

**An archaeological watching brief  
at the North Primary School,  
John Harper Street,  
Colchester, Essex  
July-August 2012**

**report prepared by  
Ben Holloway**

**on behalf of  
Essex County Council  
Infrastructure Delivery Team**

HEM project code: CCNP 12  
CAT project ref.: 12/3b  
Colchester and Ipswich Museums accession code: COLEM 2011.90  
NGR: TL 9919 2584 (c)



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**  
Roman Circus House,  
Circular Road North,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 3GZ

*tel.:* 07436273304  
*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 659**  
October 2012

## 1 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on an archaeological watching brief at the North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester, Essex, undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). The school is half a mile north of the town centre, and west of North Station Road (TL 9919 2584 (c)). The site was a grassed sports pitch to the west of the main school buildings.

The Historic Environment Management (HEM) team of Essex County Council was consulted by Essex County Council in November 2011 on an outline planning application for the construction of additional classrooms and an all-weather multi-use play area. In response to consultation, the HEM team made a recommendation for archaeological work to be undertaken here.

The first stage of work here was the 2011 evaluation by CAT, which was reported on in CAT Report 624. Following the evaluation, and taking into account the results, ECC HEM team (now named Place Services, ie ECCPS) decided that the appropriate next stage would be detailed monitoring and recording (a watching brief), as detailed in a brief written by Adrian Gascoyne (ECCPS 2012). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT in response to the ECCPS brief, and agreed with the Place Services historic environment specialist (CAT 2012).

The first phase of archaeological work here was the watching brief undertaken by CAT on groundworks in April-May 2012 (CAT Report 649).

The second phase of the archaeological work was commissioned by Mr Neil Pendrigh of the Essex County Council Infrastructure Delivery Team. The watching brief was carried out by CAT in July-August 2012. Post-excavation work was carried out in August-October 2012.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork was done in accordance with the CAT *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a), and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CIMS 2008b), and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

## 2 Report on the watching brief (Figs 1-2)

The North Primary School is within the site of an extramural development with its frontages along a road leading north from the walled Roman town (Fig 1).

In July-August 2012, a watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of two small classrooms (class-bases B, C; Fig 2) and the surface of an all-weather play area in the grounds of the North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester, Essex.

These works formed the second phase of some improvements to the school, the groundworks for the first phase of which were monitored in April-May 2012 (class-base A, Fig 1; CAT Report 649).

The trenches were 0.60m wide and 1.20-1.40m deep. The trenches for the strip footings for class-base B revealed a deposit of demolition debris from a Roman building, probably of 2nd- or 3rd-century date. The debris consisted of crushed painted wall-plaster, tile, and CBM. No *in situ* foundations or other remains were observed, but the presence of the debris strongly indicates the site of a Roman house or other building in the vicinity.

Trenches for the foundations of class-base C revealed nothing but topsoil and natural. All that was revealed here of archaeological significance was a small patch of compacted gravel which, to judge by its appearance, may have been the

remains of either a yard or a minor road which led to the main road out of the walled town.

The existing ground-level was lowered by 600mm for the construction of the all-weather play area. The excavations for two soakaways associated with the play area were also monitored. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed.

### **3 Archaeological background** (Fig 1)

This section is based on records held by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The North Primary School is located outside the walled part of the Roman town of *Colonia Victricensis*. It lies within the site of a suburb which developed alongside the road leading out of the north-west gate of the Roman town. Previous archaeological work has demonstrated the existence of high-status buildings in the area.

Around 50m south-east of the site, the remains of a large Roman house was discovered by CAT during construction work for the Midland (now HSBC) Bank at 26 North Station Road (CAR 6, 346). A Roman mosaic pavement was found 60m to the south-east of the current site in 1880, less than 1m below the ground surface. Another pavement was found in front of the Victoria Inn in 1929 (CAR 6, 346) and, in 2001, an archaeological evaluation by CAT adjacent to the Victoria Inn revealed part of a previously unknown tessellated floor, 600mm below modern ground-level (CAT Report 163). On the other side of North Station Road, to the rear of the Globe Hotel, the remains of another high-status building were recorded by CAT (CAT Report 248).

Local ground conditions (possibly wet ground near the river) to the west of the school buildings are favourable for the preservation of archaeological deposits including organic material and palaeo-environmental evidence. However, an archaeological watching brief undertaken in 2004, during the construction of an extension along the southern boundary of the school grounds, showed that the ground in this area had been raised substantially so that most of what was disturbed consisted of modern made-up layers. Natural ground was not reached and the contractor's excavations did not extend to a great enough depth to impact any archaeological deposits that may survive on the site (CAT Report 284).

An archaeological evaluation by five test-pits carried out in November 2011 by CAT (CAT Report 624) showed that there was a Roman horizon at 1.0m to 1.2m below ground-level under the school sports pitch (west of the school buildings). This deposit contained pottery, brick/tile debris, oyster shell and charcoal flecking. The remains of a fragmentary wall foundation were recorded, which must derive from a building which once stood here in the Roman suburb.

Monitoring work carried out by CAT in April-May 2012 on the foundation trenches for class-base A (CAT Report 649) showed that the eastern end of the site had been subject to some ground-reduction, with features only surviving at the western end of the site. These features consisted of an east-west aligned Roman ditch, probably a boundary within the wider Roman suburb, and a large modern pit which appeared to be associated with furnace waste from the school.

## **4 The finds**

*by Stephen Benfield*

### **Introduction**

Small quantities of bulk finds dated to the Roman, post-medieval and modern periods were recovered from two layers (L2, L4) and as unstratified finds. The majority of the finds consist of Roman building material, ceramic building material (CBM), mortar and painted wall-plaster. A small quantity of pottery was also

recovered, dating to the early/mid 1st and 2nd centuries. All of the finds are listed by context in Table 2 below and an overall spot-date for each context is provided.

Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester Roman pottery fabric series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; CAR 10) and vessel forms to the Colchester Camulodunum (Cam) pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). The fabric HZ(GT) has been added and is briefly described in Table 1. Post-Roman pottery was recorded with reference to the Colchester post-Roman fabric series (CAR 7). The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: list of pottery fabrics.**

Fabric	Description
<i>Roman:</i>	
AA	amphoras, all (excluding Dressel 20 and Brockley Hill/Verulamium region amphoras)
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20
BA(MV)	Les Martres-de-Veyre plain samian
CS	Pompeian-red ware
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares
FJ	Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised wares
GP	fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type and north Kent wares)
GTW	grog-tempered ware
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
HZ(GT)	grog-tempered storage jar fabrics
<i>Post-Roman:</i>	
40	post-medieval red earthenwares (general)

**Table 2: list of finds by finds number and context with finds spot dates.**

con-text	finds no	location	finds	finds spot-date
L2	2	Strip footing for class-base B	<b>Wall-plaster Roman</b> 12@ 255 g, mostly with red surface, one with edge of white ?stripe, 2 pieces white. <b>Mortar</b> 2@ 103 g, <i>opus signinum</i> (Roman), white lime mortar	Roman
L4	1	Strip footing for class-base B	<b>Pottery Roman</b> Fabric BA(MV) 1@ 10g Dr 33; Fabric CS 3@ 57 g, not join, from rim and base edge of dish (Cam 17); Fabric DJ 15 @ 228 g, pale yellow-orange fabric, probably from same pot; Fabric GX 1@ 3 g <b>CBM Roman</b> 7@ 1,516 g, RBT (mortar over breaks - re-used), <i>imbrex</i> , ? <i>tegula</i> lower cutaway (Warry Type C5) although has unusual ledge at base of flange and is possibly post-Roman; <i>tessera</i> cube 1@ 19 g. <b>Modern</b> 1@ 12 g thin tile/brick, hard, coarse, very mixed fabric with part of smooth perforation, probably modern. <b>Undated</b> 1@ 60 g (possibly stone) broken piece from a block or brick/tile corner, grey fabric (overfired?) or possibly septaria), mortar across breaks/rough edges. <b>Mortar</b> white lime mortar, 2@ 776 g, flat surfaces, right-angle corner/edge, max. thickness 600 mm <b>Shell</b> Oyster shell, 2@ 119 g	primarily Roman (2nd century+) (?residual) with post-Roman/modern CBM piece(s)
L4	4	Strip footing for class-base B	<b>CBM Roman</b> 2@ 673 g, RBT (mortar over breaks - re-used), <i>imbrex</i> . <b>Post-Roman</b> 1@ 548 g glazed brick, patchy grey glaze on one surface, edge piece,	post-medieval (residual Roman)

con-text	finds no	location	finds	finds spot-date
			thickness 35 mm, not closely dated (?17th-18th century)	
US	3		<b>Pottery Roman</b> Fabric AA, 1@88 g (red sandy fabric), Fabric CS 1@ 17 g, rim (Cam 17); Fabric DJ 1@ 2 g; Fabric GP 1@5 g (beaker); Fabric GX 1@ 15 g. <b>Post-medieval</b> , Fabric 40, 2@ 60 g (L16-17/18C). <b>CBM Roman</b> 12@ 5,460 g, <i>tegulae</i> , large pieces, two lower cutaways (Warry Type C5), thickness 20-22 mm; <i>imbrex</i> , large pieces; brick piece, 45 mm thick with mortar over break, <i>tessera</i> cube 1@ 18 g. <b>Post-Roman</b> similar fabric and nature to possible <i>tegula</i> flange from L4(1) but appears more convincingly post-Roman. <b>Mortar</b> white lime mortar 1@ 79 g, rough lump. <b>Stone</b> <i>tessera</i> cube (?septaria), 1@ 21 g, mosaic cube (?septaria), 1@ 3 g	post-medieval (residual Roman)
L4	5	Soakaway 1	<b>CBM Roman</b> 3@ 327 g, Roman brick and tile	Roman
L4	6	Soakaway 2	<b>Pottery Roman</b> Fabric AA/AJ, 1@ 42 g; Fabric FJ, 2@ 99 g (mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century); Fabric GTW, 1@ 16 g (Late Iron Age-mid 1st century); Fabric HZ(GT), 1@ 11 g (Late Iron Age-late 1st century AD). <b>CBM Roman</b> 3 @ 132 g, RBT <b>Fired clay</b> 2@ 42 g, abraded (?Late Iron Age-Roman)	Roman, mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century (residual Late Iron Age/early Roman)

## Discussion

The majority of the finds are from the Roman demolition debris, although a few post-medieval finds (CBM, pottery) were also recovered from the same context. The Roman building material consists of fragments of brick and tile, mortar, painted wall-plaster, *tesserae* and a mosaic cube. No building stone was recovered.

The Roman building debris indicates the site of a well-appointed building in the vicinity, which had tessellated and mosaic floors and painted interior walls, and the remains of such a building(s), with mosaic floors, have previously been recorded to the south of the current site (CAR 6, 346-7; CAT Reports 163, 193).

All of the Roman brick and tile is in red sandy fabrics. Most of the tile appears to derive from roof tiles. Large pieces of Roman roof tiles, both *tegula* and *imbrex*, were recovered (finds no 3, unstratified) which do not show any signs of re-use (such as mortar across breaks) and presumably are debris from a tiled roof on the building. Some of the small number of fragments of brick had been used after they were broken as there were traces of mortar across breaks. No flue-tile pieces are present.

There are several *tessera* cubes. These are of red tile, with one which appears to be grey stone (?septaria). All have been set in mortar. There is also one small grey stone (?septaria) cube from a mosaic.

The Roman painted wall-plaster (L2(2)) appears to be from a panel design. Most of the pieces are from surfaces painted a deep red with a few pieces which are white. One of the red pieces has white along one edge indicating a border to panels of different colours.

In terms of dating, the Roman material from the site, the most closely-datable finds are sherds of pottery (L4(1), L4(6) and from unstratified contexts). These are of early/mid 1st- to 2nd-century date. Two sherds may be relatively early. The

surface feel of these suggests that they contain some grog-temper (L4(6)) and, therefore, these probably date to the period of the early/mid 1st century AD. With these are two sherds from a Verulamium-region flagon (Fabric FJ) of mid 1st- to early/mid 2nd-century date. From other contexts, there are sherds from a dish (Cam 17) in Pompeian-red ware (dated pre-Flavian) and a number of sherds from the body of a flagon (Fabric DJ) of probable 1st- to 2nd-century date. There are also individual sherds, ie from a samian cup (Dr 33) in Les Martres-de-Veyre fabric (dated early 2nd century); a small beaker in a fine grey ware (dated 1st-2nd century); and a body sherd from an unidentified amphora of probable 1st- to 2nd-century date.

It can be noted that parts of a lower cutaway were present on two of the *tegula* tiles (unstratified). Both are of Warry Type C5 (Warry 2006), which he suggests are of mid 2nd-century to mid 3rd-century date, but this dating is not firmly established as this type of lower cutaway has been recorded from Boudican deposits at the Lion Walk site in Colchester (*CAR 3*, fiche, fig 203.E). The thickness of the bases of the *tegula* tiles recovered is between 20 mm and 22 mm. It has been suggested that, at Colchester, the bases of *tegulae* tend to be less thick from the later 2nd century onwards, when a thickness of less than 20 mm began to become common (Black forthcoming).

Small quantities of post-medieval finds, ie pottery and CBM, were also recovered from most of the contexts. One brick or tile piece from L4(4), which has a patchy grey glaze, is of post-medieval date. Also one or two of the fragments of CBM from L4(1) are from tiles or brick of probably post-medieval or modern date. Sherds of glazed post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40) pottery among the unstratified finds can be dated to the late 16th/17th-18th centuries.

## 5 Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Neil Pendrigh (ECC Infrastructure Delivery Team). Site work was managed and carried out by B Holloway. The project was monitored for ECC Place Services by Adrian Gascoyne.

## 6 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, off Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums (accession code COLEM 2011.90).

## 7 References

**Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are now available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>**

Black, E	forth-coming	'Roman brick and tile', in report on excavations in Gosbecks Park, Colchester, Essex, by P Crummy
<i>CAR 3</i>	1984	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 3: Excavations at Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane and Middleborough, Colchester, Essex</i> , by P Crummy
<i>CAR 6</i>	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy
<i>CAR 7</i>	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
<i>CAR 10</i>	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R P Symonds and S Wade, edited by P Bidwell and A Croom

CAT	2008	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
CAT	2012	Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring and recording at North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester, Essex, March 2012 (by B Holloway)
CAT Report 163		An archaeological evaluation at North Station Road (adjacent to the Victoria Inn), Colchester, Essex, August 2001, CAT archive report, by K Orr, 2001
CAT Report 193		An archaeological watching brief at North Station Road (Victoria Inn), Colchester, Essex: February-May 2002, CAT archive report, by K Orr, 2002
CAT Report 248		An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2003, CAT archive report, by K Orr, 2003
CAT Report 284		An archaeological watching brief at North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester: November 2003-April 2004, CAT archive report, by K Orr, 2004
CAT Report 624		An archaeological evaluation by test-pitting at North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester, Essex: November 2011, CAT archive report, by B Holloway, 2011
CAT Report 649		An archaeological watching brief at North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester, Essex: April/May 2012, by B Holloway and H Brooks, 2012
CIMS	2008a	<i>Guidelines on standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i> (CBC)
CIMS	2008b	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums</i> (CBC)
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>14</b> , ed by D Gurney
ECCPS	2012	<i>Detailed archaeological monitoring and recording at the North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester</i> , February 2012 (brief, by A Gascoyne)
Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , RRCSAL, <b>14</b>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, <b>20</b>
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Warry, P	2006	<i>Tegulae, manufacture, typology and use in Roman Britain</i> , BAR, British Series, <b>417</b>

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2012

**Distribution list:**

Neil Pendrigh, ECC Infrastructure Delivery Team  
 Adrian Gascoyne, ECC Place Services  
 Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Circular Road North,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436273304

email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 17.10.12

Adams x c:/reports 12/north primary school wb again/report 659 final.doc

## **8 Appendix: contents of archive**

### **Paper record**

1 x A4 wallet containing:  
brief and WSI  
1 x copy of CAT Report 659 plus WSI  
original site record sheets  
photographic log  
attendance record  
disk with digital photographs

### **Finds**

1 x museum box containing all finds



Copyright Colchester Archaeological Trust. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location in relation to the Roman road (grey tone) and excavated Roman buildings (green), and showing class-bases A, B, C.



Copyright Colchester Archaeological Trust. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 2 Plan, showing foundation trenches for class-bases B and C.

■ Roman demolition debris

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Site address:</b> the North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9919 2584 (c)	<b>Project codes:</b> CAT - 12/3b HEM - CCNP 12 Museum accession - COLEM 2011.90
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> July-August 2012	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 10m x 30m approx.
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer (Essex County Council)
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER and UAD nos:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 659 and summary in EAH	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman, modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>The North Primary School is within the site of an extramural development with its frontages along a road leading north from the walled Roman town (Fig 1).</i></p> <p><i>In July-August 2012, a watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of two small classrooms (class-bases B, C; Fig 2) and the surface of an all-weather play area in the grounds of North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester, Essex.</i></p> <p><i>These works formed the second phase of some improvements to the school, the groundworks for the first phase of which were monitored in April-May 2012 (class-base A, Fig 1; CAT Report 649).</i></p> <p><i>The trenches were 0.60m wide and 1.20-1.40m deep. The trenches for the strip footings for class-base B revealed a deposit of demolition debris from a Roman building, probably of 2nd- or 3rd-century date. The debris consisted of crushed painted wall-plaster, tile, and CBM. No in situ foundations or other remains were observed, but the presence of the debris strongly indicates the site of a Roman house or other building in the vicinity.</i></p> <p><i>Trenches for the foundations of class-base C revealed nothing but topsoil and natural. All that was revealed here of archaeological significance was a small patch of compacted gravel which, to judge by its appearance, may have been the remains of either a yard or a minor road which led to the main road out of the walled town.</i></p> <p><i>The existing ground-level was lowered by 600mm for the construction of the all-weather play area. The excavations for two soakaways associated with the play area were also monitored. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed.</i></p>	

<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 624, 649	
<b>Keywords:</b> Roman, house, suburb	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>ECC monitor:</b> Adrian Gascoyne	
<b>Author of summary:</b> Ben Holloway	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2012

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording  
At North Primary School,  
John Harper Street,  
Colchester, Essex**

NGR: TL 9919 2584 (centre)

March 2012



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
12 LEXDEN ROAD,  
COLCHESTER,  
ESSEX C03 3NF

*tel/fax:* (01206) 500124

*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

## 1 Introduction

This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording at North Primary School John Harper Street, Colchester, Essex.

The site lies within the grounds of North Primary School, and currently comprises an existing hard standing and grass sports pitch. The proposed works involve the expansion of North Primary School, Colchester, to include additional class bases as well as an all weather sports pitch.

The site lies on the northern side of Colchester to the west of North Station Road, located at NGR TL 9919 2584 (centre).

The monitoring is required to establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected by the expansion of North Primary School.

This WSI sets out proposals for the archaeological monitoring of level reduction and groundwork, the results of which will lead to subsequent post-excavation work and the production of archive and (if necessary) publication texts.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed beforehand with the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Officer (HEM).

## 2 Archaeological background

This section is based on records held by The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. and the Urban Archaeological Database held at Colchester and Ipswich Museum

The development site is located within an area of archaeological potential to the north of the walled town.

North Primary School is located outside the walls of the Roman legionary fortress and later Roman town of *Colonia Victricensis* within a suburb of the Roman town around a Roman road that led north out of the town, in an area where archaeological work has demonstrated the existence of high-status Roman buildings.

Around 50 m south east of the site, a large Roman house was discovered immediately north of Victoria Chase during construction work for the HSBC bank at 26 North Station Road. A Roman mosaic pavement had been found 60 m to the south east of the site in 1880, less than 1 metre below the ground surface. A further pavement was found in front of the Victoria Inn in 1929 and in 2001 an archaeological evaluation adjacent to the Inn revealed part of a previously unknown mosaic, 600 mm below ground level. A watching brief in 2002 uncovered more evidence of a high-status Roman residence with the top of the archaeological deposit situated at a depth of 350 mm beneath the ground surface. On the other side of North Station Road, to the rear of the Globe Hotel, another high-status building was recorded. Local ground conditions (possibly wet ground near the river) to the west of the school are favourable for the preservation of archaeological deposits including organic material and palaeo-environmental evidence. An archaeological evaluation ahead of the Rotary Way development in 1997 showed that dumps of gravel had been added to the area close to the river during the Roman period in an apparent attempt to alleviate waterlogging of the site. All of the above indicate that the site has potential for significant below-ground archaeology surviving from the Roman period.

However, an archaeological watching brief undertaken during a previous extension to the school, along its southern boundary, showed that the ground in this part of the site had been raised substantially, such that most of what was disturbed consisted of modern made-up layers. Natural ground was not reached and the contractor's

excavations did not extend to a great enough depth to impact any archaeological deposits that may be present on the site.

Recent investigation on the site indicates that similar levels of made ground exist across the eastern side of the school site, within the footprint of the proposed new all weather pitch (Brooks and Holloway 2011).

### **3 Aim**

The aim of the monitoring is to establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected by the expansion of North Primary School. Specific attention shall be paid to the potential for archaeology mentioned in section 2 above.

### **4 General methodology**

All works will be undertaken by professional archaeologist(s) employed by CAT. The field officer(s) will have a level of experience appropriate to the work.

CAT is not carrying out the groundwork. The location and avoidance of existing services is the job of the groundwork contractor.

All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard Health and Safety policy, which will be adhered to (CAT 2008).

A site code will be obtained from HEM. All codes will be quoted in any reports arising from the work.

For purposes of deposition of the archive, a museum accession code will be obtained through Colchester and Ipswich Museum. All codes will be quoted in any reports arising from the work.

The relevant document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) will be followed, i.e. *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (1999)*, including its 'Code of Conduct'. Other guidelines followed are those published in EAA **3**, EAA **8** and EAA **14**.

At the start of the work an OASIS online record will be initiated. Key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

### **5 Monitoring methodology**

The work will comprise of a CAT archaeologist making regular site visits to observe groundwork, as part of the school expansion particular attention will be paid to ground level reduction and the excavation of footing trenches and infrastructure runs.

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

The normal recording scale will be feature plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10.

A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any suitable strata, and the finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. Standard 'record' shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. Colour transparencies will be used for overall site shots and all important contexts.

The site boundary and features and site levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

The policy for environmental sampling will be as follows; any features, which appear to be organically rich, should be sampled, but only if they can be dated. If advice is required Helen Chapel the English Heritage regional science advisor will be consulted.

## 6 Finds

Environmental sampling policy. CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered VF will be asked onto site to advise. Helen Chapel of EH is available for further advice.

The policy with regard to human remains depends on how old they are. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and HEM will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed. **Note: As the relevant legislation is currently in a state of flux, advice will be sought from HEM and DoJ on best practice.**

All finds of archaeological relevance will be retained. Policies for later disposal of any finds will be agreed with the HEM officer and the site owner.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed.

A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Colchester and Ipswich Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.

The site archive will be presented to Colchester and Ipswich Museum in accordance with their requirements

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.

Finds work will be to accepted professional standards as presented in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b).

A list of specialists available for consultation is given at the end of this WSI.

## 7 Results

Notification will be given to HEM officer when the fieldwork has been completed. The test pitting will be followed by a single page summary report, which will either lead to further archaeological work in accordance with a further brief and WSI, or to the production of a report on the test pitting alone.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE English Heritage 2006) and will be submitted to the HEM officer within a length of time not exceeding 1 month from the end of fieldwork, with one copy supplied to EHER (with a digital copy) and one to Colchester and Ipswich Museum with the archive.

This report will include:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the monitoring.
- Location plan of the monitoring area, with 10-figure grid references at two points.
- A section drawing showing the depth of deposits including present ground level.

- All specialist reports and assessments. Recommendations for further work will be kept separate from the results.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

If, after discussion with HEM, the results are considered worthy of publication, a report (at least at a summary level) will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*. An Oasis online form will be completed for submission to the EHER, which will include an uploaded .pdf version of the report.

## 8 Archive deposition

The full archive will be deposited at Colchester and Ipswich Museum within 2 months of completion of final publication report on the project, and confirmed to HEM. All requirements for archive storage as required by Colchester and Ipswich Museum.

Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Colchester and Ipswich Museum.

Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Colchester and Ipswich Museum storage systems.

The photographic archive is to be presented as follows: original digital data on disk and hard copies of selected digital photos on high-quality paper, or as otherwise requested by Colchester and Ipswich Museum.

A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to HEM at the time of deposition at the museum.

## 9 Monitoring

HEM 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 HEM officer one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed with HEM officer in writing prior to them being carried out.

HEM will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of HEM shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## 10 References

- |                                 |      |   |
|---------------------------------|------|---|
| Brown, N and Glazebrook, J.     | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA8) |
| Brooks, H and Holloway, B       | 2011 | <i>An archaeological evaluation by test-pitting at North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester</i> , Essex CAT Archive Report 624                      |
| Colchester Archaeological Trust | 2008 | <i>Policies and procedures</i> .  |
| English Heritage                | 2006 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Gascoyne, A.                    | 2012 | <i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at The North Primary School, John Harper Street, Colchester</i> .  |

Glazebrook, J.	1997	Essex County Council Brief. <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 1 resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 3 ( <b>EAA3</b> )
Gurney, D.	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 ( <b>EAA14</b> )
IFA	2008a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation.</i>
IFA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Medlycott, M.	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24 ( <b>EAA24</b> )

Ben Holloway 17/10/12  
[bh@catuk.org](mailto:bh@catuk.org)

© COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST, "CAMULODUNUM",  
 12 LEXDEN ROAD, COLCHESTER, ESSEX C03 3NF  
 tel/fax: (01206) 500124: email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

## APPENDIX: TEAM STRUCTURE

## **List of team members**

### **Site supervision and Recording**

Ben Holloway

### **Assistants**

TBC

### **Finds consultants**

Stephen Benfield (CAT): LIA/Roman pottery, Roman and later CBM, Saxon and Med pottery

Hazel Martingell (Braintree): Lithics

Joanna Bird (Guildford): samian ware

Dr Hilary Cool (Nottingham): Roman glass

Nina Crummy (Colchester): small finds, coins

Julie Curl (Sylvanus): Human/animal bone

Val Fryer (UEA/Loddon): environmental

Valerie Rigby (British Museum): LIA ceramics

Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums): Roman amphoras, prehistoric & Roman pottery

### **Graphics**

E Spurgeon, G Adams

### **Report writing**

Ben Holloway, Howard Brooks

## **Senior Site Staff**

### **Ben Holloway BSc AIFA**

Ben joined CAT staff in June 2000, a graduate in Archaeology from Bournemouth University. Ben has conducted fieldwork in Scotland and the Isle of Man. Since joining the Trust Ben has carried out extensive work in Colchester at various supervisory and project positions including evaluations and excavations at Colchester Garrison PFI (including the circus), St Marys Hospital and Colchester 6th Form College. His work in Essex includes the Sandon Park and Ride Site, Skyline 120 Business Park at Great Notley, Dry Street, Basildon and the Stanhope industrial park Stanford-le-hope.

## **Finds Specialists**

### **Stephen Benfield BA, Cert Archaeol (Oxon) (CAT) Late Iron Age and Roman pottery**

Steve's first involvement with Colchester archaeology was in 1985, working on a Manpower Services Commission sponsored project to assist in processing the enormous collection of Roman pottery from excavations in the town. He graduated from Reading University with a degree in archaeology and subsequently studied for his post-graduate Certificate in Archaeology at Oxford. Returning to CAT, he has since worked on many CAT projects at various supervisory and directorial positions, including the major projects at Stanway Iron Age burial site and Gosbecks Roman temple/theatre complex. Stephen has also, through much hands-on experience, built up a considerable working knowledge of LIA and Roman ceramics. He now completes ceramic assessments and full reports for CAT, drawing on the unrivalled catalogues provided by the standard Colchester works *Camulodunum* (Hawkes & Hull 1947), *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958) and now *CAR 10*, and by examining the fabric series held at CAT headquarters.

### **Joanna Bird FSA (Guildford) Samian**

Joanna is one of the country's top samian specialists. Among her large corpus of work is a contribution to the publication *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1986*.

### **Howard Brooks BA, MIFA (CAT) Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery**

Howard's involvement in Essex archaeology goes back to 1970 when he dug at Sheepen, Colchester with Rosalind Dunnett (now Niblett). He studied archaeology at the University of Wales, and graduated in 1975. He worked for Colchester Archaeological Trust between 1976 and 1981, and again in 1985, where he was involved at various levels of responsibility (up to Co-Director) in the excavation of deeply stratified urban remains in Roman Colchester and suburbs (*Colchester Archaeological Report 3* [1994]). Between 1986 and 1991 he worked for Essex County Archaeology Section, first in directing the fieldwalking and excavation project at Stansted Airport (*East Anglian Archaeology* 107, 2004), and then in Development Control. Howard then left ECC to set up and run HBAS, the county's smallest contracting team, in which capacity he carried out over twenty field projects and wrote a dozen consultancy reports. He rejoined CAT in 1997. He regularly contributes to *Essex Archaeology & History*, and teaches University evening classes on archaeology.

### **Dr Hilary Cool FSA MIFA (Nottingham) Roman glass**

Another graduate of the University of Wales, Hilary is now a freelance glass and finds specialist, and has written many reports on glass from Colchester sites, including contributions to *Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85*, and *Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88* (1993). Among her major works is the internationally selling *Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*.

### **Nina Crummy FSA (Colchester) Small finds**

Nina first worked in the early 1970s as finds assistant on the major urban excavations in Colchester for the Colchester Excavation Committee (later the Trust). Over the next twenty years she built up an unrivalled working knowledge of small finds of all types. She has collaborated in most of the *Colchester Archaeological Reports*, and was principal author of the best-selling *Colchester Archaeological Reports 2* (Roman small finds), 4 (*The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*) and 5 (*The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*). She recently worked for the Museum of London, and was instrumental in the recent transfer of and the massive improvement in accessibility to archaeological archives in London. She now works freelance on small finds reports for CAT, HBAS, and other bodies including Winchester Excavation Committee.

### **Julie Curl AIFA (Sylvanus: Archaeological, Natural History and Illustration Services) Human and Animal Bone**

Julie has over 16 years of experience in archaeology and in particular finds for the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Norfolk Museums Service. Currently working as a freelance specialist in both human and animal bone and illustration. She has been producing faunal and Human remains reports for many years and produces assessment and analysis reports for clients across the East Anglian region. She has her own extensive bone reference collection built up over many years. Her particular interests in faunal remains are animal husbandry and pathologies. She has also worked as a conservator, particularly on Pleistocene vertebrates and a wide variety of archaeology and natural history projects at the Norwich Castle Museum. Julie is also an extra-mural lecturer with the University of East Anglia, teaching Animal bones in Archaeology.

### **Val Fryer (Norfolk) Environmental Archaeologist BA, MIFA**

Val has fifteen years experience in environmental archaeology, working for English Heritage, County Units and independent archaeological bodies across the United Kingdom and Southern Ireland. She has published reports in *East Anglian Archaeology* (including occasional papers), *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Norfolk Archaeology*. Specialist work for various police authorities across England and Northern Ireland. Val is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with special accreditation for environmental archaeology and she is also a Member of the Association of Environmental Archaeologists.

### **Valerie Rigby (Hertfordshire) LIA ceramics**

Formerly working for the British Museum, Val is one of the country's leading authorities on later prehistoric ceramics in general, and traded wares in particular. She has published widely. Her major works include *Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968-72* (*Britannia Monograph Series 7*, with Ian Stead). On a more local level, she has contributed to the magisterial *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-88*, and to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum* (CBA Research Report 57, 1985).

**Patricia Ryan (Chelmsford) Medieval and later brick and tile**

Pat has for many years been examining excavated collections of brick and tile from Essex sites, and contributing reports which are usually consigned to the gloomier parts of archive reports, or as footnotes in published texts. Her regular contributions to *Essex Archaeology & History*, therefore, under-represent the devoted study which Pat has put in over the years. Nobody knows more about local brick and tile, except for David Andrews, with whom she collaborated on significant sections of *Cressing Temple: A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex* (1993).

**Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museum) Amphoras**

Paul has worked at Colchester Museum since the late 1970s. His PhD specialism was Roman amphoras, a topic on which he writes specialist reports. His main areas of interest are prehistory and the Roman period, and he has developed a familiarity with those periods and their ceramics. He has published widely. His major works include *Amphoras from the 1970 excavations at Colchester Sheepen* (BAR 142, 1985), contributions to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum* (CBA Res Rep 57, 1985). He regularly contributes to *Essex Archaeology & History*.