

# Archaeological monitoring at St Mary's School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RB

August 2022



**by Megan Seehra and Laura Pooley**  
with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton

figures by Emma Holloway and Sarah Veasey  
fieldwork by Ziya Eksen and Megan Seehra

**commissioned by Craig Woods, Purcell**  
**on behalf of St Mary's School**

NGR: TL 98187 24998 (centre)  
Planning ref.: 213421  
CAT project ref.: 2022/07k  
ECC code: ECC4731  
OASIS ref.: colchest3-508273



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**CAT Report 1832**  
August 2022

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CAT wsi

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring took place at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for three storage buildings and associated drainage. Despite being in an area with high archaeological potential, no archaeological remains were encountered as most of the groundworks took place within modern layers.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex on the 2nd and 3rd August 2022. The work was commissioned by Craig Woods of Purcell on behalf of St Mary's School and took place during groundworks for three storage buildings.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Simon Wood advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Investigation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Simon Wood (CBCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2022).

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

## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The development site is located within the grounds of St Mary's Upper School which opened in 1908. It is located within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum*, to the west of the Roman walled town and within an area of both Late Iron Age and Roman cemeteries (MCC7525 and MCC7527; Hull 1958). In particular Roman lead coffins have been found c 153m north at 55 Endsleigh Court (MCC8073) and c 220m south-east (MCC1415), with many other burials found close-by.

The development site is also located on the southern edge of the Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement and industrial complex at Sheepen (MCC7487, Scheduled Monument no. 1002173). Sheepen was extensively excavated in the 1930s (Hawkes & Hull 1947) and 1970s (Niblett 1985; CAR 11, 131-7). Finds were prolific, and evidence found included remains of a trackway and workshops, with evidence of metal-working and coin manufacture (Crummy 1997, 15- 16).

The Late Iron Age settlement at Sheepen was defended on its western side by the Sheepen Dyke (MCC498). This was a large earth bank and ditch, which was probably constructed by c AD 10 (CAR 11 161-2). A later addition to the Sheepen Dyke extended to the south-west for approximately 340m ('Ditch 1A') and was sectioned in several places in the 1930s (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 111-12). This stretch was possibly added shortly before the Roman invasion. It was projected to run from the northeastern corner of the school, cross the southeastern corner of the Kingswode Hoe School, and towards the north bank of a stream, which is represented today by

a marked dip in Sussex Road. The Sheepen Dyke was probably levelled and the ditch backfilled shortly after the Roman conquest (Crummy 1997, 90; Hawkes & Hull 1947, 51 & 112).

Many Roman pottery—and tile—kilns have been excavated nearby to the north/north-east (MCC1822 and MCC7669) and in the grounds of Kingswode Hoe School (MCC8422, Hull 1963, 155-6). Recent investigations at Kingswode Hoe School have also revealed post-medieval/modern features (CAT Report 578) and part of the Sheepen Dyke, along with two other Roman ditches (CAT Report 623).

Roman remains of an unspecified nature were found close to the school when 'The Turrets' (89 Lexden Road) was being constructed in 1816 (Hull 1958, 292, MCC2134).

An evaluation in the north-east corner of St Mary's School in 2000 did not reveal any significant archaeological remains (CAT Report 95), an evaluation in 2017 revealed a single undated pit (CAT Report 1067) and during monitoring in 2020 only a modern pit was found (CAT Report 1627).

#### **4 Aims**

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

#### **5 Results** (Figs 2-3)

Three foundation pads and a drainage trench were excavated by the contractors under archaeological supervision.

Pad 1 was 3.5m by 10.5m and 0.42-0.66m below current ground level (bcgl)

Pad 2 was 3.5m by 3.5m, and 0.42-0.66m bcgl, and

Pad 3 was 3.5m by 9.5m, and 0.2-0.3m bcgl (not monitored as topsoil strip only).

The drainage trench was approximately 15m in length, 0.6m wide and 0.95m deep.

The following horizons were encountered:

- turfed topsoil associated with the sports field (L1, 0.30-0.34m thick, dark grey-brown silty sand) sealed
- a layer of modern makeup containing occasional fragments of CBM with rooting throughout (L2, 0.40-0.56m thick, medium grey-brown silty sand) overlying
- natural sands and gravels (L3, from c 0.75m bcgl, medium orange-brown sand with inclusion of: gravel 25% and stone 25%).

All three of the foundation pads were excavated through modern layers L1 and L2 only.

The drainage trench was excavated to natural ground level but no archaeological remains were encountered.





**Photograph 1** Pad 1, looking north-east



**Photograph 2** Excavation of Pad 2, looking north-west





**Photograph 3** Excavation of drainage trench, looking north



**Photograph 4** General view of site from south-west corner of site with Pad 3 strip in background, looking north-east

## 6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley

Topsoil L1 produced one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (fabric F40) with a weight of 11g which dates to c 1500-19th/20th century, and modern makeup layer L2 produced two fragments of clay pipe stem (9.6g). None retained.

## 7 Conclusion

No archaeological remains were encountered during monitoring at St Mary's School, Colchester, as most of the groundworks occurred within modern layers.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Craig Woods of Purcell for commissioning the work and St Mary's School for funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman and carried out by Z Eksen and M Seehra. Figures were prepared by E Holloway and S Veasey. The project was monitored for CBCPS 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>

- |                            |       |  |
|----------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, D                   | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>   |
| CAR 7                      | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> By J P Cotter   |
| CAR 11                     | 1995  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II.</i> By Hawkes and Crummy   |
| CAT                        | 2019  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT                        | 2022  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RB</i> by E Holloway |
| CAT Report 95              | 2000  | An archaeological evaluation at St Mary's School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester: September 2000   |
| CAT Report 578             | 2010  | Archaeological monitoring at Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2010   |
| CAT Report 623             | 2016  | <i>Archaeological investigations at Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2011</i>   |
| CAT Report 1067            | 2016  | <i>Archaeological evaluation at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex – February 2017.</i> By L Pooley   |
| CAT Report 1627            | 2020  | <i>Archaeological monitoring at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex – July-September 2020.</i> By E Hicks                                      |
| CBCPS                      | 2022  | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Monitoring at St Marys School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester.</i> By S Wood  |
| CifA                       | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>  |
| CifA                       | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>  |
| Crummy, P                  | 1997  | <i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>   |
| Gurney, D                  | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).   |
| Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R | 1947  | <i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39,</i> RRCSAL, 14  |
| Hull, M R                  | 1958  | <i>Roman Colchester</i>  |
| Hull, M R                  | 1963  | <i>The Roman Potters' Kilns of Colchester, Society of Antiquaries of London Report No. XXI</i>   |
| 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.  |
| Niblett, R                 | 1985  | <i>Sheepen: An Early Roman Industrial Site at Camulodunum.</i> CBA   |

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## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** Not retained

### Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1832)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

Scans of original site record (plan/sections)

Site 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 the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



**Distribution list**

St Mary's School

Craig Woods, Purcell

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

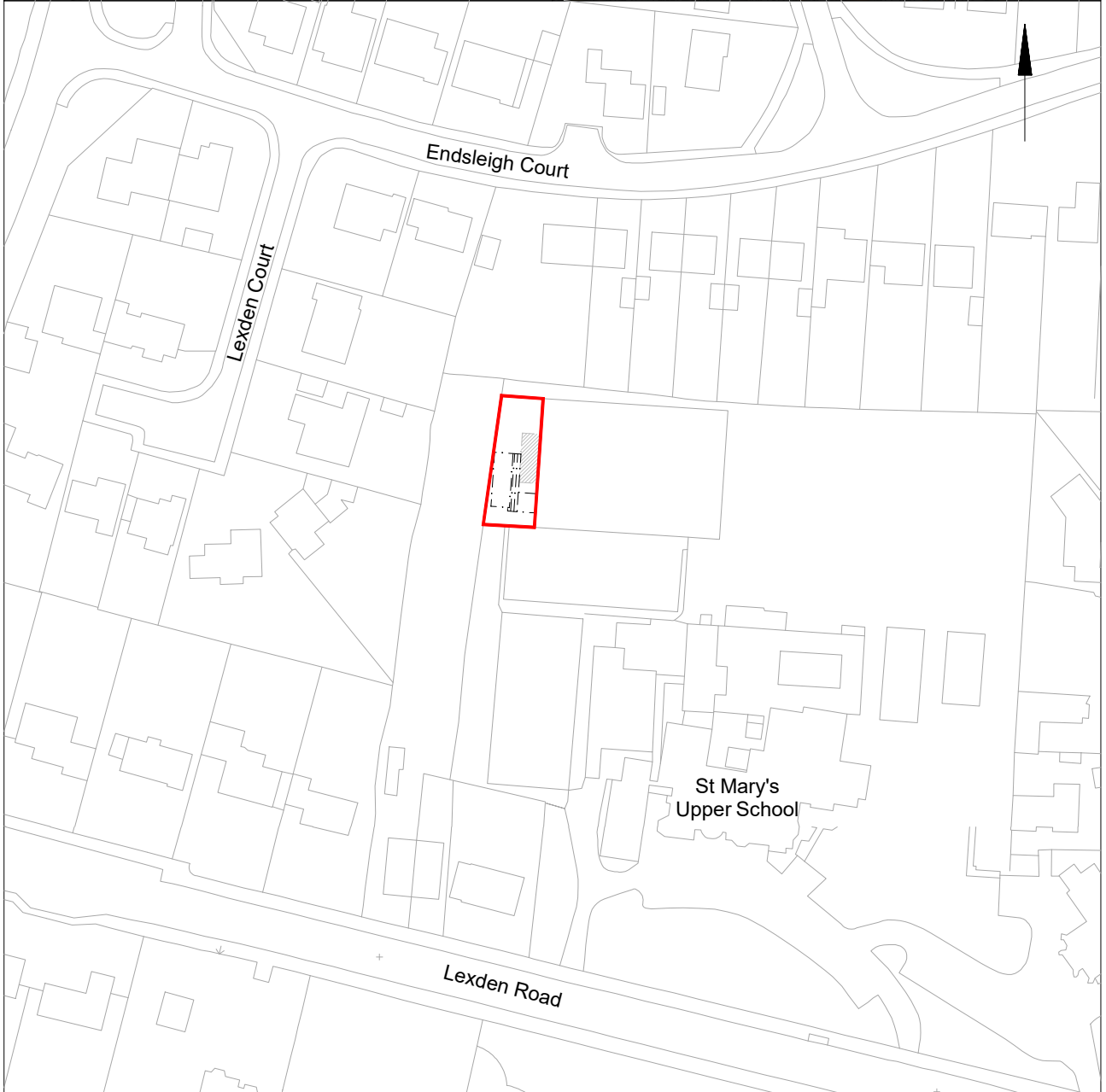
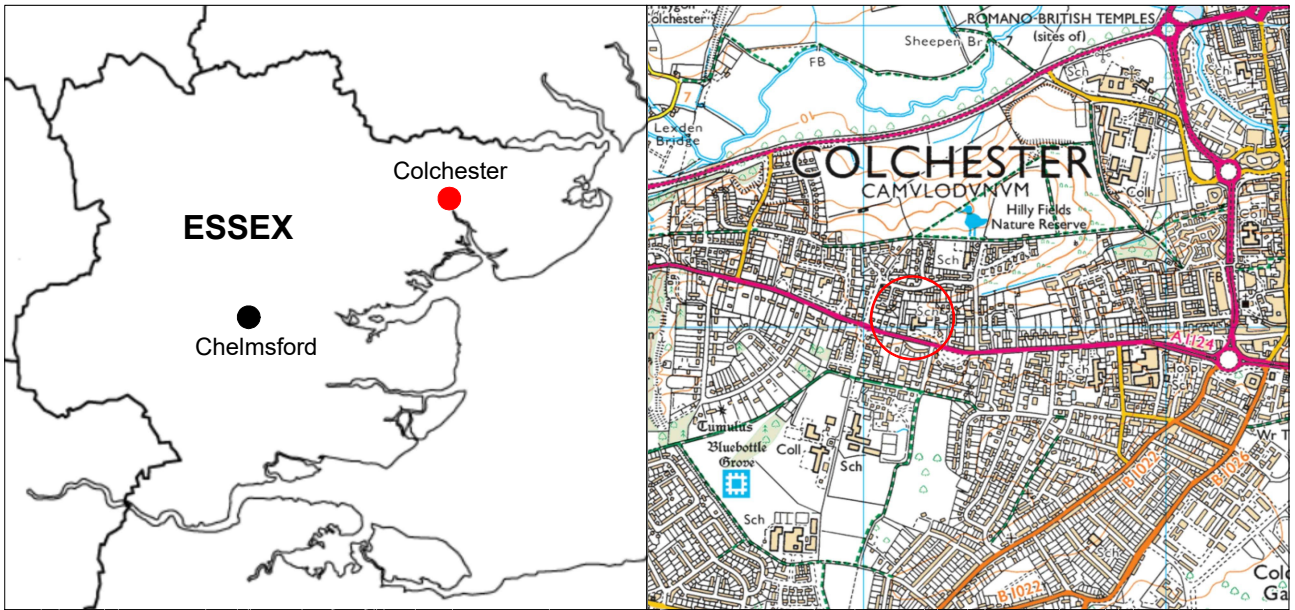
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

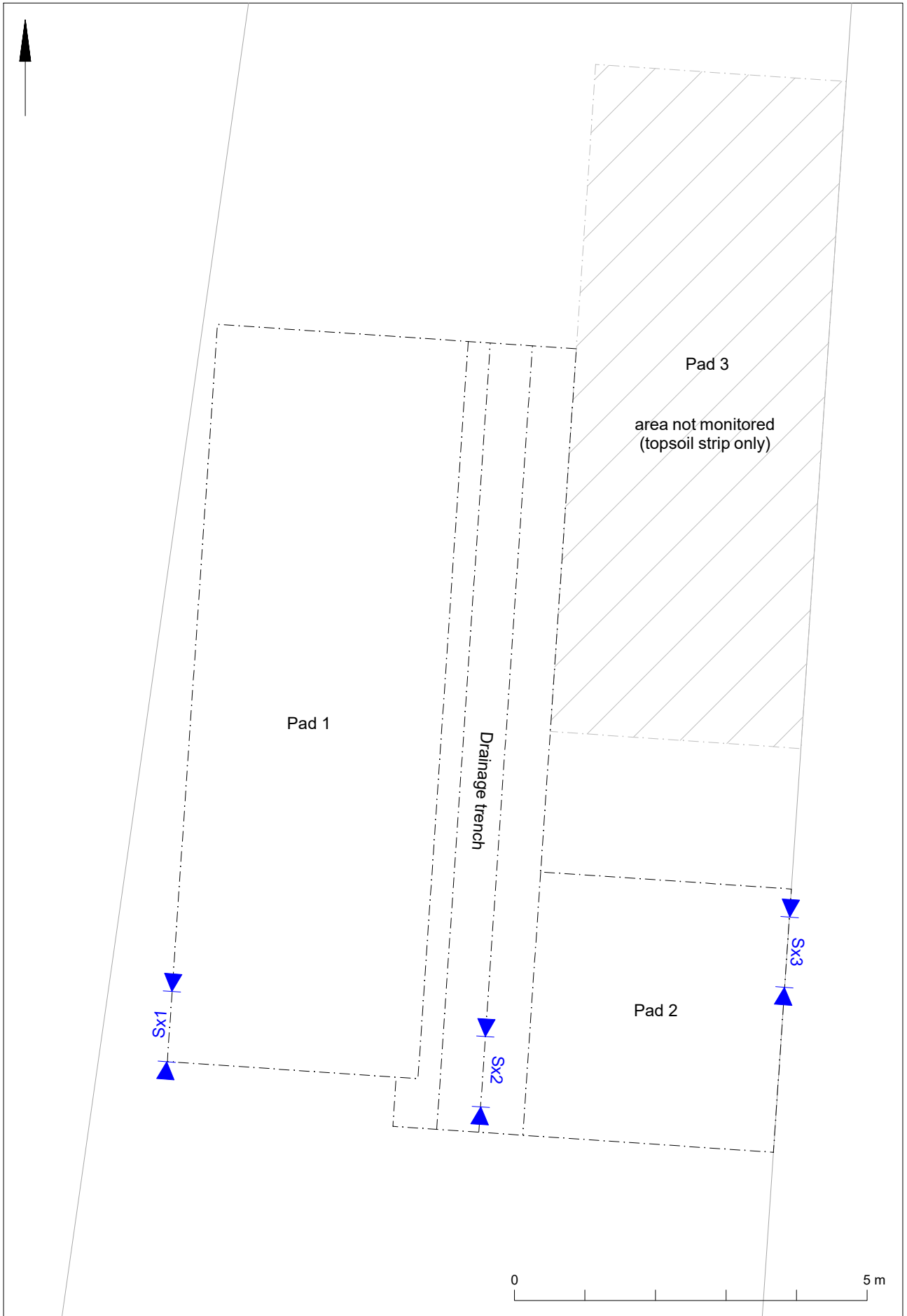
Date: 24/08/2022



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Fig 1 Site location.





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

Fig 2 Monitoring results.



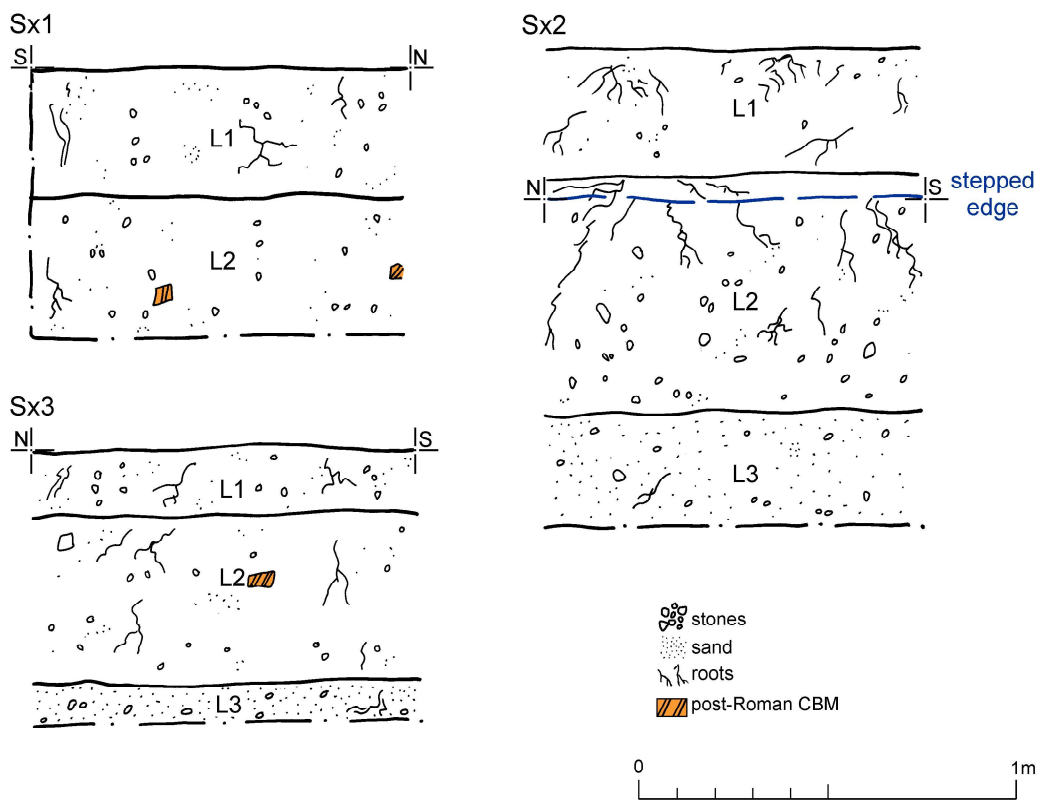


Fig 3 Representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3RB	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 98187 24998 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2022/07k CHER ref: ECC4731 OASIS ref: colchest3-508273
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 2nd and 3rd August 2022	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.01ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Archaeological Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> St Mary's School
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> MCC7525, MCC7527, MCC7487, MCC498, MCC1822, MCC7669, MCC8422, MCC2134, SMR1002173
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1832	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Archaeological monitoring took place at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for three storage buildings and associated drainage. Despite being in an area with high archaeological potential, no archaeological remains were encountered as most of the groundworks took place within modern layers.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Simon Wood	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Megan Seehra	<b>Date of summary:</b> August 2022

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for an archaeological investigation at  
St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road,  
Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RB.**

**NGR:** TL 98187 24998 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Planning references:** 213421

**Commissioned by:** Craig Woods (Purcell)

**Client:** St Marys School

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** tbc

**CAT project code:** 2022/07k

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-508273

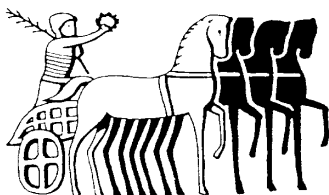
**Contracts Manager:** Chris Lister

**Fieldwork Manager:** Adam Wightman

**Post-excavation Manager:** Laura Pooley

**CBC monitor:** Simon Wood

**This WSI written:** 25/07/2022



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 1.43km west of the main historic core of Colchester town centre at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98187 24998. The development site covers an area of 119m<sup>2</sup>.

## Proposed work

The development comprises of the erection of three storage buildings adjacent to the existing sports courts and any associated groundworks including a new soakaway north of storage 2 to collect rainwater. The buildings are to be located inbetween two mature trees with root protection areas. Heras and scaffold fences will be erected to protect the trees during construction.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts from CAT Report 1067, the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECC/MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk))

The development site is located within the grounds of St Mary's Upper School which opened in 1908. It is located within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum*, to the west of the Roman walled town and within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery and (MCC7525 and MCC7527). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing) (Hull 1958 and *CAR 11*). In particular Roman lead coffins have been found c 153m north at 55 Endsleigh Court (MCC8073) and c 220m southeast of the development site (MCC1415), with many other burials found close-by.

The development site is also located on the southern edge of the Late Iron Age and early Roman settlement and industrial complex at Sheepen (MCC7487, Scheduled Monument no. 1002173). Sheepen was extensively excavated in the 1930s (Hawkes & Hull 1947) and 1970s (Niblett 1985; *CAR 11*, 131-7). Finds were prolific, and evidence found included remains of a trackway and workshops, with evidence of metal-working and coin manufacture (Crummy 1997, 15- 16).

The Late Iron Age settlement at Sheepen was defended on its western side by the Sheepen Dyke (MCC498). This was a large earth bank and ditch, which was probably constructed by c AD 10 (*CAR 11* 161-2). A later addition to the Sheepen Dyke extended to the south-west for approximately 340m ('Ditch 1A') and was sectioned in several places in the 1930s (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 111-12). This stretch was possibly added shortly before the Roman invasion. It was projected to run from the northeastern corner of the school, cross the southeastern corner of the Kingswode Hoe School, then continued towards the north bank of a stream, which is represented today by a marked dip in Sussex Road. The Sheepen Dyke was probably levelled and the ditch backfilled shortly after the Roman conquest (Crummy 1997, 90; Hawkes & Hull 1947, 51 & 112).

Many Roman pottery- and tile- kilns have been excavated nearby; to the north/north-east (MCC1822 and MCC7669) and in the grounds of Kingswode Hoe School (MCC8422, Hull 1963, 155-6). Recent investigations at Kingswode Hoe School have also revealed postmedieval/modern features (CAT Report 578) and part of the Sheepen Dyke along with two other Roman ditches (CAT Report 623).

Roman remains of an unspecified nature were found close to the school when 'The Turrets' (89 Lexden Road) was being constructed in 1816 (Hull 1958, 292, MCC2134).

An evaluation in the northeast corner of St Mary's School in 2000 did not reveal any significant archaeological remains (CAT Report 95) and an evaluation in 2017 as part of the re-organisation of the car-parking facilities revealed a single undated pit (CAT Report 1067) and during monitoring in 2020 for a new extension and decking area only a modern put was found (CAT Report 1627).

## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in December 2021 (application No. 213421) for the *erection of storage buildings adjacent to the existing sports courts..*

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). After the results of the evaluation an additional monitoring condition was added. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological investigation of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020).

Specifically:

The investigation is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and/or exceptional burnt remains related to the Boudiccan destruction of AD 60/61, and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

## **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* (ClfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2022).

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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. 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 CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

## **Investigation methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

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

## **Site surveying**

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 and 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 micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the 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 do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/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**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

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

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, 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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). 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.

## **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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). 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): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)  
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray  
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth  
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: Tom Lawrence  
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* (Historic England 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 the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site 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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- 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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

**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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

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.

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

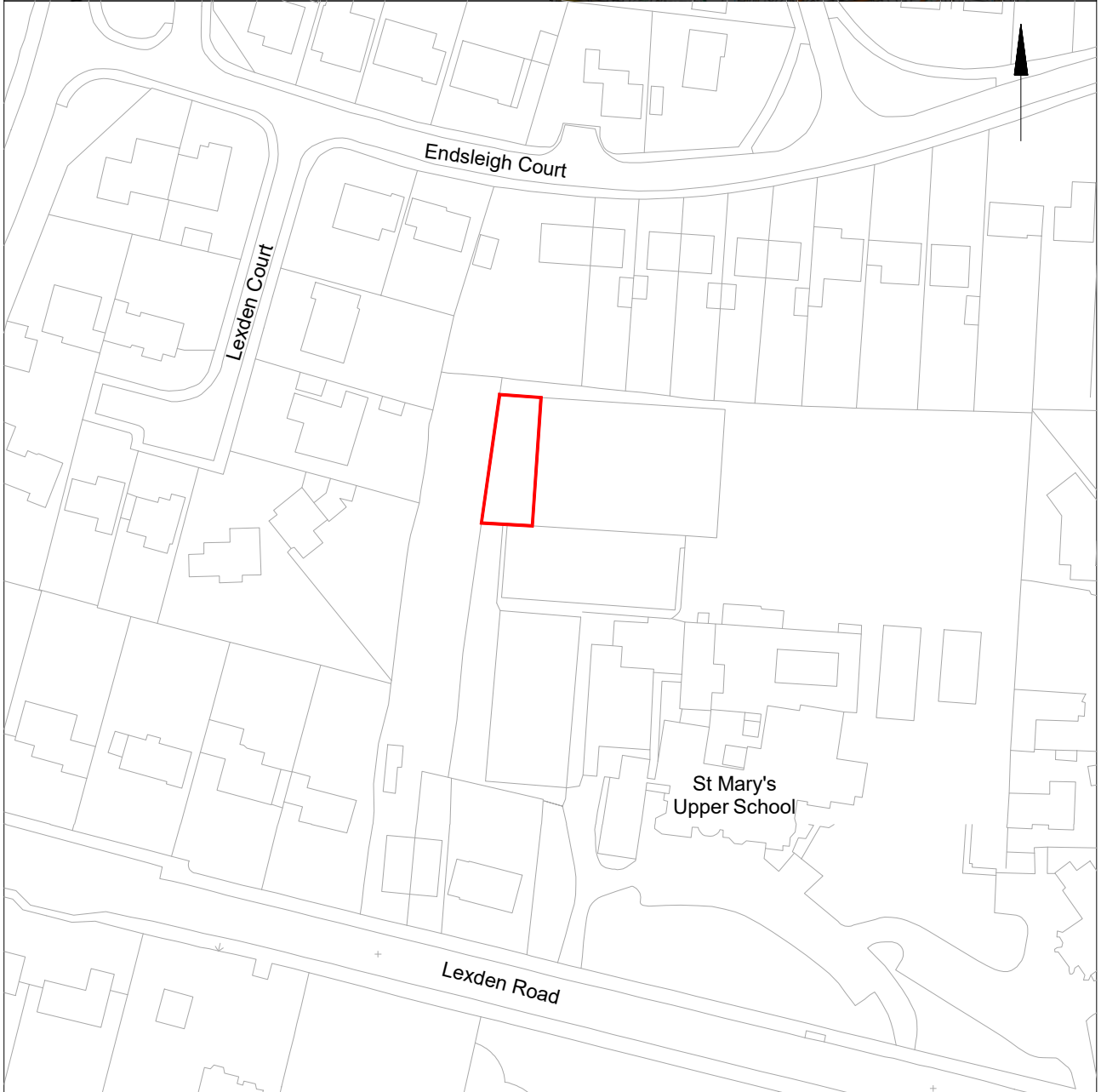
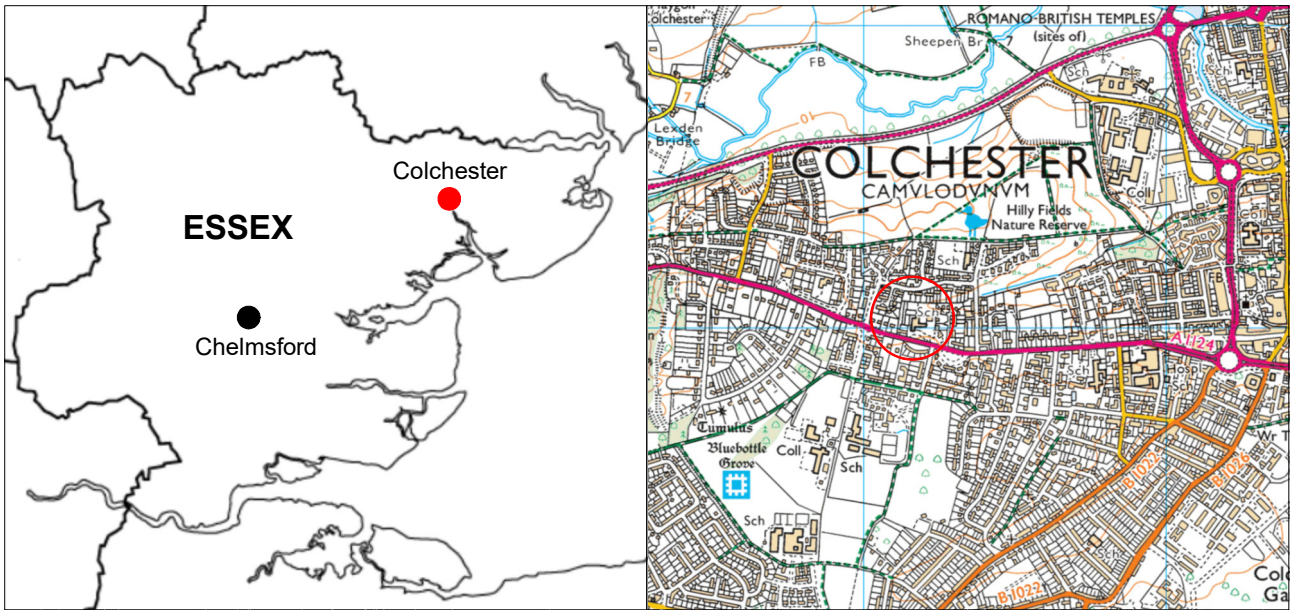
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|-------------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, D                      | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>                                       |
| CAR 11                        | 1995  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II, by Hawkes and Crummy</i>   |
| CAT                           | 2019  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT Report 95                 | 2000  | An archaeological evaluation at St Mary's School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester: September 2000   |
| CAT Report 578                | 2010  | Archaeological monitoring at Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2010                                       |
| CAT Report 623                | 2016  | Archaeological investigations at Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2011  |
| CAT Report 1067               | 2016  | <i>Archaeological evaluation at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex – February 2017.</i> By L Pooley                     |
| CAT Report 1627               | 2020  | <i>Archaeological monitoring at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex – July-September 2020.</i> By E Hicks                |
| CBCAA                         | 2022  | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Monitoring at St Marys School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester.</i> By S Wood  |
| CifA                          | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>  |
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| Crummy, P                     | 1997  | <i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</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).                         |
| Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R    | 1947  | <i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39, RRCSAL, 14</i>  |
| Historic England (HE)         | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse   |
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| 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                            |
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| 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) |
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| Niblett, R                    | 1985  | <i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum, CBA Research Report 57</i>  |

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Fig 1 Site location.



## Summary for colchest3-508273

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-508273
Project Name	Watching Brief at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RB.
Sitename	St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RB.
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/07k
Planning Id	213421
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	02-Aug-2022 - 03-Aug-2022
Location	St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3RB. NGR : TL 98187 24998 LL : 51.8882953878114, 0.8785304994817 12 Fig : 598187,224998
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Watching brief carried out on all groundworks
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring took place at St Mary's Upper School, 91 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for three storage buildings and associated drainage. Despite being in an area with high archaeological potential, no archaeological remains were encountered as most of the groundworks took place within modern layers.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	M, Seehra, L, Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4731
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;