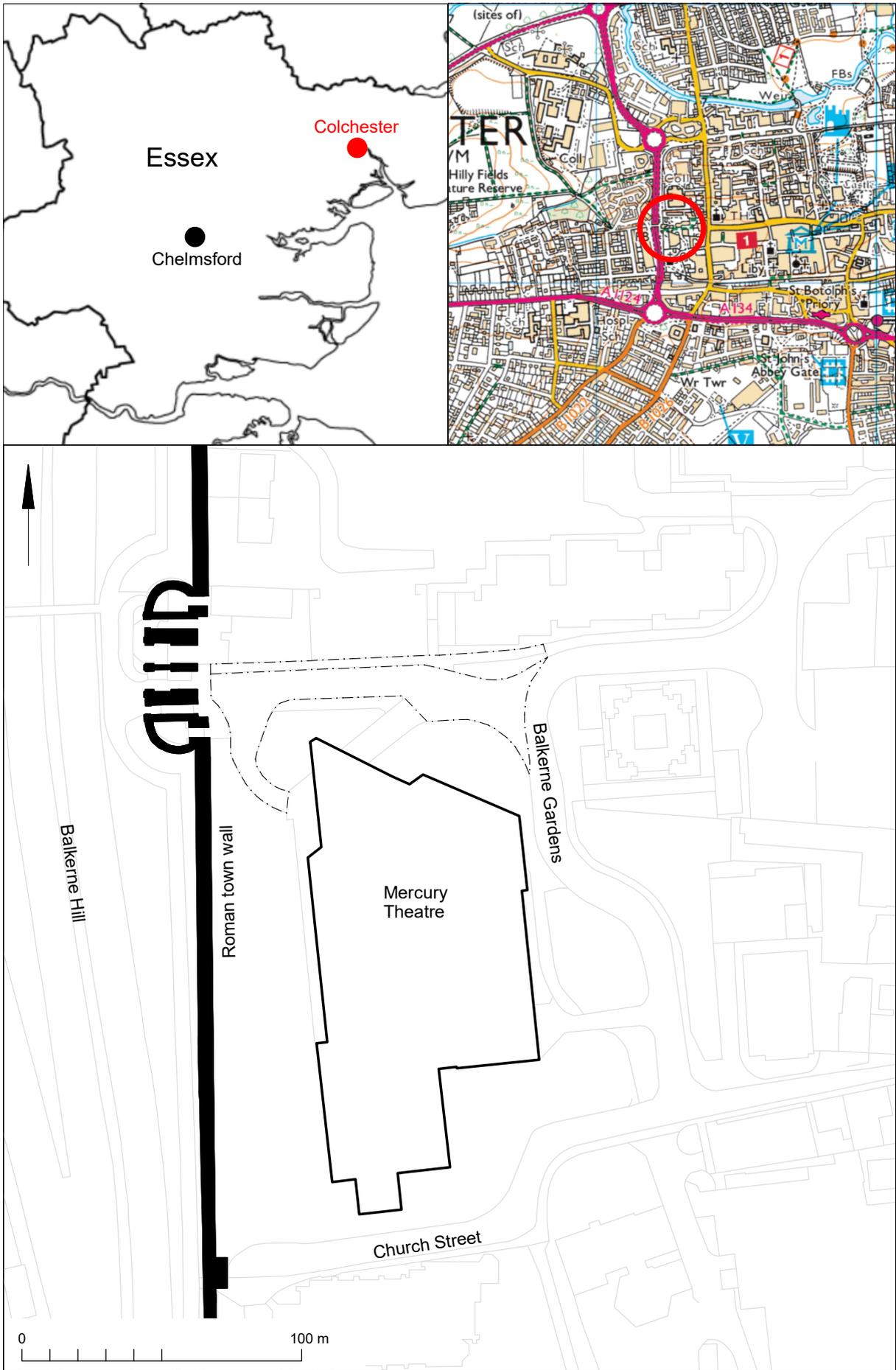
**Photograph 3** New road surface and pavement (edged in white pavers, shown by the blue arrow) in relation to Balkerne Gate, looking north

**Recorded by:** Dr Elliott Hicks ([eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org))

**Date:** 22/12/2021

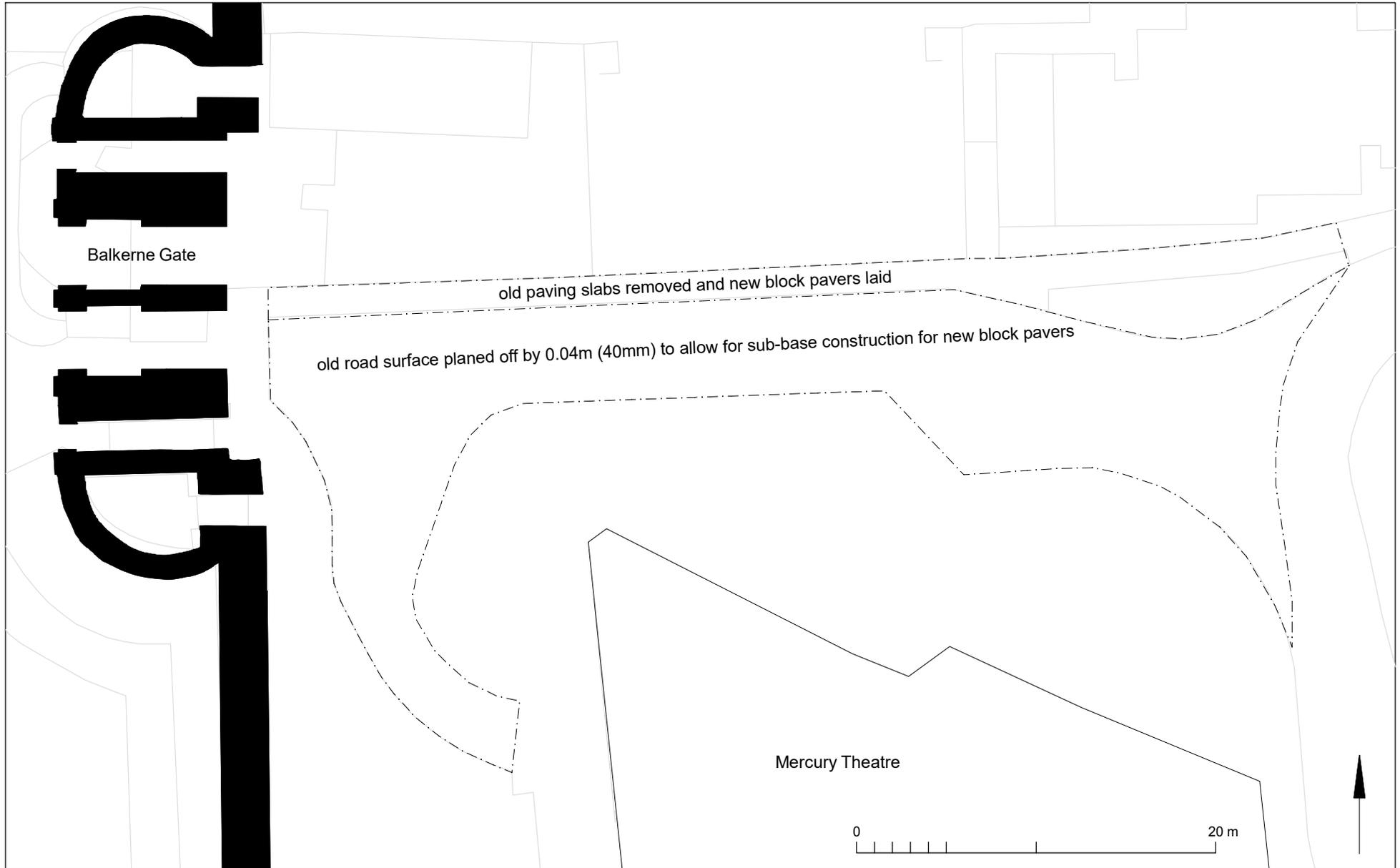
**Checked by:** Philip Crummy ([pc@catuk.org](mailto:pc@catuk.org))

**Date:** 20/01/2022



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Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Results

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> North of the Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PT	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 99274 25193 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2021/02h CHER ref: ECC4682 OASIS ref: colchest3-503940
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 26th July and 10th August 2021	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 659 square metres
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1763	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  A section of road surface was reduced through 0.04m of modern tarmac and an old pavement was replaced. No archaeological horizons were encountered as groundworks did not go below modern layers.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Simon Wood	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> January 2022

## Summary for colchest3-503940

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-503940
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring in front of the Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PT
Activity type	Field Observation (Monitoring)
Project Identifier(s)	2021/02h
Planning Id	171964
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	26-Jul-2021 - 10-Aug-2021
Location	Archaeological monitoring in front of the Mercury Theatre, Balkerne Gate, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PT NGR : TL 99274 25193 LL : 51.8896591908541, 0.894417002999269 12 Fig : 599274,225193
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Monitoring
Project Results	A section of road surface close to Balkerne Gate (a Scheduled Monument) was reduced through 0.04m of modern tarmac and an associated pavement replaced. No archaeological horizons were encountered as groundworks did not go below modern layers.
Keywords	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4682
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive