

Archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed pavilion at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex



May 2015

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1 Summary

Archaeological evaluation on the site of the proposed pavilion at St Helena School revealed thirteen archaeological features. Three are dated either Late Iron Age or Roman - two pits/post-holes, and a gravel surface; the other ten features included two modern ditches (one aligned on pre-school field boundaries), and eight undated pits or post-holes. All features were sealed by 0.65m of overburden (modern topsoil, and subsoil).

One of the common features of excavations and evaluations at St Helena is the discovery of gravel surfaces, both inside and outside the precinct of Colchester Temple 2. The gravel surface found here shows that they are more extensive than had been thought. As the evaluation trench was approximately 65m outside the precinct wall of Temple 2, and 90m east of the nearest temple-related structure, the evaluated area is clearly peripheral to the temple complex. Whether the features excavated in 2015 are actually connected with the temple complex is difficult to say, and it may be that they are of an industrial or domestic character.



Plate 1: general site shot, view east. Features visible: post-hole F2 (foreground): excavator is in front of pit F10: between her and F2 are small pits F4, F1, F5 (left to right).

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, which was carried out in May 2015 (Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Steve Bennett at PlayFootball Ltd, in advance of the development of land for football pitches and the construction of a sports pavilion, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council, Jess Tipper, advised that the proposed site lay on the edge of a nationally important scheduled monument (a Romano-Celtic temple complex), and that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Excavation* detailing the required archaeological work written by Jess Tipper (Colchester Borough Council Planning Department (CBCPD) 2015), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to brief and agreed with CBCPD (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Chartered 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 (Figs 1-2)

The proposed development site was within an area of high archaeological importance. It was situated within the enclosed *oppidum* of Camulodunum, and more specifically within the area of the quayside and trading depot at Sheepen.

St Helena School shares a site with two Romano-Celtic temples (Colchester Temples 2 & 3 – Crummy 1980). These temples were first discovered in 1935 during excavations prior to the construction of the school and the Colchester bypass (now the 'Avenue of Remembrance'). One of the temples (Temple 2) lies underneath the northern edge of the main school buildings, while a second, much smaller temple (Temple 3) lies beneath the boundary of the north edge of the school grounds and the Avenue of Remembrance.

Many small-scale archaeological projects have been undertaken in the vicinity of the school. These confirm the presence of consistent and significant archaeological remains beneath the site of St Helena School. Recently, excavations prior to the construction of a new science and technology block exposed part of the precinct of Temple 2, including a wall, a possible shrine and a possibly 'votive' pit that contained a hoard of coins (CAT 2013, CAT 2015b).

A complete list of recent projects at St Helena is given as Appendix 1 to this report.

4 Results (Figs 2 - 3)

Nine pits and postholes, two ditches, a gravel surface and a large amorphous feature were revealed by this evaluation. Three (two pits and gravel surface) date to the Roman period, two (ditches) are modern, and eight (pits) are undated.

All excavated features were covered to a depth of 650mm by a by turf and topsoil (L1) and by sandy silty subsoil with frequent stone inclusions (L2). The high water table at the site inhibited the excavation of the base of some features.



Plate 2: Gravel surface F11, view east. The ridge marks the division between the slightly firmer lower level of gravel and the slightly looser upper level. The far (eastern) edge of F11 is cut by ditch F13.

The pits and postholes were spread across the evaluation trench. Four undated pits were located in close proximity to one another in the western part of the trench. Pit F1 was in the centre of this group, and was a small rounded feature with a very loose, friable, sandy fill with gravel and stone inclusions. It contained no finds. Posthole F2 was situated to the north west of pit F1. It was rather smaller and contained a grey/brown, hard, wet, silty, loamy fill. Pit F4 was located directly north of pit F1. It was small and oval in shape and continued beyond the evaluation trench. Its fill was a firm, moist, grey/brown silty loam. Pit F5 was located to the south of pit F1 and only a small portion of it was within the area of the trench. It seemed similar in size and shape to pit F4 and also contained a hard, moist grey/brown silty loam fill. None of these pits contained any finds. They may date to the Roman period, but the large amount of recent development at St Helena means that a later date cannot be ruled out.

Five other pits were located in the central to eastern part of the evaluation trench. The most central of these was pit F6, which was a small circular feature containing a firm, moist grey/brown silty loam fill with charcoal. To the south east of pit F6 was much larger circular pit F10. It also contained a firm, moist grey/brown silty loam fill. Pits/postholes F3, F8 and linear F9 all had a similar soft, moist, grey/brown silty loam. Pit F3 also contained septaria, two fragments of Roman pottery, and was packed with pieces of greensand. Pit F8

contained a small amount of animal bone and pit F9 contained one sherd of Late Iron Age or Roman pottery.

As well as these pits and postholes, a ditch (F13), a gravel surface (F11) and a large amorphous feature (F12) were excavated. The large amorphous feature (F12) at the western end of the evaluation trench extended beyond the northern edge of the trench. Its fill was loose, soft, moist, grey silty clay with stone inclusions. It did not contain any finds.

The gravel surface (F11) and ditch (F13) were located close to the eastern edge of the trench. Ditch F13 was oriented northwest to southeast, and appeared to be sealed by the northern edge of the gravel surface. Its fill was a firm, moist grey/brown sandy silt, with some gravel and stone inclusions. It contained Roman CBM and 2nd/3rd century pottery. Two of the pieces of CBM potentially derive from a kiln or oven structure. As well as Roman pottery, a single piece of medieval greyware was recovered from this feature. However, as Stephen Benfield points out, the CBM could be later in date (ie, post-Roman). The date and relationship of this feature are discussed below.

The gravel surface F11 was actually three separate layers - small loose pea grits, over a grey/brown silty sand accumulation, which in turn overlay a deposit of compact small/medium stones and grey/brown silty sand. The middle accumulation layer contained small fragments of animal bone and a residual piece of late Iron Age pottery. There is reason to believe (see below) that the upper layer of gravel is not Roman, but a much later disturbed layer.

The other feature was a modern ditch F7, aligned northwest to southeast. It was very shallow and contained a soft, moist grey/brown sandy fill with occasional stone inclusions. It contained a sherd of residual Roman pottery and a 19th/20th century gun cartridge. This ditch, like F13, is aligned on 19th-century field boundaries.

5 Finds

5.1 Pottery, CBM and Animal bone

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Small quantities of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone, were recovered from features and soil layers. The types and quantities of finds are listed in Table 1.

Finds type	No.	Wt (g)
Pottery	15	322
Ceramic building material (CBM)	8	1829
Animal bone	11	44
Other (modern)	1	5

Table 1: Type and quantities of bulk finds

The majority of the pottery and CBM is of Roman date. Of the few sherds of Roman pottery that can be more closely dated, most are of mid 1st-2nd/3rd century date. There is also an abraded sherd from a mortarium, dated to the later 3rd-4th century (L1). Later (post-Roman) finds include a large rim from a medieval cooking pot (F13) dating from the 13th-14th century and a thin piece of tile that appears to be peg-tile (L1) that can be dated to the medieval or post-medieval period. There is also the metal end from a modern shot-gun cartridge (F7(2)). A very small amount of animal bone was also recovered, all in a poor condition.

Finds by context

The prehistoric pottery fabrics refer to Brown (1988) and the Roman and medieval pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester Roman and post-Roman pottery type series (Table 2 - *CAR 7* & *CAR 10*). All of the finds are listed and described by finds number for each context in Table 3.

Fabric code	Fabric description
<i>Roman</i>	
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares
GTW	Late Iron Age Grog-tempered ware
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares
HD	Shell-tempered ware
TY	Mortaria (other British)
<i>Medieval</i>	
20	Medieval sandy greywares (general)

Table 2: Pottery fabrics

Ctxt no.	Find no	Find type	Finds description	Fabric code	No	Wt/g	Period/spot date
F003	1	pot	buff ware body sherd, some abrasion	DJ	1	4	Rom M1-2/3C
F003	1	pot	greyware body sherd, some abrasion	GX	1	21	Rom
F007	2	gun cartridge	base from a shot-gun cartridge		1	5	L19-20C
F007	2	pot	small rim sherd from a greyware jar or jar/bowl		1	6	Rom
F008	3	a bone	small pieces of animal bone (medium/large)		7	33	

Ctxt no.	Find no	Find type	Finds description	Fabric code	No	Wt/g	Period/spot date
			mammal), includes a cow phalanx in relatively poor condition,				
F009	4	pot	sandy, grog-tempered pottery, burnt deposit on interior	GTW	1	10	LIA/E Rom
F011	6	a bone	small fragments of animal bone		3	1	
F011	6	pot	body sherd, grog-tempered ware	GTW	1	8	LIA
F013	8	a bone	small piece of animal (medium/large mammal) bone in poor condition		1	10	
F013	8	CBM	abraded combed flue tile piece		1	28	Rom L1/E2-4C
F013	8	CBM	abraded imbrex piece		1	148	Rom
F013	8	CBM	Roman brick/tile, two pieces 28-30mm thick, another tile piece quite abraded		3	1111	Rom
F013	8	CBM	small brick or tile piece 30 mm thick, traces of a sandy, glassy deposit on base (sanded underside) and what appears to be part of a large circular hole through the brick survives at one edge, possibly part of a vent in an oven or kiln. The thickness suggests a Roman date although a later date may be possible		1	247	Rom?
F013	8	pot	Medieval greyware cooking pot, large rim sherd (EVE 0.20) and three other sherds, poss all part of same vessel	20	4	138	Med 13-14C
F013	8	pot	probably a sherd from the base of a large storage jar, encrusted with sand deposit	HD	1	50	Rom M1-2C
F013	8	pot	small, abraded buff fabric sherd	DJ	1	2	Rom M1-2/3C
L001	5	CBM	abraded piece of Roman tile		1	251	Rom
L001	5	CBM	thin (12mm) tile, possibly thin Roman tile but probably peg-tile, abraded – dated med- p-med		1	44	Med- p-med (prob 13/14C or after)
L001	5	pot	body sherd	GTW	1	25	LIA
L001	5	pot	body sherd	GX	1	4	Rom
L001	5	pot	very abraded rim from a mortarium in sandy, buff fabric, low flange with upstanding rim and groove on rim top, probably an Oxford product (Fabric TY-TK)	TY	1	20	Rom M/L3-4C
L001	5	pot	ribbed handle from a	DJ	1	34	Rom M1-

Ctxt no.	Find no	Find type	Finds description	Fabric code	No	Wt/g	Period/spot date
			flagon, abraded				2C

Table 3: Finds by context

5.2 Environmental Samples

by Val Fryer

Val Fryer will provide the results of the analysis of five environmental samples. These will be added to the report and included in the archive when they are available.

6 Discussion (Figs 2-5)

This evaluation on the site of the proposed pavilion at St Helena School revealed activity dating to the Roman (1st-3rd centuries AD), post-medieval and modern periods. This activity comprised nine pits and postholes, a ditch, a gravel surface and a large amorphous feature.

Gravel surfaces are a recurring theme at St Helena's, and have been seen at several locations both inside and outside the temple precinct. A large area was seen in the recent excavation prior to the western school extension (to the west of the pavilion site: CAT forthcoming), and the gravel outside the precinct, as seen in the present evaluation, is matched by that found at the 2010 evaluation south of the Caretaker's House (CAT Report 544), 100m south of the current site.

However, the date of the gravel is directly related to the date of ditch F13. It can be seen on Fig 5 that the position and alignment of ditch F13 matches precisely the position of the pre-school field boundaries at Sheepen. There can be very little doubt that F13 is a pre-school (post-medieval) field boundary. In terms of finds, the suspicion that the CBM in this feature is post-Roman is realised, and the medieval and Roman finds can be seen to be residual. The site records state that the F11 gravel seals ditch F13. This cannot be so. The gravel, as mentioned above, is actually in three horizons. It must be the case that the lower part of F11 is Roman (or Late Iron Age, to go by the single potsherd), and the upper horizon was disturbed and spread over the edge of ditch F13 by horticultural activities during the lifetime of the nursery which occupied this site before the building of the school in the 1930s.

It is always difficult to interpret post-holes, especially when they are not closely dated and within a narrow trench, but no indication of the presence of a structure can be seen in the positioning of the pits/postholes in the 2015 trench.

Having postulated above that ditch F13 is post-medieval, and incidentally is matched in alignment by ditch F7 (containing the modern gun cartridge), it is clear that the major period of activity here is dated by the small number of finds to the Late Iron Age or Roman period. The LIA / Roman remains are almost certainly related to the Romano-Celtic temple complex to the west of the site, and over which the St Helena School lies. However, it can also be argued that the evaluated area was peripheral to the temple complex, which is 80m to the west, and that some of the finds, such as the mortarium rim (a kitchen vessel much like a mortar), may indicate domestic rather than ritual (temple-related) activity here.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Steve Bennett at PlayFootball Ltd. for commissioning this project. Site work was managed by Mark Baister, and undertaken by M Baister, N Rayner, S Carter and S Usai. Figures are by M Baister, E Holloway and Howard Brooks.

The project was monitored by Jess Tipper for Colchester Borough Council Planning Department.

8 References

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

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
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| CAT | 2015 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at St. Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex</i> |
| CAT | <i>forthcoming</i> | <i>CAT Report 825: Archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, by Pip Parmenter</i> |
| CAT Report 131 | 2001 | An archaeological watching brief at Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: January-March 2001 |
| CAT Report 188 | 2002 | An archaeological watching brief on the installation of tennis court floodlights at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, March 2002, by B Holloway |
| CAT Report 349 | 2005 | Report on a watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, October 2005, by K Orr |
| CAT Report 351 | 2005 | An archaeological evaluation of St Helena School Drama Block, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, November 2005, by K Orr |
| CAT Report 384 | 2006 | An archaeological excavation of a foundation trench at the drama block, St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, June 2006, by K Orr |
| CAT Report 414 | 2007 | Archaeological evaluation at St Helena School, February 2007, by L Pooley |
| CAT Report 451 | 2007 | An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School car-park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, July-August 2007, by K Orr |
| CAT Report 544 | 2010 | An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at St Helena School, Colchester, Essex: March 2010, by B Holloway and H Brooks |
| CAT Report 699 | 2013 | <i>An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, April 2013</i> |
| CAT Report 716 | 2013 | An archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, September 2013 |
| CAT Report 816 | <i>in prep</i> | An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School, February 2015 (in prep) |
| CBCPD | 2015 | <i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE</i> |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| CIM | 2008a | Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester - <i>Colchester and Ipswich Museums</i> |
| CIM | 2008b | <i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service.</i> |
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Crummy, P	1997	Warwick Rodwell, BAR, British Series, 77 , 242-83 <i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Dept of Communities and Local Government</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> (Dept of Communities and Local Government).
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
EAA 8	2000	Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy, <i>East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8</i> , ed by Nigel Brown and Jenny Glazebrook
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (MoRPHE)
Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , Report 14 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
Hawkes, CFC, & Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 14
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , Report 20 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
Hull, M R	1963	<i>The Roman potters' kilns of Colchester</i> , Report 21 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
Hull, MR	1976	Antiq J, Vol 26, p68
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Lewis, MJT	1966	<i>Temples in Roman Britain</i>
Niblett, R	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum</i> , CBA Research Report 57
Niblett, R	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum</i> , CBA Research Report 57
Ryan, P	1993	'Roof tile', in Andrews, D (ed) <i>Cressing Temple. A Templar and Hospitaller manor in Essex</i> , Essex County Council
Warry, P	2006	<i>Tegulae, manufacture, typology and use in Roman Britain</i> , BAR British Series 417

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPD	Colchester Borough Council Planning Department
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CBM	Ceramic Building Materials
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
IA	Iron Age
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, e.g. a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds

1 museum box containing all finds.

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 835)
Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record)
Trench record sheet
CBCPD Evaluation Brief
CAT Written Scheme of Investigation
Site digital photographic log
Site photographic record on CD
Attendance register
Benchmark data
Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under project code 2015.42.

Colchester Archaeological Trust 2015

Distribution list:

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Appendix 1

Archaeological projects at St Helena

From the 1930s to the 1980s

This section is based on major published works on the archaeology of Colchester by CFC Hawkes and Rex Hull (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958), and by Philip Crummy (Crummy 1980, 248-52; Crummy 1997; *CAR 11* with C F C Hawkes), supported by other records on the *Essex Historic Environment Record* (EHER) and the *Urban Archaeological Database* (CBC).

The site is in an area of high archaeological importance - the nationally-important late Iron Age and Roman defended fortress of *Camulodunum*. Within the 12 square miles of *Camulodunum* are two principal centres. These are at Gosbecks (the farmstead and possible the home of Cunobelin) and Sheepen (the trading depot and quayside). St Helena School is on the northern side of Sheepen, and part of the site (and school) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument: Essex SAM no 46).

Sheepen first came to light when the construction of the new Colchester bypass in the 1930s (Avenue of Remembrance) was preceded by extensive excavations directed by Colchester Museum Curator Rex (MR) Hull and Oxford academic Christopher (CFC) Hawkes. These excavations revealed a range of industrial activities including metal-working, enamelling, pottery- and tile-making and leather-working, enclosed within fenced compounds (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985). It was evident from the wide range of imported goods (particularly pottery), that Sheepen was a major commercial centre, and that trading vessels must have laid up at a quayside of sorts somewhere nearby.

Large quantities of 1st-century imported Roman amphoras have been found at the nearby Colchester Institute (*CAR 11*, 73-77; CAT Report 131).

The school site coincides with the location of two Romano-British temples (Hull 1958). These were first discovered and excavated by the Colchester Excavation Committee in 1935 on the site then about to be developed as St Helena School (Hull 1958, 224-34). The temple site consists of a late 1st-century Romano-Celtic temple (Temple 2 in the series of Colchester Temples) within a sacred precinct defined by an outer precinct (*temenos*) wall). A much smaller Romano-Celtic temple (no 3) lies on the boundary between the extreme north edge of the school grounds and the Avenue of Remembrance.

Immediately north of the north wall of the *temenos* is Building 159. This was discovered in 1976 (*CAR 6*, 345-6), and although absolute proof is lacking, it is a reasonable hypothesis that it was connected with the temple site (perhaps as lodging for a priest or for visitors, or as a shop).

Since 1976, and in response to small-scale development in and around the school, there have been a large number of archaeological projects, summarised briefly below and listed fully below). These have generally all revealed Roman deposits here, some of them substantial.

Recent work at St Helena School

The 1930s work has been discussed above. Here follows a list of the recent archaeological projects at St Helena. As far as can be seen from consulting *Heritage Gateway* and *Essex Historic Environment Record*, all the projects were carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust.

2002 watching brief on cables around tennis courts

Fieldwork date : March 2002
CAT project ref.: 02/3d
CIMS accession: COLEM : 2002.90
NGR: TL 987 259
Report: CAT Report 188
Report date: April 2002

Observations were made during an archaeological watching brief on the digging of cable trenches around the tennis courts at St Helena's School, Sheepen Road, Colchester. The trenches were being dug for new floodlights and their power cables. Two features were observed in the trenches, only one of which was certainly archaeological. There was a large number of loose finds, principally Roman tile and late Iron Age/Roman pottery of a type which has been found in adjacent Sheepen excavations.

2005 cable trench along southern school edge

Fieldwork date: 17th-26th October 2005
CAT project ref.: -
CIMS accession: COLEM 2005.127
NGR: TL 9890 2583
Report: CAT Report 349
Report date: November 2005

Scheduled Monument Consent was given for a trench to be dug along part of the southern school boundary to install a new electricity mains supply cable. The trench revealed 600-700mm of topsoil (L1) sealing a dry light brown silt subsoil (L2) which contained tile flecks. Roman pottery, tile, and post-medieval peg-tile and animal bone came from L1 and the top of L2. Contractors retrieved a 3rd-century Roman coin from the western end of the trench. No features were observed. The presence of a small amount of Roman material is to be expected, though the trench was not deep enough to expose Roman or Iron Age features. The only features of note were reinforced concrete foundations, said by the caretaker to be the remains of air-raid shelters which once stood to the east and west of the main school entrance.

2005 test pits around Drama Block

Fieldwork date: November 2005
CAT project ref.: 05/9d
CIMS accession: COLEM 2005.132
NGR: TL 9895 2580 (c)
Report: CAT Report 351
Report date: December 2005

Three small test-pits were hand-excavated next to the drama block at St Helena School, which is within the scheduled ancient monument of Sheepen. Three early Roman (1st century AD) Roman features included a ditch, possibly supporting a wooden fence. The presence of pottery and animal bone, burnt flint, a coin, slag and Roman tile suggests domestic use similar to that previously identified elsewhere at Sheepen. The finds include a sherd of Arretine samian bearing a potter's stamp not recognised in Colchester before. This reinforces the importance of Camulodunum as a centre for trade in the Late Iron Age.

2006 excavation of footings for new Drama Block

Fieldwork date: June 2006
CAT project ref.: 06/6b
CIMS accession: COLEM 2006.79
NGR: TL 9895 2580 (c)
Report: CAT Report 384

Report date: October 2006

The archaeological excavation of the foundation trench for an extension to the drama block carried out in June 2006 revealed pits, ditches and a gully, all dating to the 'Sheepen period' (ie, c AD 5-60), sealed by between 600mm and 750mm of topsoil. The type of pottery and the presence of animal bone, slag, daub and Roman tile suggest domestic and industrial use similar to that identified as a result of the previous investigations at Sheepen.

2007 evaluation in car park

Fieldwork: February 2007

CAT project ref.: 07/2a

CIMS accession: COLEM 2007.24

NGR: TL 9898 2578

Report: CAT Report 414

Report date: March 2007

Six evaluation trenches in the school car-park revealed 18 archaeological features: 10 Roman (seven pits, one wall foundation, one ditch and one metallised surface); one mid/late Bronze Age pit; one post-medieval ditch; six undated features (four pits and two ditches); and one natural feature. Significantly, the Roman wall foundation was part of the precinct wall for the late 1st century Roman temple II. A large quantity of Roman finds were also recorded including two coins which belong to the post-conquest pre-Boudican occupation of Sheepen, a brooch fragment and briquetage which may also date to before AD 60/1, and a number of pottery sherds dating primarily from the 1st to the early 2nd century.

2007 watching brief on cable laying in car park.

Fieldwork: July-August 2007

CAT project ref.: 07/7b

CIMS accession: COLEM 2007.77

NGR: TL 98987 25786

Report: CAT Report 451

Report date: April 2010

Following the evaluation (CAT Report 414), a watching brief was carried out on groundworks to reconstruct the car-park on the eastern side of the school grounds. This involved removing the old tarmac surface, creating a new path and cycle storage compound, and digging trenches for lighting cables. The groundworks largely only affected modern and post-medieval layers and therefore did not expose any archaeological features. In one lighting-cable trench, the Roman ground-surface was exposed but no archaeological features were observed.

2010 evaluation south of caretakers house

Fieldwork: March 2010

CAT project ref.: 10/2d

CIMS accession: COLEM 2010.11

NGR: TL 98970 25770

Report: CAT Report 544

Report date: April 2010

An evaluation by a single trial trench on the site of a proposed new building has revealed a gravelled surface and a Roman pit. The gravel surface may have been associated with the adjacent Roman Temple 2, whose eastern *temenos* wall lies 35m to the west, or (less likely) it may have been the surface of a minor gravel road running along the eastern side of the temple

temenos. Finds from this evaluation are of early Roman date, which is in keeping with other finds from Sheepen and the St Helena School site.

2013 evaluation on western school extension

Fieldwork: April 2013

CAT project ref.: 13/04a

CIMS accession: COLEM 2013.16

NGR: TL 98842 25847

Report: CAT Report 699

Report date: May 2013

An evaluation by four trial-trenches revealed three Roman pits, a compacted gravel layer (surface), and a dump of ceramic building material. One of the pits contained a group of five, low-denomination Roman coins dated to c AD 43-64. These are from a hoard or purse group possibly deposited at the time of the Boudican revolt, pre-dating the construction of the temple in the late 1st or early 2nd century.

2013 Excavation of foundation pads on 'link' building

Fieldwork: September 2013

CAT project ref.: 13/08f

CIMS accession: COLEM 2013.36

NGR: TL 9886 2584

Report: CAT Report 716

Report date: September 2013

The construction of a canopy between two existing school buildings involved the archaeological excavation of twelve foundation pads, each 0.8m square and 0.80m deep. The position of the new canopy straddles the predicted line of the northern wall of the enclosure (*temenos*) of Temple II.

From the plotted position of the *temenos* wall, it seems that none of the pad holes actually intercepted it. However, patches of compacted gravel were revealed in two of the pad-holes. A very small quantity of Roman tile and a mid-1st century sherd were recovered from the gravel. Layers of gravel have been seen at St Helena in 1935, 2007, and now twice in 2013. The gravel is too widespread to have been a road, so it is more likely to have been a Roman courtyard surface. However, it may slightly predate the temple, which was founded in the late 1st or early 2nd century.

2014 Excavation of western school extension

Fieldwork date: October - November 2014

CIMS - awaited

NGR: TL 98842 25847

Report: CAT Report - tbc (in prep)

The excavation involved works for a new science and technology block to the west of existing school building. Principal remains were Roman: nine pits, a compacted gravel surface L3, wall foundations F4 and F11, and two dumps of Roman roof tile. Of interest is a large Roman pit first identified at evaluation stage, when it produced five Roman coins (a hoard or votive deposit). At excavation stage, the pit produced a further 25 coins (in conservation: numbers tbc). The pit, with large quantities of Roman pottery in its upper fills and LIA pot in its lowest fills, may be a LIA/Roman transitional feature. It contained some organic material (a well?).

The temple precinct wall was exposed at the western side of the excavated area. This will necessitate some adjustment of the size of the precinct as previously plotted. Another point of interest was a small rectangular structure on the northern edge of the site. As this aligns with the adjacent temples, it may be a small shrine.

2014 Excavation of test-pits on proposed sports pitches.

Client report only

Four test pits were hand dug at approximately the corners of the proposed sports pitch. No archaeological features were identified, but residual Roman brick and tile may be associated with the temple complex or with extensive activity on the 1st century industrial complex at Sheepen.

2015 borehole watching brief

Fieldwork date: 16-17th February 2015

CAT project code:

Fieldwork date: February 2105

Report: CAT Report 816 (in prep)

NGR: TL 8836 5850 (centre)

CIMS accession code - awaited

A watching brief was carried out in February 2015 during excavations of seven geo-technical boreholes as part of a survey ahead of new sports facilities. The boreholes cut through modern topsoil (L1) and into an accumulation horizon (hillwash / colluvium?), and into glacial gravels (final depth: between 5-6m).

No archaeological features or horizons were seen, but (mixed in with modern material) , Roman mortar tile and building stone was found mixed in with modern coal, peg-tile and concrete. There relative absence of material here reflects the site's position away from the main centre of activity here.

Appendix 2

CBCPD Archaeological brief (following pages)

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at St. Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex

NGR: TL 989 258 (centre)

Planning reference: 150562

Client: Steve Bennett, PlayFootball Ltd

Agent:

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: TBC

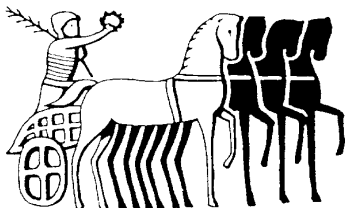
ECC Project code: n/a

CAT Project code: 15/04h

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 28.04.2015



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester,
Essex, C02 7GZ
tel: 07436 273 304
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Site Location and Description

The proposed site is located north-west of Colchester town centre on the north side of Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE. St. Helena School is located within the nationally significant pre-Roman settlement at Sheepen (Scheduled Monument 1002173) and consists of school buildings, the earliest dating from 1938, set within extensive grounds of some 17 acres mainly laid to grass for playing fields, hard surface parking areas and an all weather sports pitch. The site is currently undeveloped grass playing field.

Proposed work

Development of land for football pitches and the construction of a sports pavilion.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on CAT Report 817:

St Helena School is in an area of high archaeological importance. It is within *Camulodunum* - the nationally important late Iron Age and Roman fortress whose 12-square-mile extent is now occupied by modern Colchester.

Camulodunum had two principal centres. One was at Gosbecks (the farmstead and possible the home of Cunobelin) and the other was at Sheepen (the trading depot and quayside). St Helena School is on the northern side of Sheepen, and part of the site (and school) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The school site coincides with the location of two Romano-Celtic temples (Colchester Temples 2, 3) and associated buildings (first discovered and excavated in 1935 when the school was first built, and prior to the construction of the new Colchester bypass - now the 'Avenue of Remembrance').

Temple 2 lies under the northern edge of the main school building, and the precinct wall encloses a block of land now occupied by the core school buildings. A much smaller Romano-Celtic temple (Temple 3) lies on the boundary between the extreme north edge of the school grounds and the Avenue of Remembrance.

Apart from the major excavation in the 1930s, there have been many small-scale archaeological projects at St Helena. These projects confirm the presence of extremely important archaeological remains at St Helena. Excavations in 2014 (CAT Reports 699 & 825) prior to the construction of the science and technology block exposed the Temple 2 precinct wall, a possible shrine, and a large possibly 'votive' pit containing a hoard of Roman coins.

The Roman remains are not deeply-buried, and are susceptible to damage from modern construction.

The proposed sports pitches occupy a large block of land to the east of the school. Assessing the potential damage caused by the construction of the pitches is genuinely difficult, as the only information we have is that provided by the four test pits (CAT Report 804) dug in the corners of the proposed pitches. These showed the level at which archaeological remains are present and might be anticipated. Working clockwise from NW to SE, the 'archaeological level' in the four TPs was 540mm, 580mm, unclear, and 550mm respectively *below present ground level*. Allowing a 'buffer zone' of 150mm to protect the archaeological levels, it follows that approximately 400mm *in total* could be removed from this site without unduly impacting the archaeological level. If it is proposed to remove more than a total of 400mm, then it may be anticipated that the construction will have a detrimental impact on the buried archaeological remains.

Planning Background

A planning application was submitted to Colchester Borough Council for the proposed work (above: Planning reference 150562). As the site lies within an area highlighted by the UAD & EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, a full archaeological condition

was recommended by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and states:

"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work involves undertaking an evaluation of linear trial trenching. The proposed trench layout includes one trench 18.5m x 1.8m along the central axis of the pavilion and central line of piles (see Fig 1). The mechanical stripping of the trench will involve using a flat-edged ditching bucket whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at St. Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex - CBC 2015). Once the strip is complete a meeting will be held on site with CBCAA, the developer and CAT to discuss what further work is needed.

It is anticipated that this work will comprise the complete excavation and recovery of any burials on discovered on the site and standard sample excavation of all other features.

Specific research aims are:

- Follow requirements as stated in section 3.2 of the Brief
- To identify the nature of Iron Age and Roman activity on the site and how this links to the rest of the Sheepen area.

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-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

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.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Written Scheme of Investigation

Prior to start of work, a Written Scheme of Investigation will be submitted to CBCAA. The WSI will describe in appropriate detail how the *Brief* from CBCAA will be implemented in fieldwork, post-excavation, reporting and publication stages.

The WSI shall be submitted to CBCAA, and fieldwork will not commence prior to approval of WSI from CBCAA.

The WSI will include a location plan of the development site showing area of proposed excavation or trench layout.

OASIS Record

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to CBCAA and EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows – one archaeologist to continually monitor the strip with an additional archaeologist for archaeological contexts that require excavation.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

Evaluation methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground reduction, footings work, service trench digging, and all related works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Site surveying

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

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

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential 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 (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

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

Human remains

Policy depends on the age of the burial. 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 license 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 CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Allowance will be made in the budget and timetable to allow a human bone specialist to visit site to advise on recording and lifting human remains (inhumations), and for an experienced conservator to visit site and advise on recording and lifting of fragile grave goods.

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.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASiS website.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)
conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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.

End of Fieldwork, and Report

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate report will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by CBCAA.

Final report will normally be submitted to CBCAA as PDF, but printed copy can be provided on request.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methodology adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of site and excavated area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench / excavated area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Detailed archaeologists results including list of sites resulting from an EHER/UAD search, and historic maps to show changes and development of site, with a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- As Appendices, the OASIS entry and the WSI.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and attached as Appendix to the site report, which will be emailed as PDF to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

Archive Deposition

A site archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards given in CM 2008, ClfA 2014b, and MoRPHE (EH 2006).

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

A Drawing Interchange File (.dxf) will be supplied to for integration in the UAD/HER. AutoCAD files will also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 699	213	<i>An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex.</i> Unpublished grey literature by B Holloway and H Brooks April 2013
CAT Report 804	2014	<i>Archaeological test pits at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex.</i> Unpublished grey literature report by B Holloway
CAT Report 817	2015	<i>Heritage Statement: St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex.</i> Unpublished grey literature report by H Brooks
CAT Report 825		<i>An archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex.</i> Unpublished grey literature by P Parmenter and B Holloway forthcoming
CBCAA	2015	Brief for a trenched Archaeological Evaluation at St. Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, by J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

Emma Holloway



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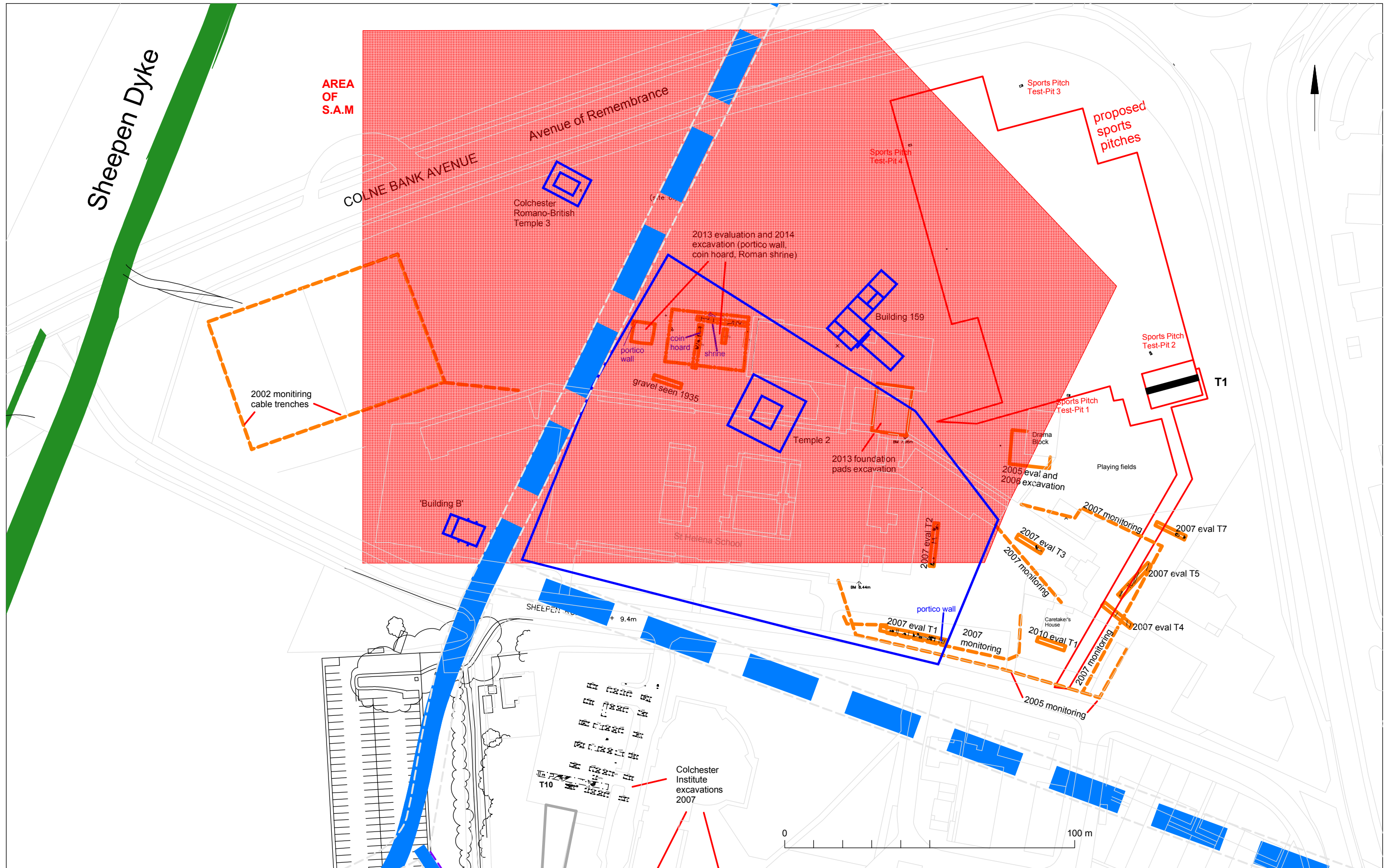


Figure 1 Proposed trenching scheme on site of PlayFootball pavilion.

Appendix 3

OASIS summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: colchest3-210051

Project details

Project name	Evaluation of PlayFootball sports pavilion at St. Helena School, Colchester
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation on the site of the proposed pavilion at St Helena School revealed thirteen archaeological features. Three are dated either Late Iron Age or Roman - two pits/post-holes, and a gravel surface; the other ten features included two modern ditches (one aligned on pre-school field boundaries), and eight undated pits or post-holes. All features were sealed by 0.65m of overburden (modern topsoil, and subsoil). One of the common features of excavations and evaluations at St Helena is the discovery of gravel surfaces, both inside and outside the precinct of Colchester Temple 2. The gravel surface found here shows that they are more extensive than had been thought. As the evaluation trench was approximately 65m outside the precinct wall of Temple 2, and 90m east of the nearest temple-related structure, the evaluated area is clearly peripheral to the temple complex. Whether the features excavated in 2015 are actually connected with the temple complex is difficult to say, and it may be that they are of an industrial or domestic character.
Project dates	Start: 08-05-2015 End: 08-05-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	14/04h - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	GRAVEL SURFACE Roman
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	POST-HOLES Roman
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"

Development type Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER St. Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester

Postcode CO3 3LE

Study area 32.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 989 258 51.894676768 0.891080333255 51 53 40 N 000 53 27 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 5.90m Max: 5.90m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer

Project design originator Chris Lister

Project director/manager Chris Lister

Project supervisor Mark Baister

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body PlayFootball

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Physical Archive ID 2015.42

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID 2015.42

Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID 2015.42

Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

available

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed pavilion at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Pip Parmenter and Mark Baister

Other bibliographic details CAT Report 835

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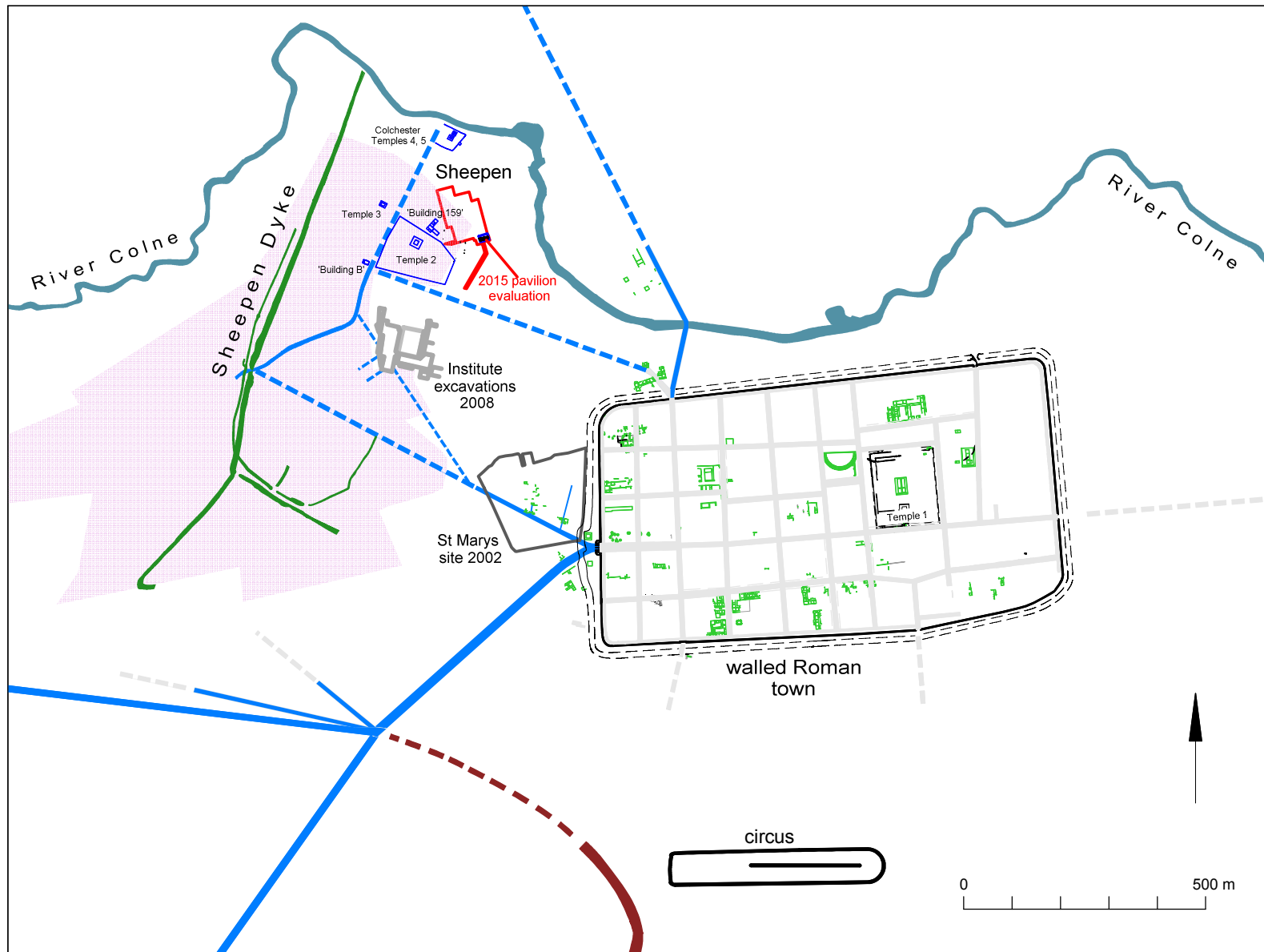
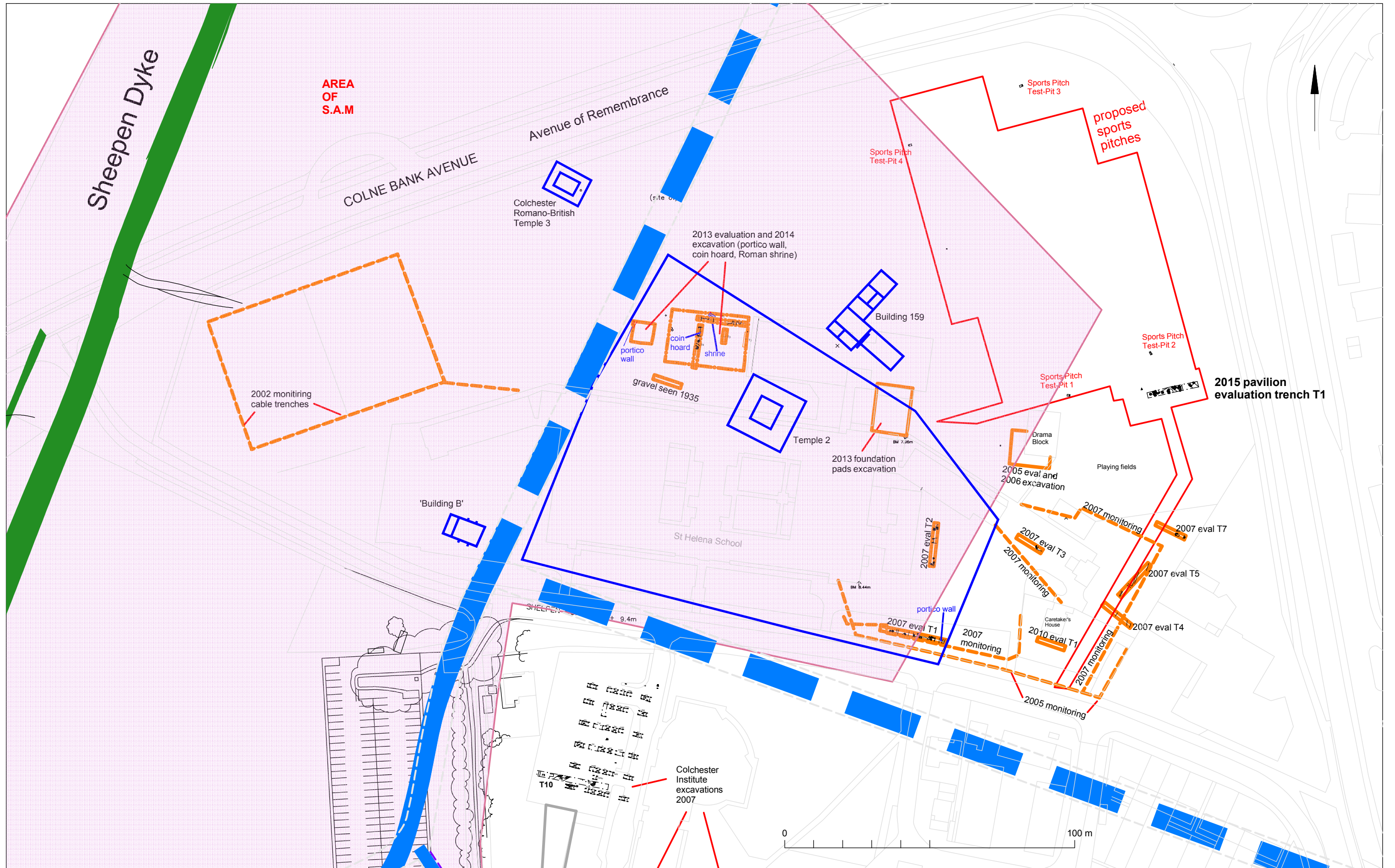


Fig 1 Location of St Helena School 2015 pavilion evaluation and proposed football pitches outline (red) in its local archaeological context

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Figure 2 Pavilion evaluation trench position, showing Scheduled area (shaded), proposed sports pitches (red outline), and previous archaeological work at St Helena School. .

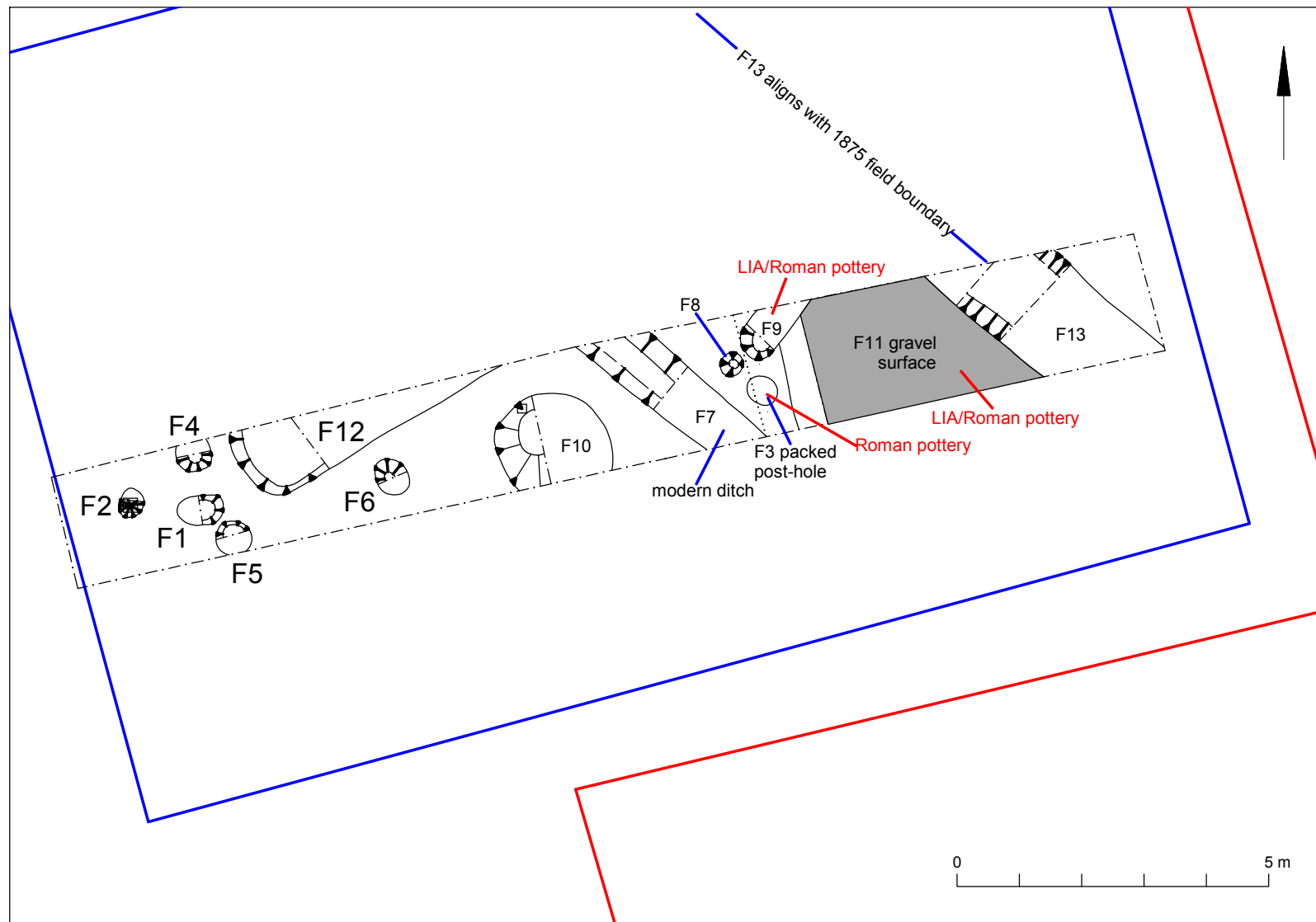


Fig 3 Trench 1 detail

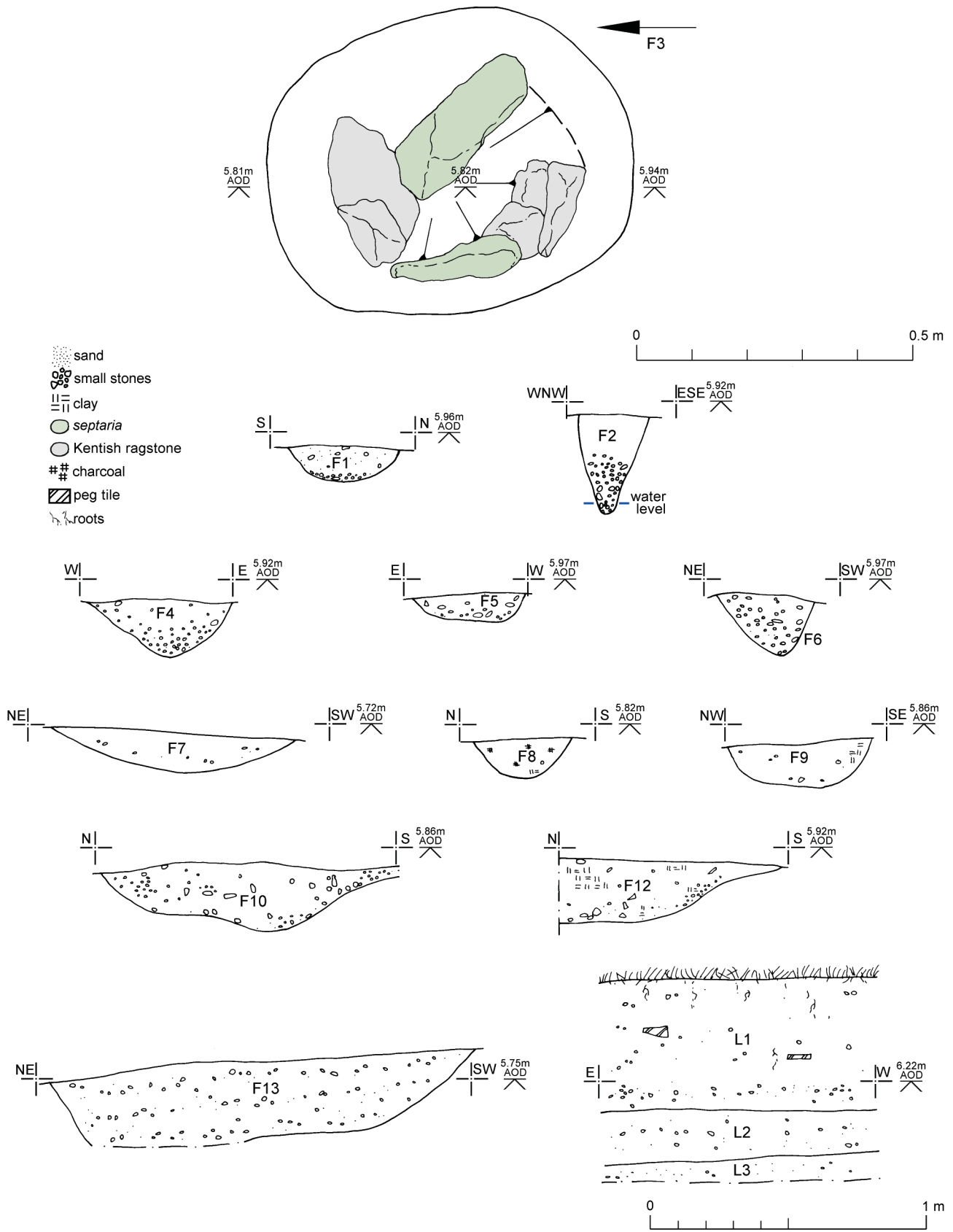
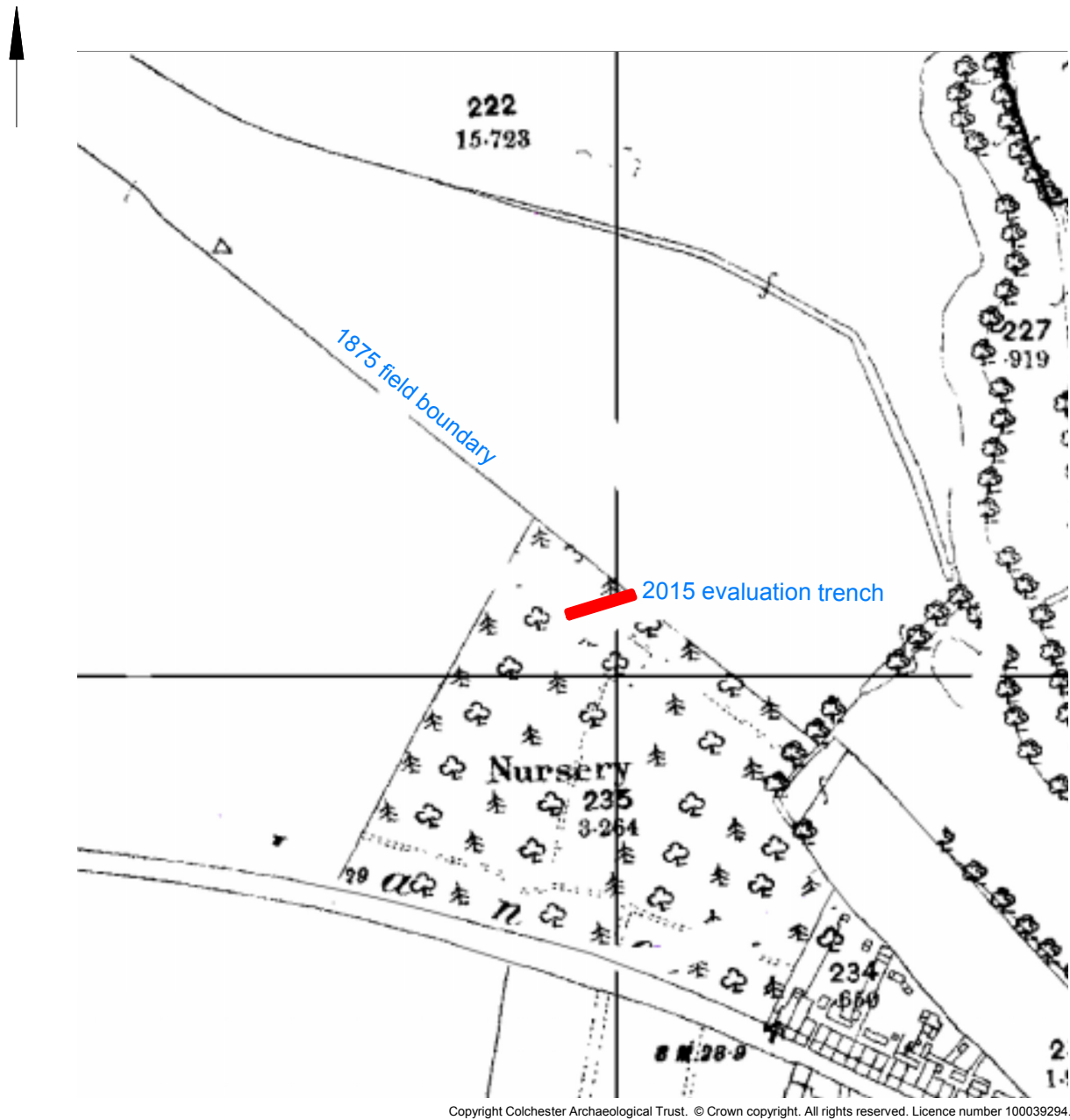


Fig 4 Feature plan (F3), feature sections (F1, F2, F4-10, F12, F13) and a representative trench section.



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Fig 5 2015 evaluation trench overlaid on 1875 OS to show relationship between boundary and position of ditch F13

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Address: St Helena School Pavilion site, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 989 258	Site code: CAT project code – 15/04h Museum Accession Code: 2015.42
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 8th May 2015	Size of area investigated: 1 Trench (18x1.8m = 32.4m ²)
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? yes	Related SMR or UAD numbers: 13121, 11688, 19724 MCC604, MCC602,
Final report: CAT Report 835	
Periods represented: Roman, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological evaluation on the site of the proposed pavilion at St Helena School revealed thirteen archaeological features. Three are dated either Late Iron Age or Roman - two pits/post-holes, and a gravel surface; the other ten features included two modern ditches (one aligned on pre-school field boundaries), and eight undated pits or post-holes. All features were sealed by 0.65m of overburden (modern topsoil, and subsoil).</p> <p>One of the common features of excavations and evaluations at St Helena is the discovery of gravel surfaces, both inside and outside the precinct of Colchester Temple 2. The gravel surface found here shows that they are more extensive than had been thought. As the evaluation trench was approximately 65m outside the precinct wall of Temple 2, and 90m east of the nearest temple-related structure, the evaluated area is clearly peripheral to the temple complex. Whether the features excavated in 2015 are actually connected with the temple complex is difficult to say, and it may be that they are of an industrial or domestic character.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports:	
ECC monitor: Jess Tipper (CBC)	
Keywords: Roman pits, postholes, gravel surface	Significance: *
Author of summary: Pip Parmenter	Date of summary: May 2015