

Colchester Archaeological Trust



CAT Report 1870
issued November 2022

**The Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road:
An archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of
Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DT –
October 2022**



CAT project ref.: 2022/09c
ECC code: ECC4751

**The Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road:
An archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of
Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DT –
October 2022**

NGR: TL 97538 23073

Planning ref.: 220150

**CAT project ref.: 2022/09c
CAT Report 1870**

**ECC code: ECC4751
OASIS id: colchest3-509327**

report prepared by Laura Pooley

**figures by Harvey Furniss, Laura Pooley
and Emma Holloway**

**fieldwork by Adam Wightman with Harvey Furniss,
Chloe Hill and Ziya Eksen**

**commissioned by Caroline Kay
for Colchester Amphora Homes Ltd**

Prepared by:	Laura Pooley	Post-Excavation Manager
Reviewed and approved by:	Philip Crummy	Director of Archaeology
Issued:	24th November 2022	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

web: www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex in advance of the demolition of garages and the construction of three new properties. The projected route of the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road was already known to pass through the development site, and the evaluation trenches were targeted to locate any surviving remains associated with the road.

The evaluation successfully located the remains of the Roman road, which consisted of four ditches, set out as two pairs, defining narrow footways on either side of a central carriageway. The footways were 2.1m and 2.6m wide, and the central carriageway c 6.2m across. The roadside ditches are well-defined at 1.05-1.45m wide and 0.28-0.44m deep. The road surface had not survived.

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 Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex on the 11th-13th October 2022. The work was commissioned by Caroline Kay of Colchester Amphora Homes Ltd and took place in advance of the demolition of garages and the construction of three new properties.

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 Simon Wood and detailing the required archaeological work (CBCAA 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (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 field 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 draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The development site is located within the *oppidum* of Camulodunum, close to the nationally-important Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 100218, MCC7470) which is known from aerial photographs, geophysical surveys and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; CAR 11, 95-105; CAT Reports 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure (MCC7044), possibly Cunobelin's farmstead (MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (MCC7472); a Romano-British temple (MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (MCC7043); a Roman theatre (MCC2831); a Roman watermain, possibly leading to a bath-house (MCC2903); and a Roman road leading to the walled Roman town of Colchester (MCC2529). Many of these remains are located within Gosbecks Archaeological Park, c 400m to the south-west of the development site.

The Roman road linking the Roman town of Colchester to Gosbecks (MCC2529) is projected to run through the development site. The course of the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road is well known, originating from the major Roman road junction beneath the Colchester Royal Grammar School (2.14km north-east of the development site) and running to the east side of the market, religious and likely administrative complex at Gosbecks (c 400m south-west). Early aerial photographs had revealed a road consisting of four ditches in two pairs, creating a main central carriageway with ancillary tracks to each side. Previous investigations had been carried out on the road at Rayners Farm in 1936 by Rex Hull (Hull 1958, fig 2.1; *CAR 11*, p138, no. 73) and at Gosbecks by the Colchester Archaeological Trust in 1989 (*CAR 11*, p121, no. 39). However, neither of these small excavations proved to be satisfactory in defining the road. Hull's section appeared to show all four ditches, but the overall road width defined by these is too narrow in comparison with the 1995 excavation (see below), and probably only three of them are part of the Roman road. The 1989 section was also confused by the presence of what was later revealed to be a post-medieval ditch (*CAR 11*, p121, no.39).

An excavation in advance of the construction of Cunobelin Way at Gosbecks in 1995 gave the first clear view of the road layout. It confirmed the aerial photographic evidence that the road consisted of four ditches set out as two pairs, defining narrower areas or footways, each just over 2m wide, on either side of a central carriageway which was about 7m across (CAT Report 127). Although little road metalling survived, there were distinct concentrations of stones across the road area at the base of the ploughsoil, especially in the top of the ditches and on the footways. The ditches themselves were slightly irregular, but were generally about 1m wide and between 0.6m and 0.7m deep, with steep sides and broad, slightly uneven bottoms (CAT Report 127).

Investigations at the former Alderman Blaxill School in 2017 revealed two parallel features which possibly represented one set of the (heavily truncated) parallel ditches flanking the carriageway (CAT Report 1167). Archaeological monitoring at 50 Cambridge Road in 2018 did not uncover any evidence of the road (CAT Report 1228), but monitoring at 36 Cambridge Road in 2019 revealed the remains of two ditches and a fragmentary metalled surface (CAT Report 1469).

Significant archaeological investigations at 60 Creffield Road in 2019-2021 revealed another section of the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road, aligned northeast to southwest, across the site (CAT Report 1587). Located only 120m south-west of the major Roman road junction beneath the Colchester Royal Grammar School, these investigations confirmed the precise route of the road leading from the town and revealed two distinct phases of development.

Phase 1 of the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road through 60 Creffield Road followed the layout of that identified in 1995 with a 7m wide central carriageway and ditch, 2m wide footway and second ditch on either side. Truncation of some of the features meant that only the two roadside ditches could be properly investigated which, compared to the 1995 ditches, were wider (at 1.17m and 2.3m) but slightly shallower (at 0.5-0.55m). There was no trace of any metalling on the carriageway or footways which were left as compacted dirt. Evidence suggested that Phase 1 dated to the early Roman period, from c AD 50 to 120.

Phase 2 of the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road through 60 Creffield Road saw the innermost ditches backfilled and the carriageway widen to c 10m and covered in metalling with two new roadside ditches at, on average, 1.12m wide by 0.44m deep. Phase 2 dated from the early 2nd century, perhaps as a result of increased use of the road into the Roman town. Phases of metalling revealed that the carriageway was being maintained and repaired, and likely continued in use into the later 4th century.

It is interesting to note that the two phases of development of the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road revealed during these investigations had not been apparent during any other archaeological work on the road in the past. However, of all the previous investigations, this was one of the most extensive and one of the closest to the Roman town and the major Roman road junction. The widening of the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road at this location may

have been fairly localised due to increased 'traffic' on the road around the town and around the junction, which was not necessary further to the south-west towards Gosbecks.

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits but specifically those associated with the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road, 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)

Three trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The presence of a number of modern services meant that slight changes were made to the size and positioning of the trenches from that proposed in the WSI.

- Trench 1 (T1) moved further to the north-east and was 13m long.
- Trench 2 (T2) was 10.5m long.
- Trench 3 (T3) was 10m long and dug in two sections.

A layer of modern concrete (0.12-0.25m thick), occasionally on a thin bed of modern sand (c 0.05m thick) covered the development site. Sealed beneath was a layer of cover loam (L1, 0.2-0.48m thick) which sealed natural (L2).

The Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road was aligned north-east to south-west across the development site. As seen elsewhere, the road consisted of four ditches set out as two pairs, defining narrow footways, each just over 2m wide, on either side of a central carriageway which was about 6-7m across. All of the features associated with the road were cut into L1 and L2.

Trench 1

Both ditches along the northwestern edge of the Roman road were present in T1.

- Ditch F1 was the outermost ditch, it was u-shaped with gently sloping sides, c 1.2m wide and 0.28m deep.
- Ditch F2 was also u-shaped with gently sloping sides, c 1.45m wide and 0.37m deep.
- Between the two ditches was a c 2.1m wide footway with no original surface surviving.
- There was no trace of the Roman road surface to the south-east of the ditches or of the innermost ditch on the southeastern edge of the Roman road.
- Ditch F2 cut natural feature F3.

Trench 2

Three of the roadside ditches were present in T2, one on the northwestern edge and two on the southeastern.

- Ditch F4 is a continuation of F2 in T1. The full width of the ditch could not be determined but appears to be u-shaped with gently sloping sides, c 0.29m deep.
- To the south-east of ditch F4 was the 6.2m wide Roman road leading to ditch F6. There was no trace of the Roman road surface.
- Ditch F6 was slightly irregular in section, still u-shaped but with perhaps a slightly steeper slope. It was 1.05m wide and 0.44m deep.
- A small part of ditch F5 was identified in the southeastern edge of the trench. It was excavated to a depth of c 0.38m.
- Between the two ditches was a 2.6m wide footway with no original surface surviving.
- Ditch F2 cut natural feature F8.

Trench 3

Only the outermost ditch along the southeastern edge of the Roman road was present in T3.

- Ditch F7 was a continuation of F5 in T2. The full width of the ditch could not be determined but is u-shaped with gently sloping sides, 0.33m deep.



Photograph 1 Trench 1, ditch F1, looking north-east.



Photograph 2 Trench 1, ditch F2 and natural feature/pit F3, looking north-east.



Photograph 3 Trench 1, ditches F1 and F2 with the footway between and the central carriageway to the south-east, looking south-east.



Photograph 4 Trench 2, ditch F6, looking south-west.



Photograph 5 Trench 2, ditch F4, looking north-east.



Photograph 6 Trench 2, ditches F4 (front) and F6 (back) with the central carriageway in between, looking south-east.



Photograph 7 Trench 3, ditch F7, looking north-east.



Photograph 8 Site shot with Trench 3 in the foreground, looking west-south-west.

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Hedge Drive has revealed that the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road does pass through the development site. As seen on previous archaeological investigations along the road, it consisted of four ditches set out as two pairs, defining narrow footways 2.1m and 2.6m wide, on either side of a central carriageway which was c 6.2m across. The roadside ditches are well-defined at 1.05-1.45m wide and 0.28-0.44m deep, although the road surface has not survived. Based on the results of this evaluation, the route of the Roman road through the development site has been plotted on Fig 4.

It has already been decided by the CBCAA that an archaeological excavation will take place on the development site to better define the Roman road. Priority should be given to recording a continuous section across the full width of the road, to excavate full width sections across all of the ditches, and to look for any dating evidence. Following excavation, a precise plot of the Roman road through the development site can be used to better project the route of the road between the nearest known fixed points to the south-west (at Gosbecks – CAT Report 127) and north-east (Paxman Avenue – CAT Report 1167).

This evaluation and future excavation on the site are important as East of England Research Framework LIA-ROM 010 asks 'Can we map the development of Late Iron Age and Roman roads?', and here we can map the development of a significant Roman road which connected the town of Colchester to the market, religious and likely administrative complex at Gosbecks.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Caroline Kay and Colchester Amphora Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman, and fieldwork was carried out by H Furniss with Z Eksen and C Hill. Figures are by H Furniss, L Pooley 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>

CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DT</i>
CAT Report 30	1998	<i>Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-west area.</i>
CAT Report 45	1999	<i>Excavation at Gosbecks Archaeological Park: July-August 1999.</i>
CAT Report 127	2008	<i>Excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex 1995-1996.</i>
CAT Report 345	2005	<i>A Roman temple-tomb at Colchester Royal Grammar School, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2005.</i>
CAT Report 1167	2017	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Alderman Blaxill County Secondary School, Paxman Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DQ: September 2017.</i>
CAT Report 1587	2022	<i>Archaeological evaluation, excavation and monitoring at 60 Creffield Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2019-July 2021.</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester.</i> By S Wood
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.</i> Updated June 2020.
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> Updated June 2020.
CifA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and</i>

		<i>research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated October 2020.
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised Oct 2022
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>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</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	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Late Iron Age	Period from c 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of digital archive

CAT Report 1855
 CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
 Site digital photographs and photographic log
 Graphic files
 Site data
 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

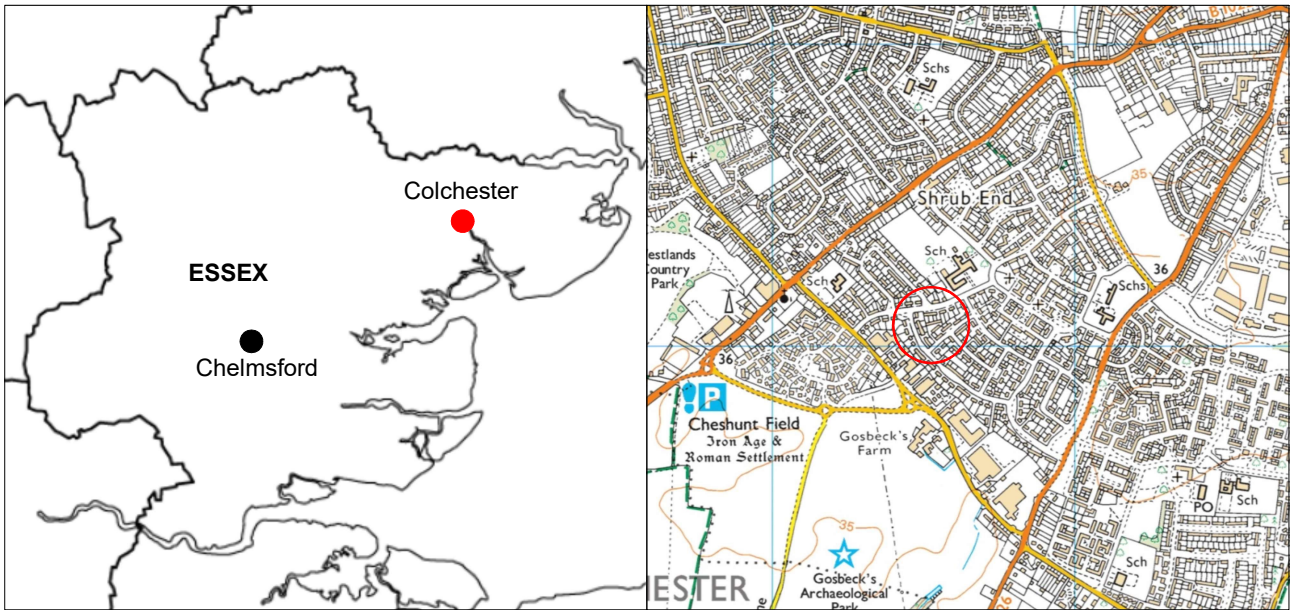
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Distribution list:

Caroline Kay, Colchester Amphora Homes Ltd
 Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
 Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context no.	Trench no.	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Cover loam	Friable/firm moist light grey/brown silty loam	Post-Roman
L2	All	-	Natural	Compact, gravely and sandy clay.	Post-glacial
F1	T1	-	Ditch	Friable/firm moist light/medium orange/grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: gravel 25% stone 30%	Roman
F2	T1	-	Ditch	Firm moist medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 5%	Roman
F3	T1	-	Natural feature	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy silt	Post-glacial
F4	T2	-	Ditch	Friable/firm moist light/medium grey/brown sandy silty loam and inclusions of: gravel 25% stone 20%	Roman
F5	T2	-	Ditch	Soft moist light grey clayey sand	Roman
F6	T2	-	Ditch	Friable/firm moist light/medium grey/brown sandy silty loam and inclusions of: gravel 20% stone 20%	Roman
F7	T3	-	Ditch	Firm moist medium grey/brown sandy silt	Roman
F8	T2	-	Natural feature	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy silt	Post-glacial



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Fig 1 Site location.



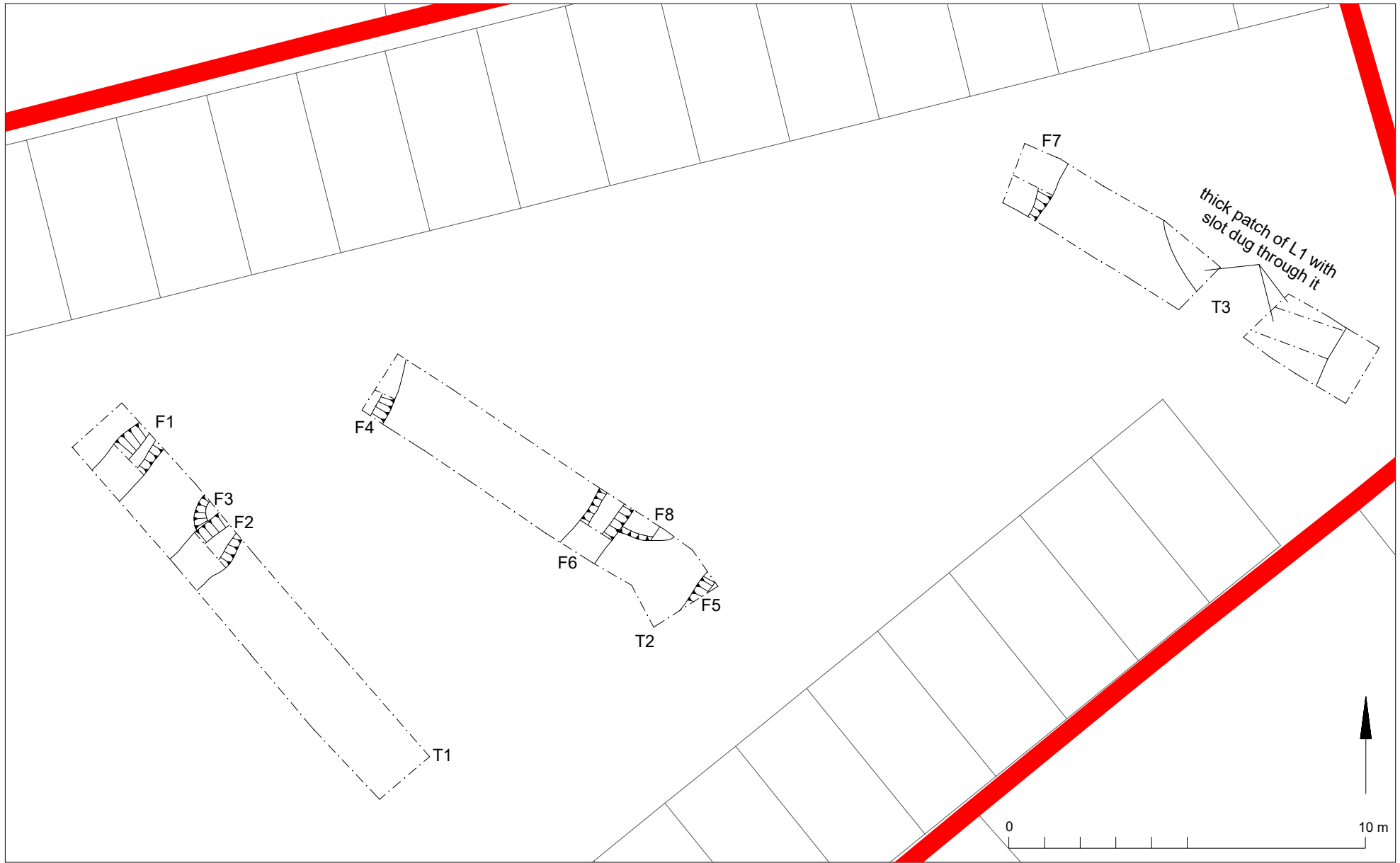


Fig 2 Results.

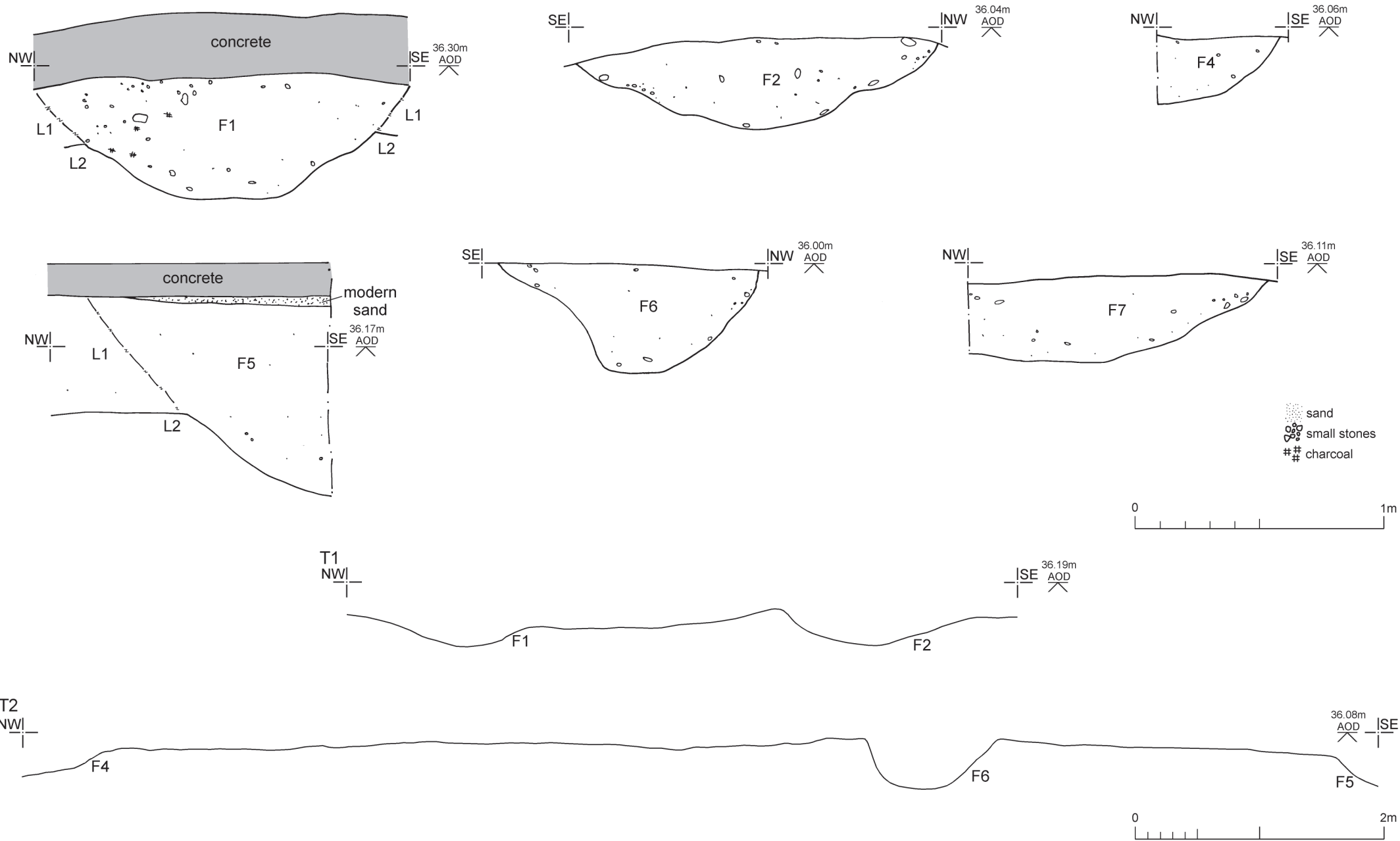


Fig 3 Feature sections and trench profiles.



Fig 4 Projected route of the Roman road through the development site based on the results on the evaluation



Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DT	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 97538 23073 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/09c CHER ref.: ECC4751 OASIS ref.: colchest3-509327
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 11th-13th October 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.17h
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related CHER/SMR number: MCC2529
Final report: CAT Report 1870	
Periods represented: Romano-British	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex in advance of the demolition of garages and the construction of three new properties. The projected route of the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road was already known to pass through the development site, and the evaluation trenches were targeted to locate any surviving remains associated with the road.</p> <p>The evaluation successfully located the remains of the Roman road, which consisted of four ditches, set out as two pairs, defining narrow footways on either side of a central carriageway. The footways were 2.1m and 2.6m wide, and the central carriageway c 6.2m across. The roadside ditches are well-defined at 1.05-1.45m wide and 0.28-0.44m deep. The road surface had not survived.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: n/a	
CBC monitor: Simon Wood	
Keywords: Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road	Significance: ***
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: November 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DT

NGR: TL 97538 23073 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Colchester

Planning references: 220150

Commissioned by: Caroline Kay (Colchester Amphora Homes Ltd)

Client: Colchester Amphora Homes Ltd

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: [tbc](#)

CAT project code: 2022/09c

OASIS project number: colchest3-509327

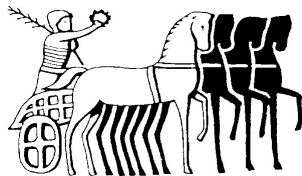
Contracts Manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork Manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation Manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 13/09/2022



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

tel: 01206 501785 (option 1)

email: services@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 2.95km southwest of the historic core of Colchester City Centre and on land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex. The site is centred on national grid reference (NGR) TL 97538 23073. The site is irregular in shape, with no road frontage. It is bounded by residential development to all sides. Access to the site is gained off Hedge Drive in the southeastern corner of the site.

Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of 39 garages and an area of hardstanding to be replaced with a pair of three bedroom demi-detached houses and a two bedroom bungalow with associated parking, landscaping and groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The geology for the site area includes a bedrock of London clay formation (clay, silt and sand), with superficial deposits of cover sand (clay, silt and sand)¹.

The site is located within the *oppidum* of Camulodunum. In close proximity to site is the nationally important Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 100218, MCC7470) which is known from aerial photographs, geophysical surveys, and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; *CAR 11*, 95-105; CAT Report 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, driveways and field systems; a large enclosure (MCC7044), possibly Cunobelin's farmstead (MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (MCC7472); a Romano-British temple (MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (MCC7043); a Roman theatre (MCC2831); a Roman watermain, possibly leading to a bath-house (MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (MCC2529). Many of these remains are located within Gosbecks Archaeological Park.

A Roman road linking the town to Gosbecks (MCC2529) is projected to run through the site (see Fig 1). Sections were excavated through the road in 1936 (Hull 1958 and *CAR 11*, MCC7087) and by CAT in 1989 (*CAR 11*, 121, MCC8094), but neither proved to be satisfactory in defining the road. However, excavations by CAT in 1995 (CAT Report 127) showed that the road consisted of four ditches set out in two pairs defining two footways c 2m wide with a main carriageway c 7m wide in the centre. The western roadside ditch and part of the metalling was also defined in 2005 at the Colchester Royal Grammar School at the point where major roads intersect (CAT Report 345, MCC5229). To the north of this intersection, the road continues towards Balkerne Gate (MCC475, MCC555).

Recent archaeological investigations at 60 Creffield Road identified the Colchester to Gosbecks Roman road aligned northeast to southwest across the centre of the development site (CAT Report 1587, ECC4448). The road comprised of two phases, Phase 1 dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, and Phase 2, probably dating to the early 2nd century. Phases of metalling show that the carriageway was being maintained and repaired, with evidence suggesting that it was in use until the late 4th century when a small number of gullies had been cut into the surface. To the east of the road were a series of pits dating from the mid/late 1st to the 2nd century. Four are probably pits containing pyre debris, as although only one produced cremated human bone, all four showed evidence of scorching around the edges/base of the feature, and burnt animal bone and pottery sherds were recovered from them. A large post-medieval/modern linear or quarry pit was also excavated along with a few gullies and pits of a similar date.

Alderman Blaxill School was demolished in 2017 and replaced by the Paxman Academy buildings. Prior to the demolition, Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook trial-trenching

1 www.geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk

along Paxman Avenue in order to determine the location and state of preservation of the Gosbecks to Colchester Roman road. This evaluation identified mixed evidence to indicate the survival of the road and was interpreted as an indication that this section of the road had little or no nearby settlement. This in turn may have contributed to a poorly-defined or at least poorly-maintained section that has proven difficult to identify (CAT Report 1167, ECC4075).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2022 (application number 213130) for the *redevelopment of site to involve the demolition of the existing garages on site, and provision of 3 no. new dwellings*.

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 2021).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022).

Specifically,

As per the brief, three linear trenches will be excavated. Due to the irregular shape of the plot, and the need to avoid tree roots, CAT proposes the trenches be 18m long (T1), 15m long (T2) and 12m long (T3), all by 1.8m wide. This equates to 45m of trenching covering an area of 81m².

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.
- 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.

Contingencies will be included for scientific analysis of significant deposits such as absolute dating, soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits.

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 a 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)

- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 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 supervisor plus two archaeologists for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furness/Nigel Rayner/Sarah Veasey

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), at least a 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens 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 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 Historic England guidance (2018), if the human remains are not to be lifted the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

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 (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/Pip Parmenter - 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 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 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.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. Staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works in partnership with Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785 (option 1).

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> . 2nd Edition
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 30	1998	<i>Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-west area</i> . By S Benfield
CAT Report 45	1999	<i>Excavation at Gosbecks Archaeological Park: July-August 1999</i> . By C Austin
CAT Report 127	2008	<i>Excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex 1995-1996</i> . By S Benfield
CAT Report 345	2005	<i>A Roman temple-tomb at Colchester Royal Grammar School</i> ,

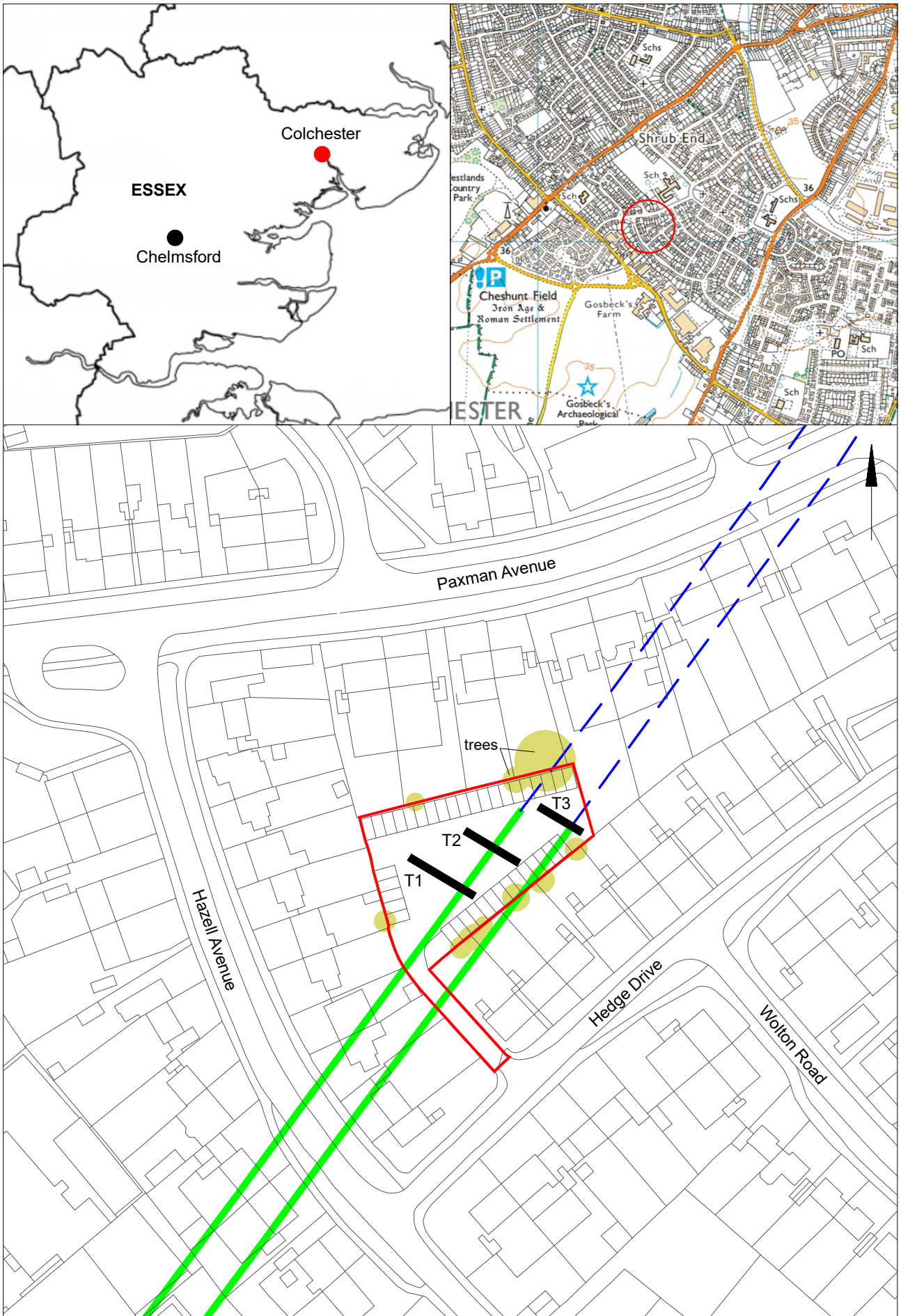
CAT Report 1167	2017	<i>Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2005</i> <i>Archaeological evaluation at Alderman Blaxill County Secondary School, Paxman Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DQ: September 2017.</i>
CAT Report 1587	2022	<i>Archaeological evaluation, excavation and monitoring at 60 Creffield Road, Colchester, Essex.</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester. By S Wood</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation. Revised Oct 2020</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Updated Oct 2020</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct. Revised Oct 2021</i>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC) Gurney, D	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Historic England	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole & P Backhouse</i>
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</i>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

Emma Holloway



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

tel: 01206 501785 (option 4)
email: eh@catuk.org



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the EHER cropmark plots (shown in green) and the projected route of the Roman road (dashed blue).

0 50 m

Summary for colchest3-509327

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-509327
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5WR
Sitename	Land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5WR
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/09c
Planning Id	220150
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	11-Oct-2022 - 13-Oct-2022
Location	Land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5WR NGR : TL 97538 23073 LL : 51.8712398115327, 0.868011492591025 12 Fig : 597538,223073
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation of the site (three trial-trenches), excavated as per the conditions laid out in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	<p>An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of Hedge Drive, Colchester, Essex in advance of the demolition of garages and the construction of three new properties. The projected route of the Colchester-to-Gosbecks Roman road was already known to pass through the development site, and the evaluation trenches were targeted to locate any surviving remains associated with the road.</p> <p>The evaluation successfully located the remains of the Roman road, which consisted of four ditches, set out as two pairs, defining narrow footways on either side of a central carriageway. The footways were 2.1m and 2.6m wide, and the central carriageway c 6.2m across. The roadside ditches are well-defined at 1.05-1.45m wide and 0.28-0.44m deep. The road surface had not survived.</p>
Keywords	Road - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	L, Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4751
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;