

# Archaeological evaluation on land off Mason Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1BX

May 2022



**by Sarah Veasey**

figures by Chris Lister and Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Sarah Veasey with Ziya Eksen, Oliver Windridge and Alexander Smith

**commissioned by James Connor  
on behalf of BMO Real Estate Partners**

NGR: TL 99699 26195 (centre)

Planning ref.: 192263

CAT project ref.: 2019/09I

CHER code: ECC4382

OASIS ref.: colchest3-368226



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**CAT Report 1825**

July 2022

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CAT wsi

OASIS summary sheet

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to Mason Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of new warehouse-type commercial units. The site is located within an area of known Roman burials. Due to contamination, only three of nine trenches could be successfully excavated. Two modern features were uncovered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land adjacent to Mason Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 30th-31st May 2022. The work was commissioned by James Connor on behalf of BMO Real Estate Partners, in advance of the construction of warehouse-style commercial units.

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 Evaluation* written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2019) and detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with the CBCAA (CAT 2019).

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 evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on a desk-based assessment of the site by CAT in 2018 (CAT Report 1304), on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

### Prehistory

Prehistoric remains have come to light in one location near the site, a find spot of a Bronze Age flint scraper is recorded c 5m to the north (MCC2297). A small quantity of worked and burnt flint was found alongside four concentrations of Roman tile during a watching brief for the first phase of development work (roads and landscaping) for Turner Rise (96/4e, CAT Report 1000)

### Late Iron Age and Roman period

There are no finds or sites originating in the Iron Age within the search area. However, considerable evidence of Roman occupation and activity has been uncovered here. From the mid 19th century, a number of Roman burials have been uncovered in an area north of the site. During the construction of the railway line to London, William Wire regularly visited the works and recorded the finds in his diary. These included several Roman burial urns containing human remains (MCC1411, MCC1895, MCC7058, MCC7059).

Between 1996-8, CAT carried out multiphased fieldwork projects approximately 235m to the north-west of the current site at Turner Rise prior to the construction of the Asda

supermarket and adjacent housing development. Sixty Roman cremation burials and pits with pyre debris were excavated. A range of burial types were recorded including both urned and unurned examples, with several of the latter being large and regularly shaped. The cremation burials and pyre-related features were mainly of late 1st-2nd century date, and many lay in a circular cluster/ring towards the southern end of the cemetery area. The cemetery extended to the west of a possible Roman road (96/4e & 98/2e, CAT Report 1000 and CAT Report 322).

Approximately 150m to the south of the site at Serpentine Walk, a Roman tile tomb and funerary urn were discovered in 1907, and two years later evidence of a further Roman burial was uncovered here (MCC2515-7).

In addition, c 215m to the east-south-east on Cowdray Avenue, the remains of a Roman kiln or building were discovered, consisting of burnt earth and brick rubble (MCC8419).

#### **Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods**

There are no finds or sites originating in these periods near the site.

#### **Post-medieval and modern periods**

The post-medieval and modern periods are represented by a number of sites of archaeological interest close to the site. Approximately 350m to the south-east of the site, the remains of a Parliamentarian fort, constructed during the Siege of Colchester during the English Civil War, are located (MCC2243). During CAT excavations at the Turner Rise development, several 17th-century ditches were found in the north-western part of the Roman cemetery area which perhaps belonged to a fort dating from the Siege of Colchester. Among the other post-medieval and modern features were a brick kiln, a gravelled track, some brick foundations, and two clay extraction pits (CAT Report 322).

The sites of a number of 19th-century brickworks are also located around the area of the site, including: the Brick Kiln on Brick Kiln Road c 120m north (MCC5194), Poplar Lane Brickworks c 5m north (MCC5280) and Serpentine Walk Brickworks c 65m west (MCC5278). The site is also near the remains of a number of Second World War defences, consisting of a spigot mortar emplacement located in Cowdray Avenue (MCC5082), and an ammunition shelter, which stood at the present-day site of the Cowdray Centre (MCC5541).

## **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)**

As per the brief and WSI, the evaluation was supposed to consist of nine trial-trenches. Trenches T1, T2 and T4 were excavated (see below). However, after removing the tarmac/concrete over trenches T3 and T5-T7, the ground was found to be contaminated and excavation ceased. As a consequence of the contamination, trenches T8 and T9 were also not excavated.

Trial-trenches T1, T2 and T3 were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 25m long and 1.8m wide. A full context list with soil descriptions and measurements can be found in Appendix 1.

T1 and T2 were excavated through a gravel car park surface (L1, c 0.05m thick) and layers of made-ground (L2, c 0.56-1.21m thick) and subsoil (L3, c 0.13-0.35m thick) into the natural clay (L4, encountered c0.95-1.25m below current ground level [bcgl]).



T4 was excavated through concrete and a sub-base layer (L5, c 0.25m thick), and a layer of contaminated made-ground (L6, c 0.79-.85m thick) into the natural clay (L4, 1.05m-1.11m bcgl). A sondage was excavated in T4 to confirm the identification of natural.

Two modern features were uncovered in T2, ditch F1 and pit F2. Both had modern detritus on the surface. This was not recovered and the features left unexcavated. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered in T1 or T4.



**Photograph 1** T1 trench shot – view south.



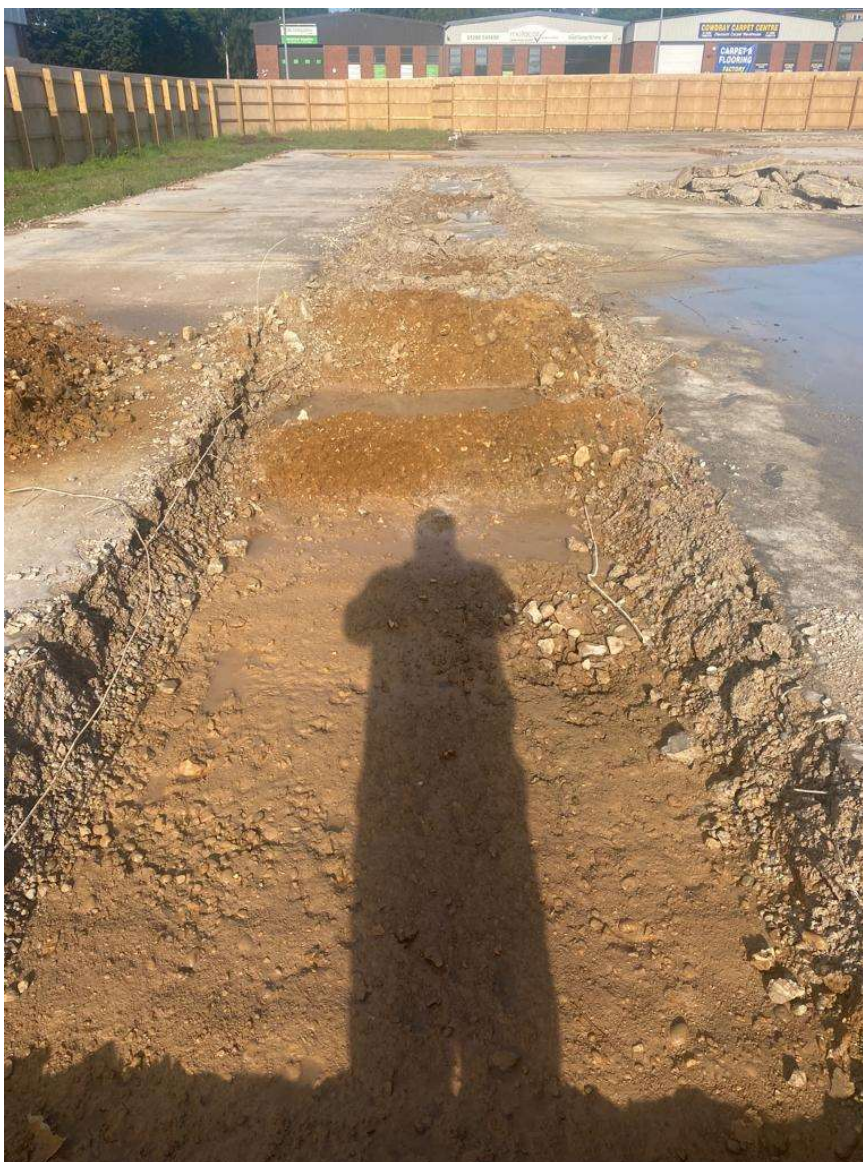


**Photograph 2** F2 plan – view east.



**Photograph 3** T4 trench shot – view east.





**Photograph 4** The limit of excavation of T6 – view west.

## **6 Finds**

There were no finds.

## **7 Conclusion**

Due to contamination only three of the trenches at Mason Road could be safely excavated. Only two features were identified, namely a modern pit and ditch.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

CAT thanks James Connor and BMO Real Estate Partners for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey with Z Eksen, O Windridge and A Smith. Figures are by C Lister and S Veasey. 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>

CAT	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land off Mason Road (Unit 22, Mason House), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1BX</i> By E Holloway
CAT Report 322	forthcoming	<i>A Roman cremation cemetery at Turner Rise, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5TU February 1996 - February 1998.</i> By D Shimmin
CAT Report 1000	2017	<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).</i> By H Brooks
CAT Report 1304	2018	<i>An archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Unit 22, Mason House, Mason Road, Colchester, Essex: August 2018.</i> By E Hicks
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Land off Mason Road (Unit 22, Mason House) Colchester,</i> by J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<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.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	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.

## 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
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigati <b>S</b> , <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws_i	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of digital archive

The report (CAT Report 1825)  
 CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation  
 Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log  
 Graphic files  
 Site data  
 Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition



The 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

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**Distribution list:**

BMO Real Estate Partners  
Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date: 14/07/22

### **Appendix 1 Context List**

<b>Trench no.</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Finds no.</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
T1, T2	L1	-	Car park	Gravel car park surface	Modern
T1, T2	L2	-	Made ground	Firm moist dark grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% tile/brick 5%	Modern
T1, T2	L3	-	Subsoil	Firm moist medium orange/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 5%	Undated
All	L4	-	Natural	Firm/hard moist medium orange/brown clay and inclusions of: gravel 1%	Post-glacial
T4	L5	-	Concrete and sub-base	Concrete layer with sandy sub-base	Modern
T4	L6	-	Contaminated made ground	Firm moist medium/dark grey black blue silty clay with inclusions of: stone 5%	Modern
T2	F1	-	Ditch	firm/hard dry dark grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: tile/brick 4%	Modern
T2	F2	-	Pit	firm/hard dry dark grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: tile/brick 4%	Modern

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> <i>Land off Mason Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1BX</i>	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 99699 26195 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 19/09I CHER ref: ECC4382 OASIS ref: colchest3-368226
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 30th-31st May 2022	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.8ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1865	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <i>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to Mason Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of new warehouse-type commercial units. The site is located within an area of known Roman burials. Due to contamination only three of nine trenches could be successfully excavated. Two modern features were uncovered.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Simon Wood	
<b>Keywords:</b> None	<b>Significance:</b>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Sarah Veasey	<b>Date of summary:</b> July 2022



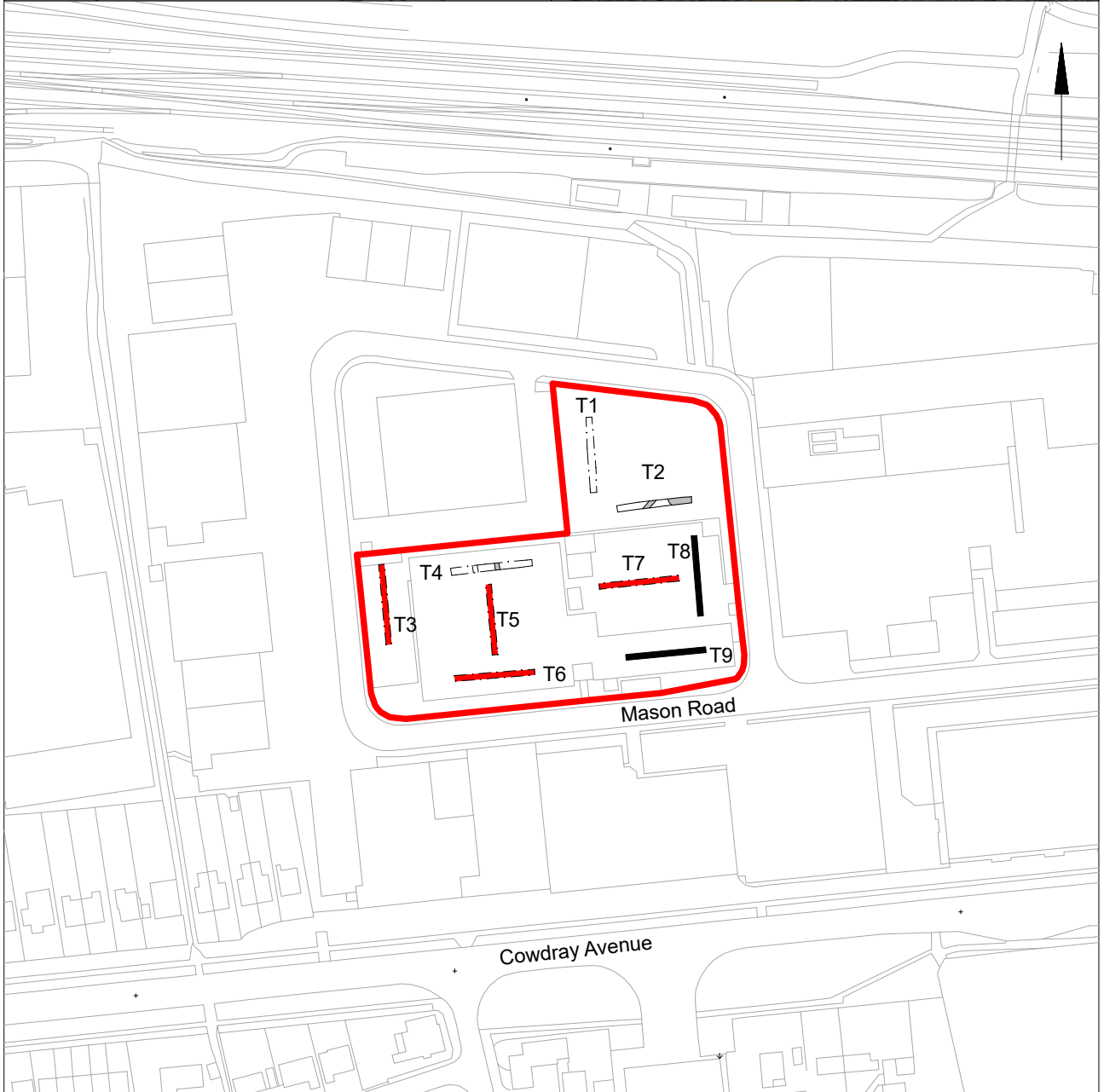
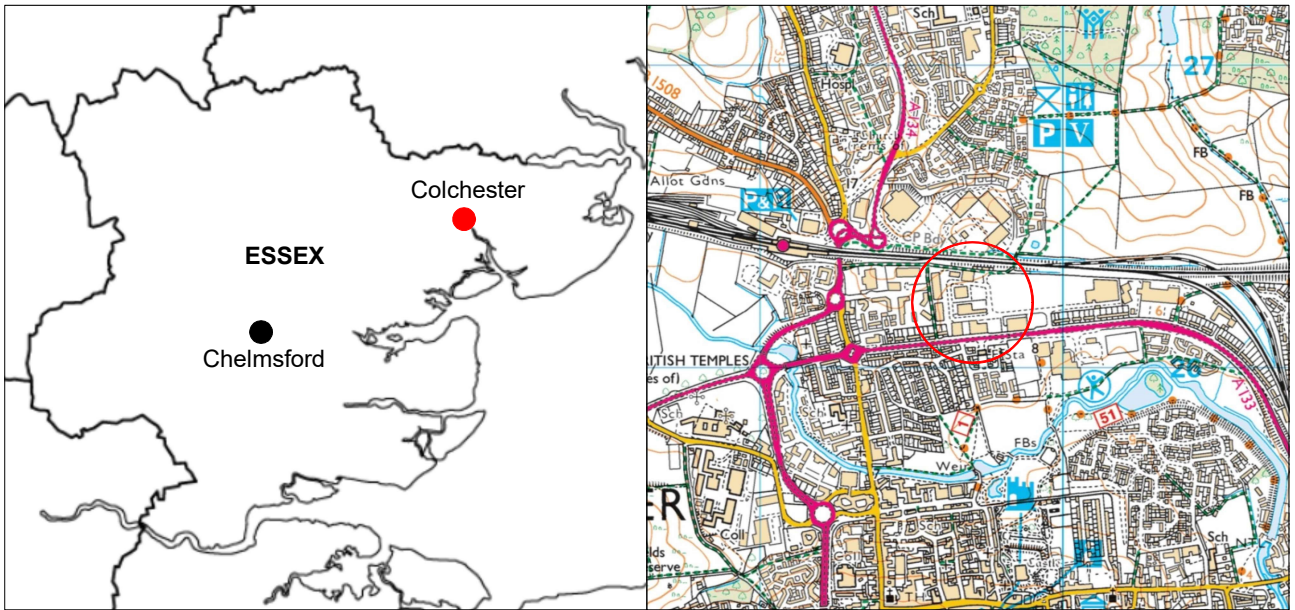
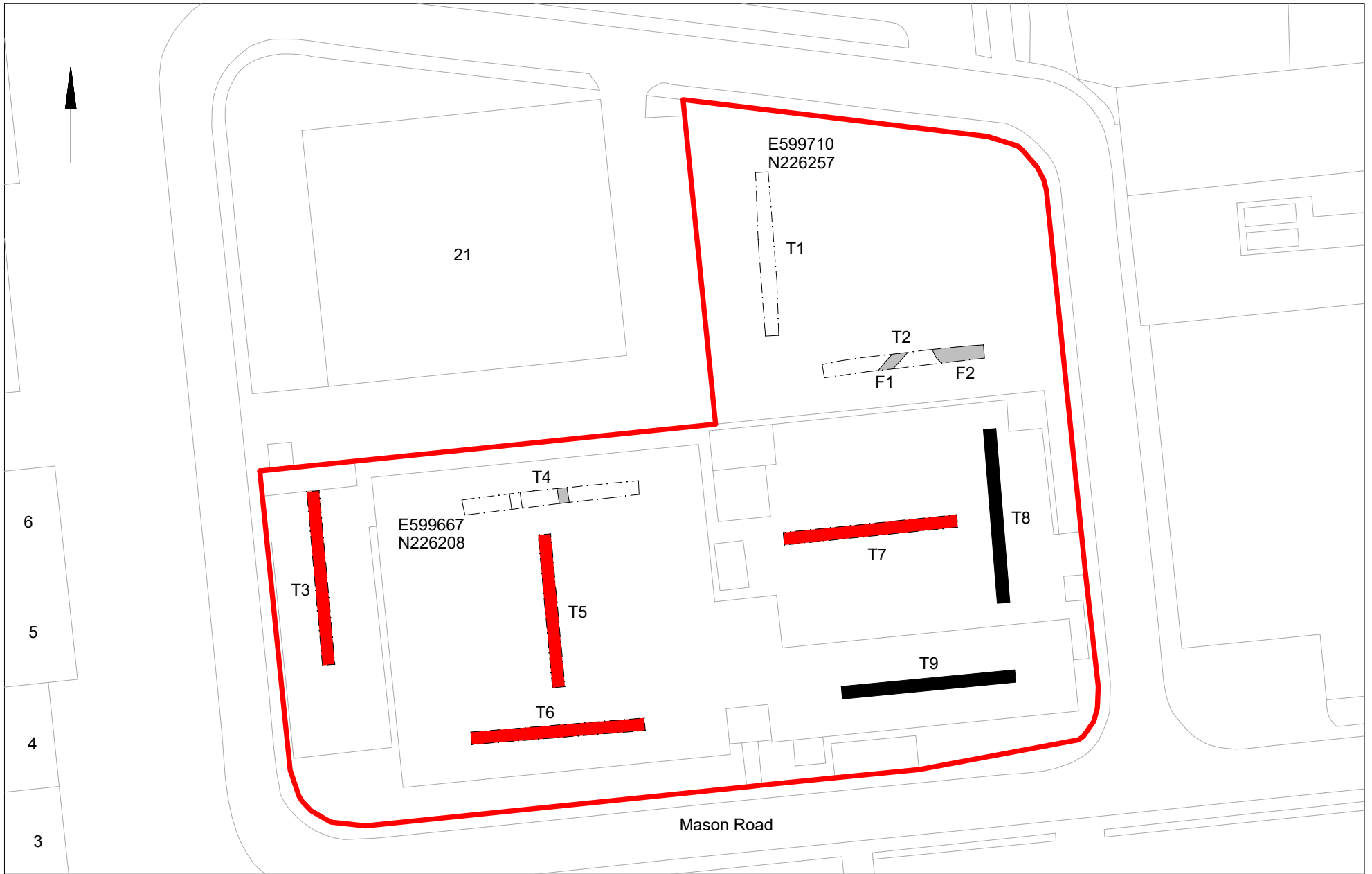


Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

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0 100 m



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Fig 2 Trench results. Modern features/services shown in grey.

- Tarmac/concrete removed but trench not excavated due to contamination.
- Trench not excavated.



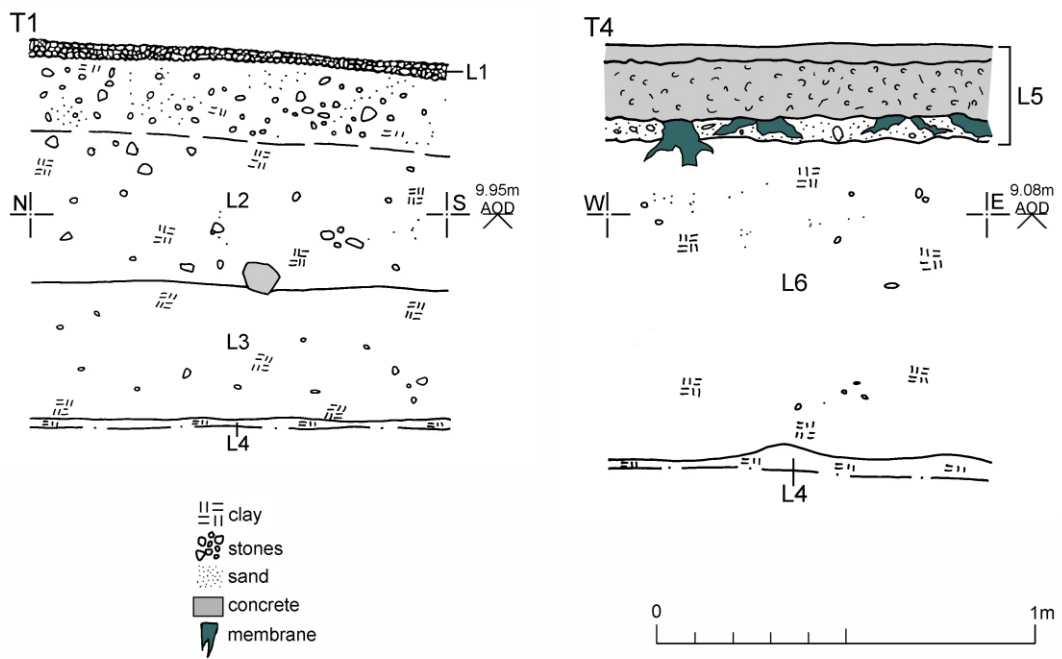


Fig 3 Representative sections.



## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> <i>Land off Mason Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1BX</i>	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
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<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b>
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<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Simon Wood	
<b>Keywords:</b> None	<b>Significance:</b>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Sarah Veasey	<b>Date of summary:</b> July 2022

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land off Mason Road (Unit 22, Mason House), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1BX.**

**NGR:** TL 99699 26195 (centre)  
**District:** Colchester

**Planning reference:** pre-application (192263)

**Commissioned by:** James Connor (BMO Real Estate Partners)  
**On behalf of:** BMO Real Estate Partners

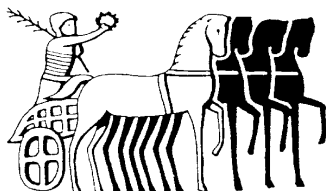
**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER project code:** ECC4382  
**CAT project code:** 2019/09I  
**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-368226

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 24/09/2019



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## **Site location and description**

The proposed development site lies approximately 1km north-northeast of the main historic centre of Colchester on land off Mason Road (Unit 22, Mason House), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1BX (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99699 26195.

## **Proposed work**

The development comprises the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of warehouse-style commercial units with landscaping, parking and any associated groundworks.

## **Archaeological background**

The following archaeological background is based on a desk-based assessment of the site by CAT in 2018 (CAT Report 1304), on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

### **Prehistory**

Prehistoric remains have come to light in one location near the site, a find spot of a Bronze Age flint scraper is recorded c 5m to the north (MCC2297). A small quantity of worked and burnt flint was found alongside four concentrations of Roman tile during a watching brief for the first phase of development work (roads and landscaping) for Turner Rise (96/4e, CAT Report 1000)

### **Late Iron Age and Roman period**

There are no finds or sites originating in the Iron Age within the search area, however, considerable evidence of Roman occupation and activity has been uncovered here. From the mid 19th century, a number of Roman burials have been uncovered in an area north of the site. During the construction of the railway line William Wire regularly visited the workmen during the work and recorded finds discovered in his diary. Finds included several Roman burial urns containing human remains (MCC1411, MCC1895, MCC7058, MCC7059).

Between 1996-8 CAT carried out multiphased fieldwork projects approximately 235m to the northwest of the current site at Turner Rise prior to the creation of the Asda supermarket and adjacent housing development. Sixty Roman cremation burials and pits with pyre debris were excavated in 1996-7. A range of burial types were recorded including both urned and unurned examples, with several of the latter being large and regularly shaped. The cremation burials and pyre-related features were mainly of late 1st-2nd century date, and many lay in a circular cluster/ring towards the southern end of the cemetery area. The cemetery extended to the west of a possible Roman road (96/4e & 98/2e, CAT Report 1000 and CAT Report 322).

Approximately 150m to the south of the site at Serpentine Walk, a Roman tile tomb and funerary urn were discovered in 1907, and two years later evidence of a further Roman burial was uncovered here (MCC2515-7).

In addition, c 215m to the east-southeast of this site on Cowdray Avenue, the remains of a Roman kiln or building, consisting of burnt earth and brick rubble, have been uncovered (MCC8419).

### **Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods**

There are no finds or sites originating in these periods near the site.

### **Post-medieval and modern periods**

The post-medieval and modern periods are represented by a number of sites of archaeological interest close to the site. Approximately 350m to the south-east of the site, the remains of a Parliamentarian fort, constructed during the besiegement of Colchester during the English Civil War, are rumoured to be located (MCC2243). During CAT the excavation at the Turner Rise development several 17th-century ditches were found in the north-western



part of the Roman cemetery area which perhaps belonged to a fort dating from the Siege of Colchester. Among the other post-medieval and modern features were a brick kiln, a gravelled track, some brick foundations, and two clay extraction pits (CAT Report 322).

The sites of a number of 19th-century brickworks are also located around the area of the site, including: the Brick Kiln on Brick Kiln Road c 120m north (MCC5194), Poplar Lane Brickworks c 5m north (MCC5280) and Serpentine Walk Brickworks c 65m west (MCC5278).

The site is also near the remains of a number of Second World War defences, consisting of a spigot mortar emplacement located in Cowdray Avenue (MCC5082), and an ammunition shelter, which stood at the present-day site of the Cowdray Centre (MCC5541).

## **Proposed work**

The development work comprises the *demolition of the existing buildings on the site and the construction of a number of warehouse-style commercial units, landscaping and parking*. The site is currently pre-application phase (192263).

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

Specifically, nine trial-trenches will be excavated representing a 5% sample located in a grid across the proposed site. Each trench will measure 25m long by 1.8m wide, this equates to 225m in length of trenching covering an area of 405m<sup>2</sup>. Trenches 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 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

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

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

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

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

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

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus four archaeologists for three days.

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 trenches, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

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

### **Site surveying**

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

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

### **Environmental sampling policy**

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

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

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

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

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

### **Human remains**

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>
CAT	2018	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 322	forthcoming	A Roman cremation cemetery at Turner Rise, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5TU February 1996 - February 1998. By D Shimmin
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)</i> . By H Brooks
CAT Report 1304	2018	<i>An archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Unit 22, Mason House, Mason Road, Colchester, Essex: August 2018</i> . By E Hicks
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Land off Mason Road (Unit 22, Mason House), Colchester</i> . By J Tipper
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</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</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
MHCLG	2019	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
		<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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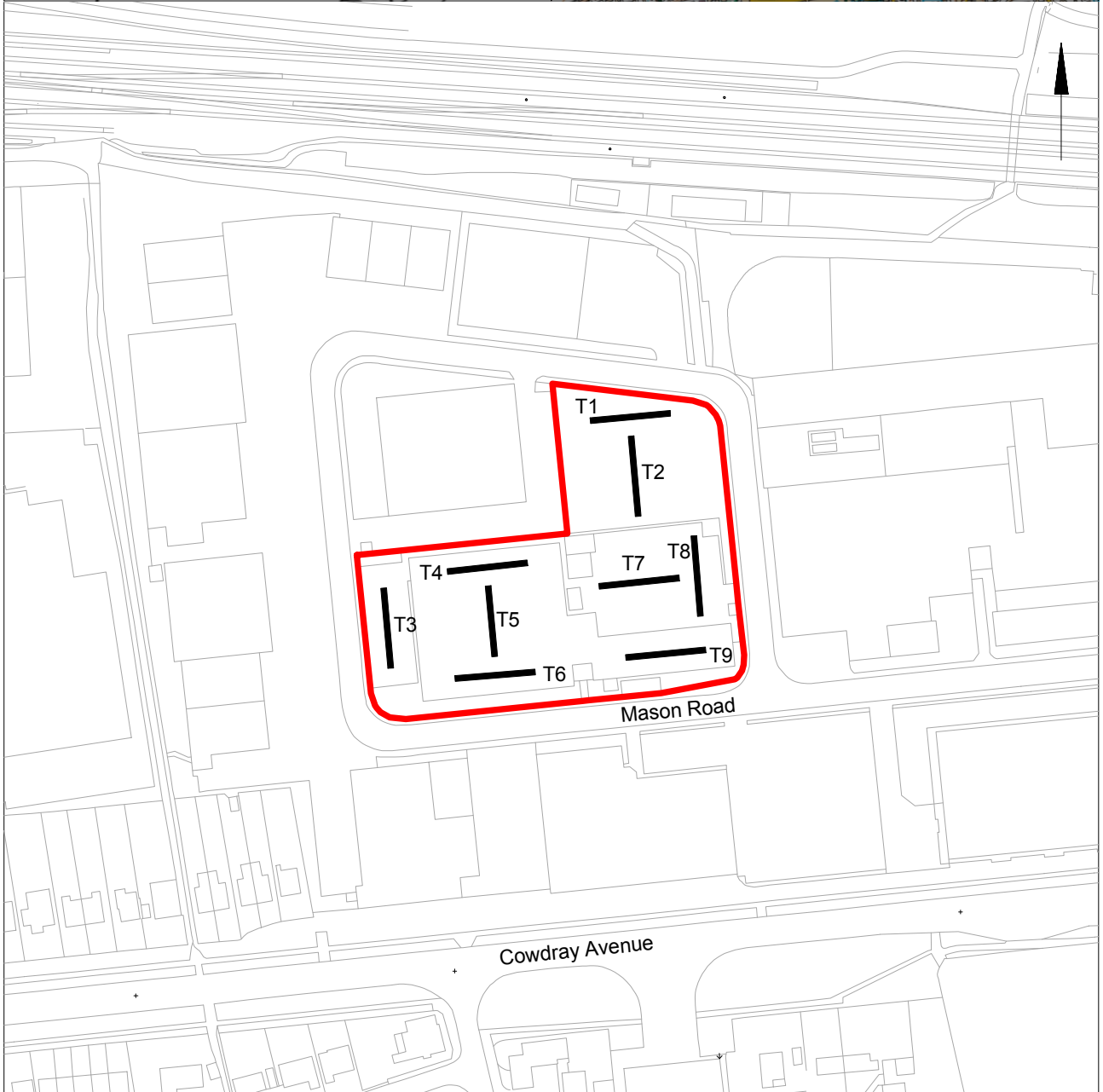
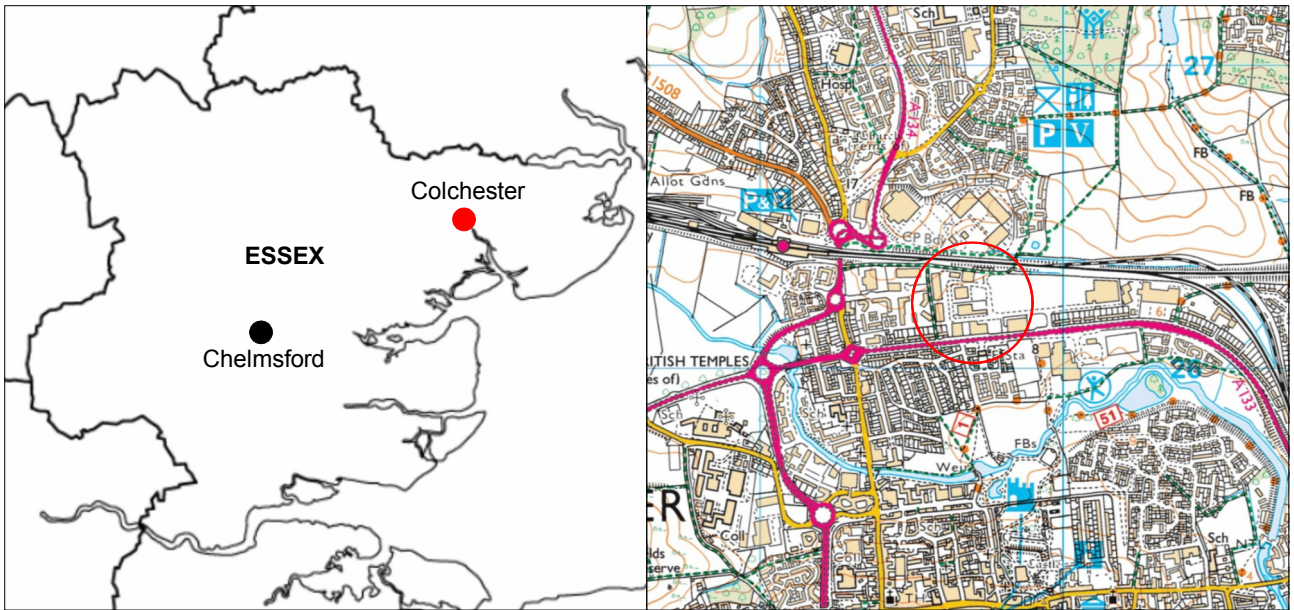


Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

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## Summary for colchest3-368226

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-368226
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land off Mason Road (Unit 22, Mason House), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1BX.
Sitename	land off Mason Road (Unit 22, Mason House), Colchester
Activity type	TRIAL TRENCH
Project Identifier(s)	2019/09I
Planning Id	192263
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	30-May-2022 - 31-May-2022
Location	land off Mason Road (Unit 22, Mason House), Colchester NGR : TL 99699 26195 LL : 51.8985045112769, 0.901164299010323 12 Fig : 599699,226195
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Three trial-trenches (T1-2 and T4) were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 25m long and 1.8m wide.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to Mason Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of new warehouse-type commercial units. The site is located within an area of known Roman burials. Due to contamination only three of nine trenches could be successfully excavated. Two modern features were uncovered.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4382
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;