

**Archaeological evaluation at  
Colchester County High School for Girls,  
Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US**

**June 2016**



**by Laura Pooley**

With contributions by Stephen Benfield and Val Fryer  
figures by Robin Mathieson and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway, Nigel Rayner and Alec Wade

**commissioned by Lloyd Williams, Archer Building Consultancy Ltd  
on behalf of Colchester County High School for Girls**

NGR: TL 9750 2486 (centre)

Planning reference: 160863

CAT project ref.: 16/06e

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.61

UAD ref: ECC3801

OASIS reference: colchest3-254636



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**CAT Report 975**

August 2016

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester in advance of the construction of a single-storey extension. Previous archaeological investigations in and around CCHS have revealed widespread Roman activity including a fort, triple-dyke, palisade trenches and a wattle-and-daub structure, and burials. A single trial-trench excavated across the footprint of the new building revealed a Roman ditch (F4) aligned north-east to south-west. It was recorded along with five modern and two natural features. No trace of the triple-dyke was identified even though it was projected to run through the evaluation trench.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 29th June 2016. The work was commissioned by Lloyd Williams of Archer Building Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of the school, in advance of the construction of a single-storey extension, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with 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 Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016).

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

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located within the grounds of Colchester County High School for Girls, a purpose-built complex of buildings opened in 1957 on land that was formerly part of the estate of Altnacealgach House (locally listed), a Victorian mansion designed by acclaimed local architect Horace Darken, built in 1888 to be the home of Arthur Thomas Osborne, heir to a successful brewing business. The school lies to the south-west of the house. The Altnacealgach estate was located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), more generally considered the Lexden cemetery (EHER nos 11713, 11714). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds to either side of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town to London). Many Roman burials and cremations have been found and reported on in this area (see Hull and CAR 11). In particular a Roman amphora burial was found to the west of Altnacealgach House (EHER 11881) and a

trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road in 2009 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (UAD event no. ECC2906, ECC Field Archaeology Unit Report).

Excavations in 1939 revealed an early Roman curving ditch, possibly the corner of a fort, to the north-west of the school (EHER 11882). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull, 273). It was later shown that these form a continuation of the Heath Farm Dyke North (EHER 12660, CAR 11, 32).

In 1955, prior to the construction of the school, a 'triple-ditched dyke' was excavated by R J Martin beneath what was to become the main school building. The ditches were 4m wide, although their depths are unknown (EHER 12630, CAR 11, 127). In addition to this, on the south edge of the school, post holes and a ditch indicated the possible presence of a building with wooden posts surrounded by a diagonal ditch dated to the 2nd century and a large 4.3m deep pit, also dated to the 2nd century (EHER 12631).

In 1956 excavations undertaken by John Wacher to the east of the school revealed palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (EHER 12632, CAR 11, 124-126).

A watching brief undertaken by CAT in 2001 on an extension to the school revealed no trace of the ditches of the triple dyke seen in 1955 (CAT Report 155).

A further watching brief in 2005 for a new music and careers block recorded four undated pits or ditches (CAT Report 348). At least two of the ditches of the 'triple-ditched dyke' should have been visible within the footprint of the new building and one of its soakaways, but were not observed. A substantial ditch recorded in a second soakaway was not in alignment with those seen in 1955 and it was concluded that the 'triple-ditched dyke' either turns a corner or in fact does not actually exist.

An evaluation undertaken by CAT in 2014 revealed a Roman ditch dating to the later 1st century AD (CAT Report 762). The ditch was aligned parallel to the ditches seen in the 1939 excavations (ie, Heath Farm Dyke North). What is unclear is whether the 2014 ditch is merely an agricultural field ditch, or whether it is part of a wider defensive scheme including the Heath Farm Dyke and the 'triple-ditched dyke' on the school site.

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

A single trial-trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. Located across the footprint of the proposed development it measured 30m long by 1.8m wide (54m<sup>2</sup>) and was excavated to a depth of 600-650mm below current ground level (bcgl).

Three layers were identified. Modern sandy-loam topsoil (L1, c 250mm thick) sealed a sandy-silty subsoil (L2, c 250mm thick), which sealed natural sandy-silty clay (L3, identified at a depth of approximately 500mm bcgl). Two sondages were excavated at the west end of the trench to check L3 was natural.

Five modern features were recorded. These were three service trenches (F1-F3), a path and a manhole. Two irregular natural features (F5-F6) were also identified. The only feature of archaeological significance was a Roman ditch (F4) at the east end of the trench. It was a shallow U-shaped ditch measuring 580mm wide and 100mm deep. Aligned north-east to south-west it contained CBM and pottery in a grey/brown sandy-silty fill with charcoal flecks.



**Photograph 1** West end of trench, with sondages and F1 in foreground, looking E



**Photograph 2** East end of trench, looking E



**Photograph 3** Ditch F4, looking S

## 5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of finds dating to the Roman and post-medieval period were recovered from two soil layers (L1 & L2) and from one feature (F4). The finds consist of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay. The finds are listed by context in Table 2 and a finds spot date is provided for each context. The pottery was recorded using the Colchester Roman pottery fabric series (CAR 10) and the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham 1985 & CAR 7). The fabrics referred to in this report are listed in Table 1. Samian pottery vessel forms refer to Webster (1996).

The majority of the finds are of Roman date. The Roman pottery includes imported samian and the small quantity of Roman CBM recovered includes a variety of brick/tile types including roofing tile (tegula) and a flooring cube (tesserae). The few more closely datable of the Roman finds are of 2nd/late 2nd century date (Central Gaulish samian) or suggest a date in the 2nd century or later (tegula tile with thin base from F4). Most of the Roman material is abraded, including the finds from the single feature (F4) although the finds from the feature are, on the whole, less abraded than those from the soil layers (L1 & L2). Sherds of post-medieval pottery, dating probably to the 17th century and more broadly dated to the late 16th-18th century were recovered from both of the soil layers and the Roman finds can be seen as residual in these two contexts.

It can be noted that no organic material, notably animal bone, was recovered and this could suggest poor preservation of this type of organic material; although this might also reflect the small scale of the excavation.

Fabric code	Fabric name
<i>Roman</i>	
BACG	Central Gaulish samian
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares
<i>Post-Roman</i>	
40	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthen wares

Fabric code	Fabric name
40B	Stock-type black glazed ware

**Table 1** Pottery fabrics

Context	Find no	Form/ description	spot date
L1	1	<b>Pottery, post-medieval:</b> (1) Fabric 40B, probably the base edge from a drinking pot (c 17C). <b>Fired clay:</b> (VSQ) small pieces, lightly abraded, soft, brownish-red sandy fabric (not closely dated)	<b>Post-medieval</b> (c 17C)
L2	2	<b>Pottery, Roman:</b> (VSQ) Fabric BACG (1) base from a bowl, prob Dr 31, abraded (M-L2C); Fabric GX, jar rim, abraded (Rom). <b>Pottery, post-medieval:</b> (1) Fabric 40, body sherd internal glaze (L16-18C). <b>CBM:</b> Roman brick/tile (RBT) (2) abraded	<b>Post-medieval</b> Primarily Roman finds all abraded (2/M2C+) with one post-medieval sherd (L16-18C)
T1, F4	3	<b>Pottery, Roman:</b> (VSQ) Fabric GX (2) light abrasion (Rom). <b>CBM:</b> (SQ) (all in red/orange oxidised fabric) Roman tegula (1) thin base (c 15 mm thick) abraded (possibly 2C+); Roman brick/tile (1) (30mm thick), fragments (2); Roman tessera (1) no indication of surviving mortar from use	<b>Roman</b> (2C+?)

**Table 2** Finds by context.

**Key:** VSQ=very small quantity (1-5 pieces), SQ=small quantity (5-10 pieces)

## 6 Environmental assessment

by Val Fryer

### Introduction and method statement

Excavations at the Colchester County High School for Girls recorded a limited number of features including a ditch of probable Roman date (F4) and an undated 'feature' (F5), which was thought to be natural. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within both features.

The samples were bulk floated by CAT, with the flots being collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

### Results

Small charcoal/charred wood fragments are present at a low density within both assemblages, but with the exception of a single piece of indeterminate charred root/stem, other plant macrofossils are entirely absent. Other remains include black porous and tarry residues (the origin and antiquity of which are unknown), small pieces of coal (coal 'dust') and a possible fragment of a charred rodent dropping.

### Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, as both assemblages are so sparse, it would appear most likely that the features from which the samples were taken were entirely peripheral to any particular focus of cultural activity. The few remains which are recorded are almost certainly derived from a very low density of scattered refuse of unknown origin.

Because of the limited nature of the current assemblages, it is extremely difficult to suggest any strategy for future sampling, should further interventions be anticipated within the area of the school. Therefore, if future archaeological work is undertaken, additional samples should only be taken at the discretion of the excavator, with attention

being paid to any contexts which appear to contain charred plant remains or which may be of specific cultural, economic or industrial import.

<b>Sample Number</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Finds Number	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Feature Number	<b>F4</b>	<b>F5</b>
Charcoal <2mm	x	
Charcoal >2mm	x	x
Charcoal >5mm		x
Charred root/stem		x
Black porous and tarry residues	x	xx
Burnt/fired clay		x
Charred ?rodent dropping		x
Small coal fragments		x
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3** Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

**Key for table:**

x = 1 – 10 specimens

xx = 11 – 50 specimens

## 7 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation at the Colchester County High School for Girls revealed one Roman ditch (2nd century+) with five modern and two natural features. Part of the triple-dyke (identified in 1955) should have been located within the trial-trench but, as during the 2001 and 2005 monitoring (CAT Reports 155 and 348), no trace of this dyke was apparent. Either the triple-dyke turns a corner/terminates and does not continue into the south-east corner of the school or it was incorrectly plotted in 1955 and is actually on a slightly different alignment.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Lloyd Williams (Archer Building Consultancy Ltd) and Colchester County High School for Girls for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway, N Rayner and A Wade. Figures were prepared by R Mathieson and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

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

<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: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by Robin Symonds and Sue Wade
<i>CAR 11</i>	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by

CBC	2016	Hawke, CFC and Crummy, P <i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, CO3 3US</i> , by J Tipper
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US</i>
CAT Report 155	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: September 2001</i>
CAT Report 348	2005	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: May–November 2005</i>
CAT Report 762	2014	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: March 2014</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Cunningham, C	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex' in Cunningham, C., & Drury, P., <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA Research Report <b>54</b>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
Hull, M	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL <b>20</b>
Webster, P	1996	<i>Roman samian pottery in Britain</i> , Practical Handbook in Archaeology <b>13</b>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit 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 AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** not retained

**Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 975)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation  
Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)  
Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

## 12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2016.61.

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### Distribution list

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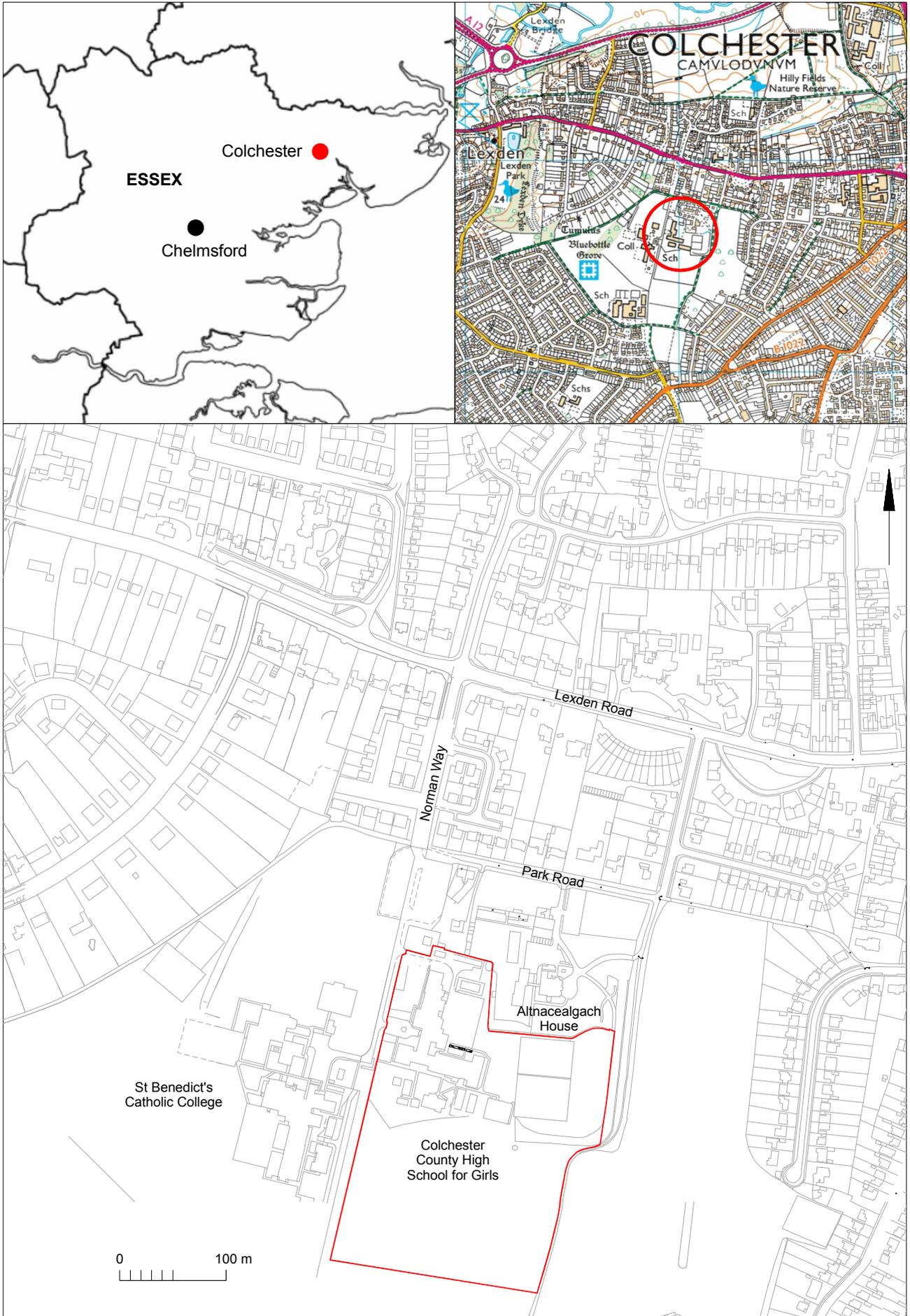
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Date: 1.8..2016



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Fig 1 Site location.

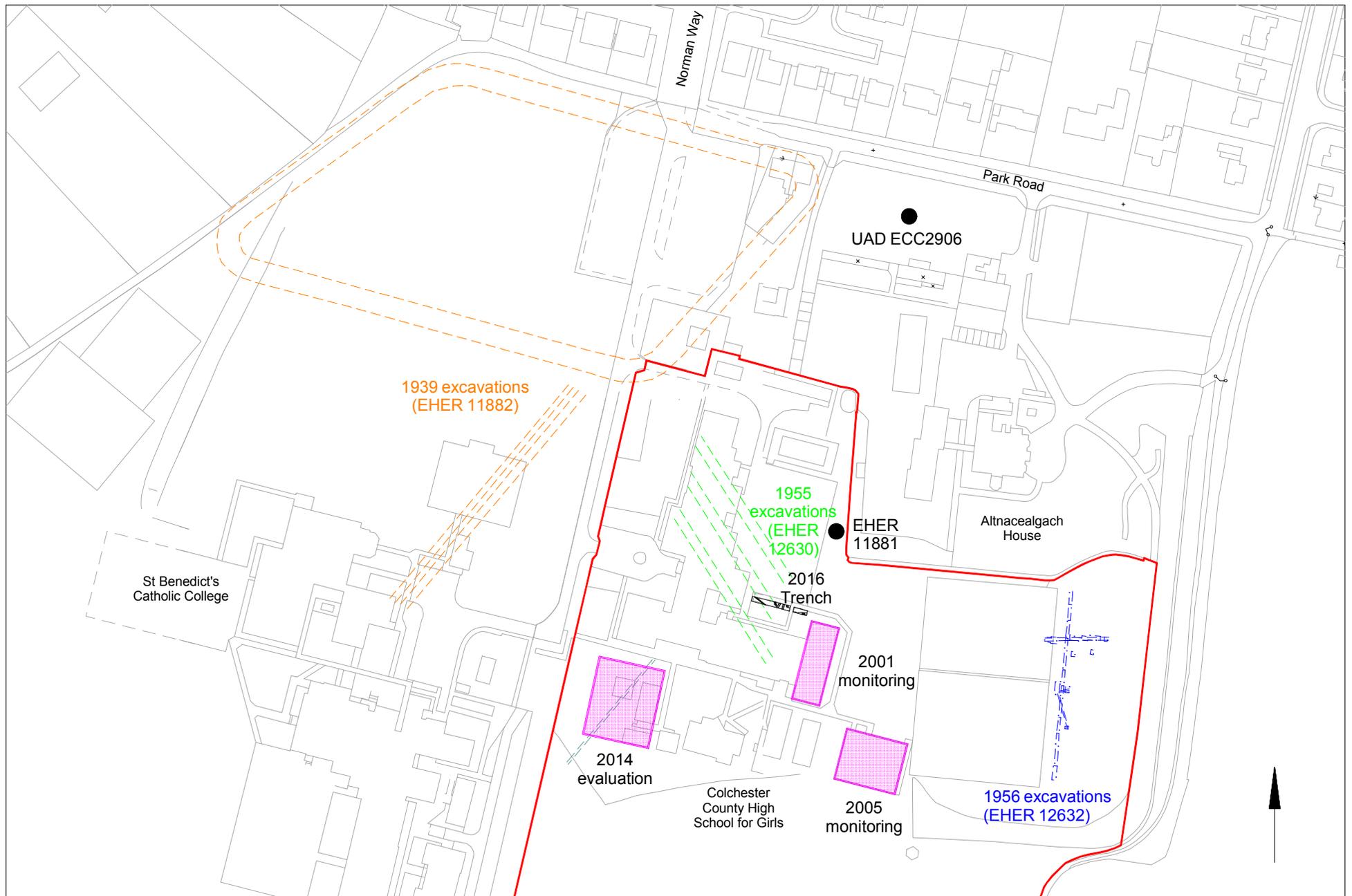
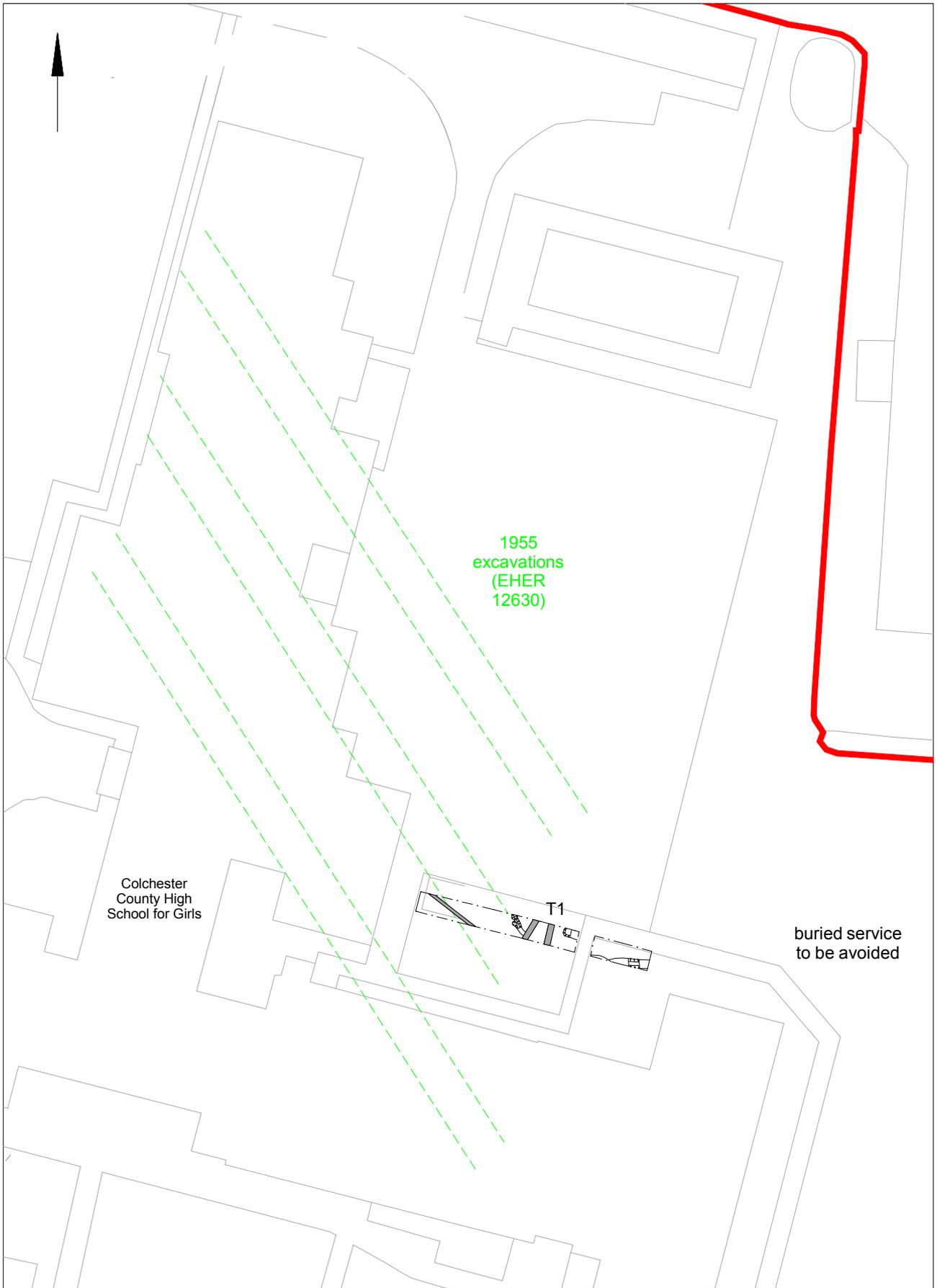


Fig 2 Site location in relation to previous archaeological work.



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Fig 3 Results.

0 20 m

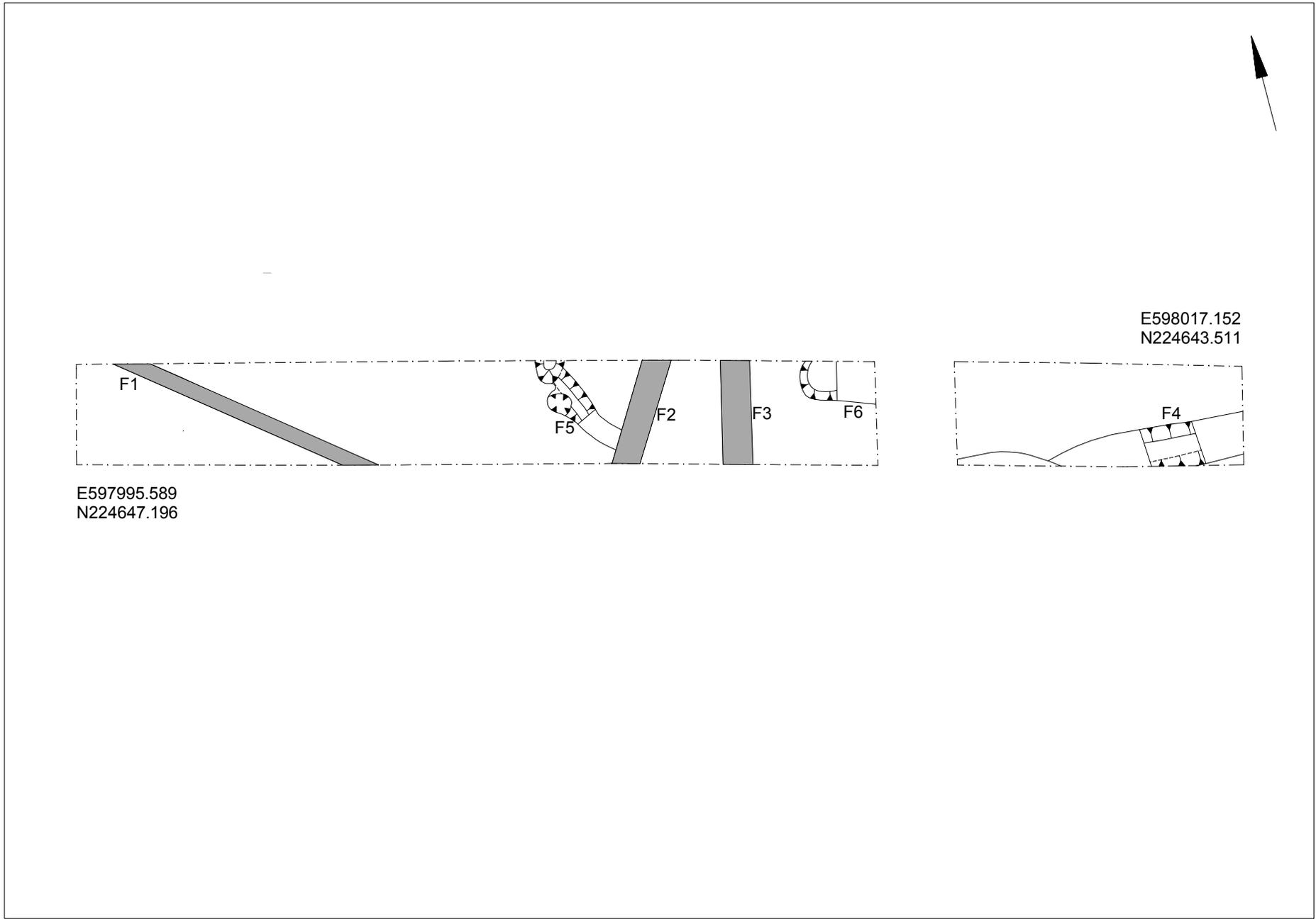


Fig 4 Trench plan.



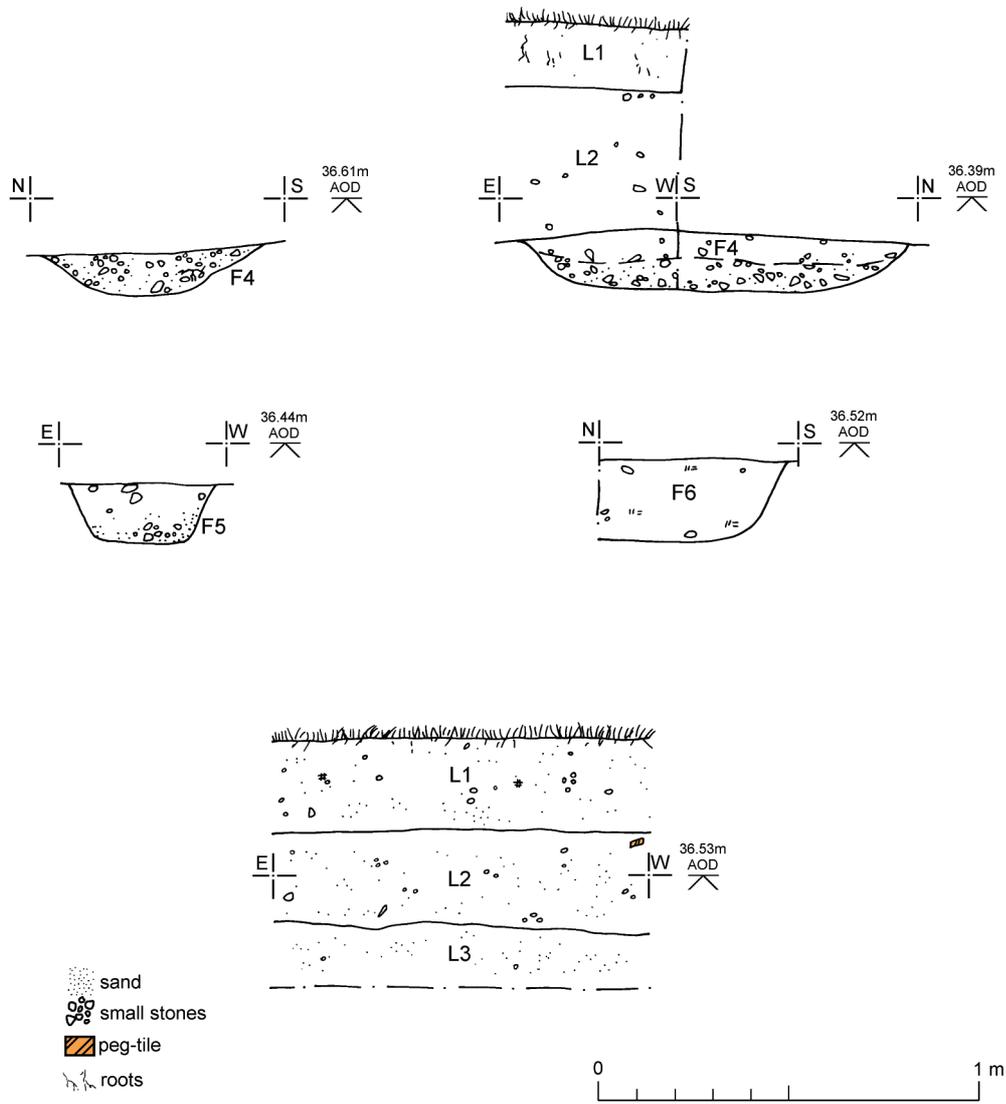


Fig 5 Feature (F4-6) and representative trench sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9750 2486 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 16/06e UAD ref: ECC3801 OASIS ref: colchest3-254636
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 29th June 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Total size of trench 54m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.61	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner/developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related UAD/SMR number:</b> EHER 11713, 11714, 11881, 11882, 12630-2, 12660; UAD ECC2906
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 975	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman, modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester in advance of the construction of a single-storey extension. Previous archaeological investigations in and around CCHS have revealed widespread Roman activity including a fort, triple-dyke, palisade trenches and a wattle-and-daub structure, and burials. A single trial-trench excavated across the footprint of the new building revealed a Roman ditch (F4) aligned north-east to south-west. It was recorded along with five modern and two natural features. No trace of the triple-dyke was identified even though it was projected to run through the evaluation trench.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 155, 348, 762	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> August 2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for a trenched archaeological evaluation at  
Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman  
Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US

**NGR:** TL 9750 2486 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 160863

**Client:** Colchester County High School for Girls

**Agent:** Lloyd Williams, Archer Building Consultancy Ltd

**Curating Museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** TBC

**UAD Event number:** TBC

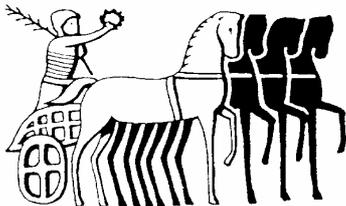
**CAT Project code:** 16/06e

**OASIS Project id:** colchest3-254636

**Site Manager:** Ben Holloway

**CBC Monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 14.06.2016



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.7km east of Colchester town centre (Fig 1). It lies within the grounds of the Colchester County High School for Girls and consists of a grassed area between existing buildings. The site is centred on NGR TL 9750 2486.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a single-storey extension, comprising of four classrooms, a dining hall expansion and two offices and associated works.

## Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The development site is located within the grounds of Colchester County High School for Girls, a purpose-built complex of buildings opened in 1957 on land that was formerly part of the estate of Altnacealgach House (locally listed), a Victorian mansion designed by acclaimed local architect Horace Darken, built in 1888 to be the home of Arthur Thomas Osborne, heir to a successful brewing business. The school lies to the south-west of the house. The Altnacealgach estate was located within the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), more generally considered the Lexden cemetery (EHER nos 11713, 11714). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds to either side of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town to London). Many Roman burials and cremations have been found and reported on in this area (see Hull and CAR 11). In particular a Roman amphora burial was found to the west of Altnacealgach House (EHER 11881) and a trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road in 2009 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (UAD event no. ECC2906, ECC Field Archaeology Unit Report).

Excavations in 1939 revealed an early Roman curving ditch, possibly the corner of a fort, to the north-west of the school (EHER 11882). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull, 273). It was later shown that these form a continuation of the Heath Farm Dyke North (EHER 12660, CAR 11, 32).

In 1955, prior to the construction of the school, a 'triple-ditched dyke' was excavated by R J Martin beneath what was to become the main school building. The ditches were 4m wide, although their depths are unknown (EHER 12630, CAR 11, 127). In addition to this, on the south edge of the school, post holes and a ditch indicated the possible presence of a building with wooden posts surrounded by a diagonal ditch dated to the 2nd century and a large 4.3m deep pit, also dated to the 2nd century (EHER 12631).

In 1956 excavations undertaken by John Wachter to the east of the school revealed palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (EHER 12632, CAR 11, 124-126).

A watching brief undertaken by CAT in 2001 on an extension to the school revealed no trace of the ditches of the triple dyke seen in 1955 (CAT Report 155).

A further watching brief in 2005 for a new music and careers block recorded four un-dated pits or ditches (CAT Report 348). At least two of the ditches of the 'triple-ditched dyke' should have been visible within the footprint of the new building and one of its soakaways, but were not observed. A substantial ditch recorded in a second soakaway was not in alignment with those seen in 1955 and it was concluded that the 'triple-ditched dyke' either turns a corner or in fact does not actually exist.

An evaluation undertaken by CAT in 2014 revealed a Roman ditch dating to the later 1st century AD (CAT Report 762). The ditch was aligned parallel to the ditches seen in the 1939 excavations (ie, Heath Farm Dyke North). What is unclear is whether the 2014 ditch is merely an agricultural field ditch, or whether it is part of a wider defensive scheme including the Heath Farm Dyke and the 'triple-ditched dyke' on the school site.

## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in April 2016 (application No.160863) proposing the erection of a single-storey extension, comprising four new classrooms, an extension to the dining hall and two offices.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / UAD as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically, a single trial-trench, 30m long by 1.8m wide, located across the footprint of the proposed extension to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if further archaeological investigation is required (Fig 3). Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

## **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 2016)

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.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor and two archaeologists for one day.

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

## **Evaluation methodology**

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, these will be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m sections where this is possible.

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.

Samples will be taken based on the strategy requested by CBCAA (see 'Environmental Sampling Policy' below)

## **Site surveying**

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

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

## **Environmental sampling policy**

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

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

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

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer (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 Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

## **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. As the requirement for work is for full excavation any human remains encountered on the site will be subject to the following criteria: 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 Ministry 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 CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## **Photographic record**

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

## **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): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

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: Historic England Regional Advisor 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.

## **Post-excavation assessment**

Once fieldwork has finished the need for a post-excavation assessment will be discussed and agreed with CBCAA.

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be 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. It will be a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological value and significance of the results, and will identify the research potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework. It will include an Updated Project Design, with a timetable, for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

## **Results**

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

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

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the excavation area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

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

## **Archive deposition**

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

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

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

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

## 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

CAR Report 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by Hawkes and Crummy
CAT Report 155	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: September 2001</i> by Kate Orr
CAT Report 348	2005	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: May-November 2005</i> by Kate Orr
CAT Report 762	2014	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex - March 2014</i> by B Holloway
CBCAA	2016	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, CO3 3US</i> by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , Society of Antiquaries Research Committee Report, XX
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

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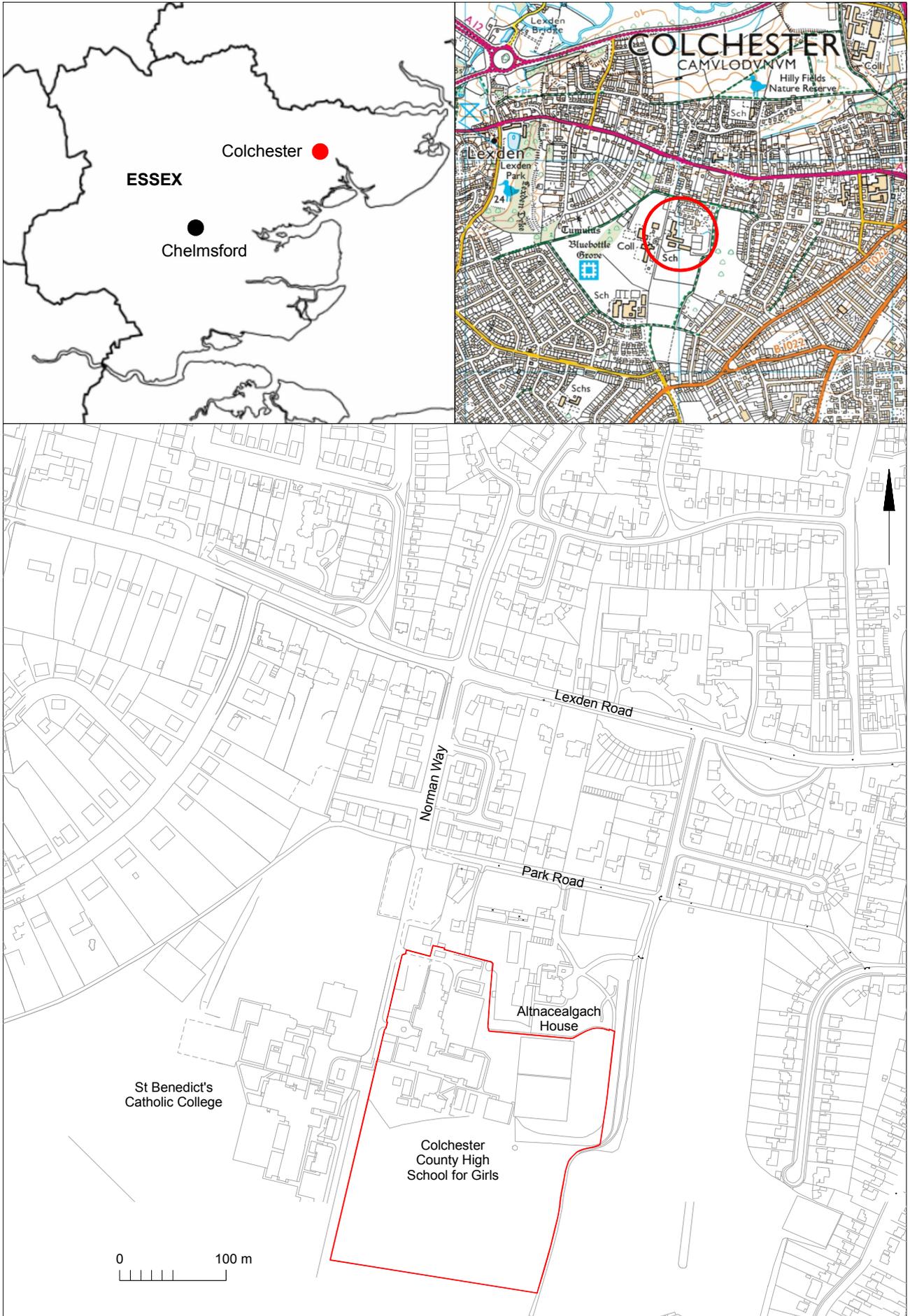


Fig 1 Site location.

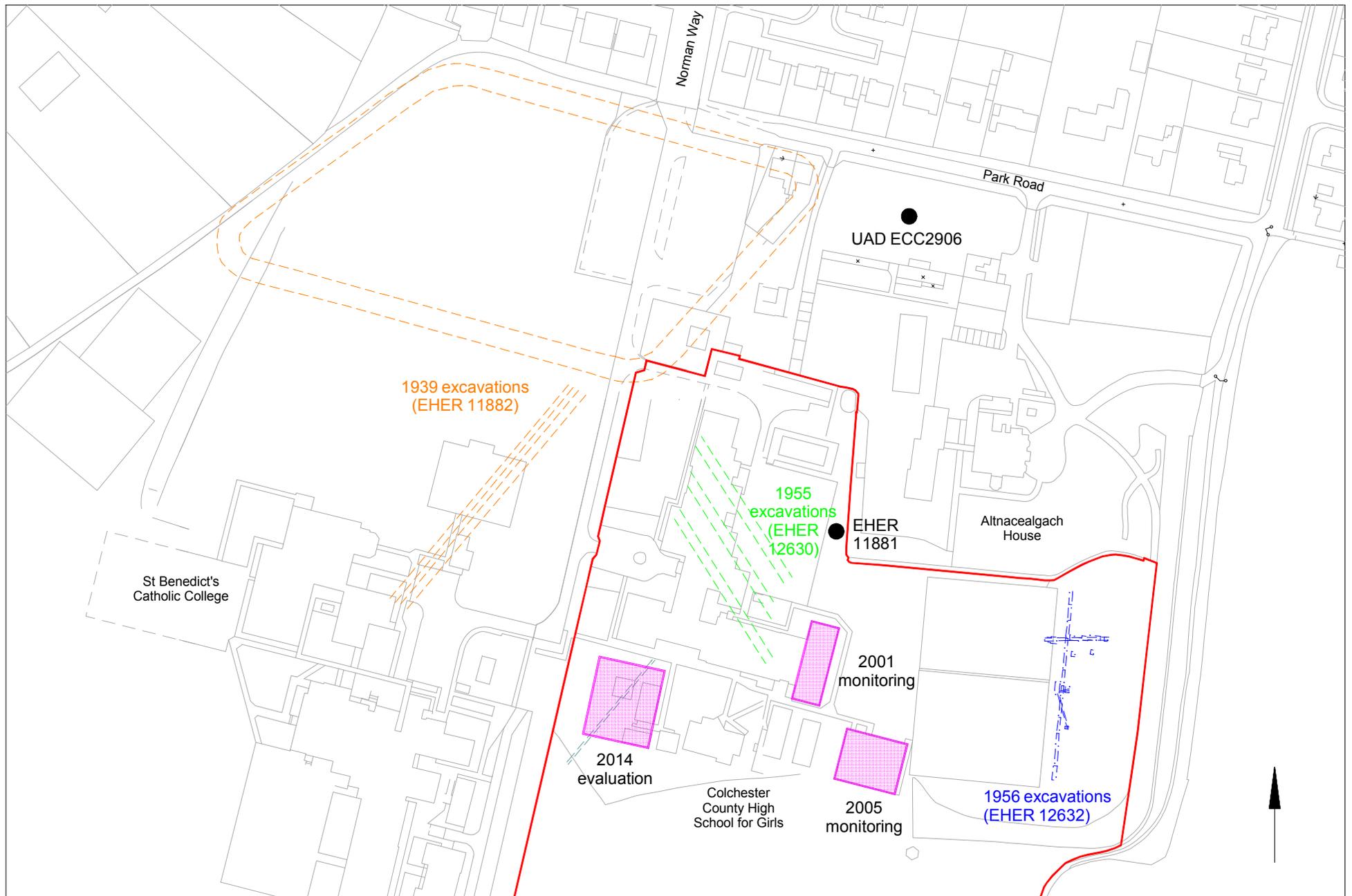


Fig 2 Site location in relation to previous archaeological work.

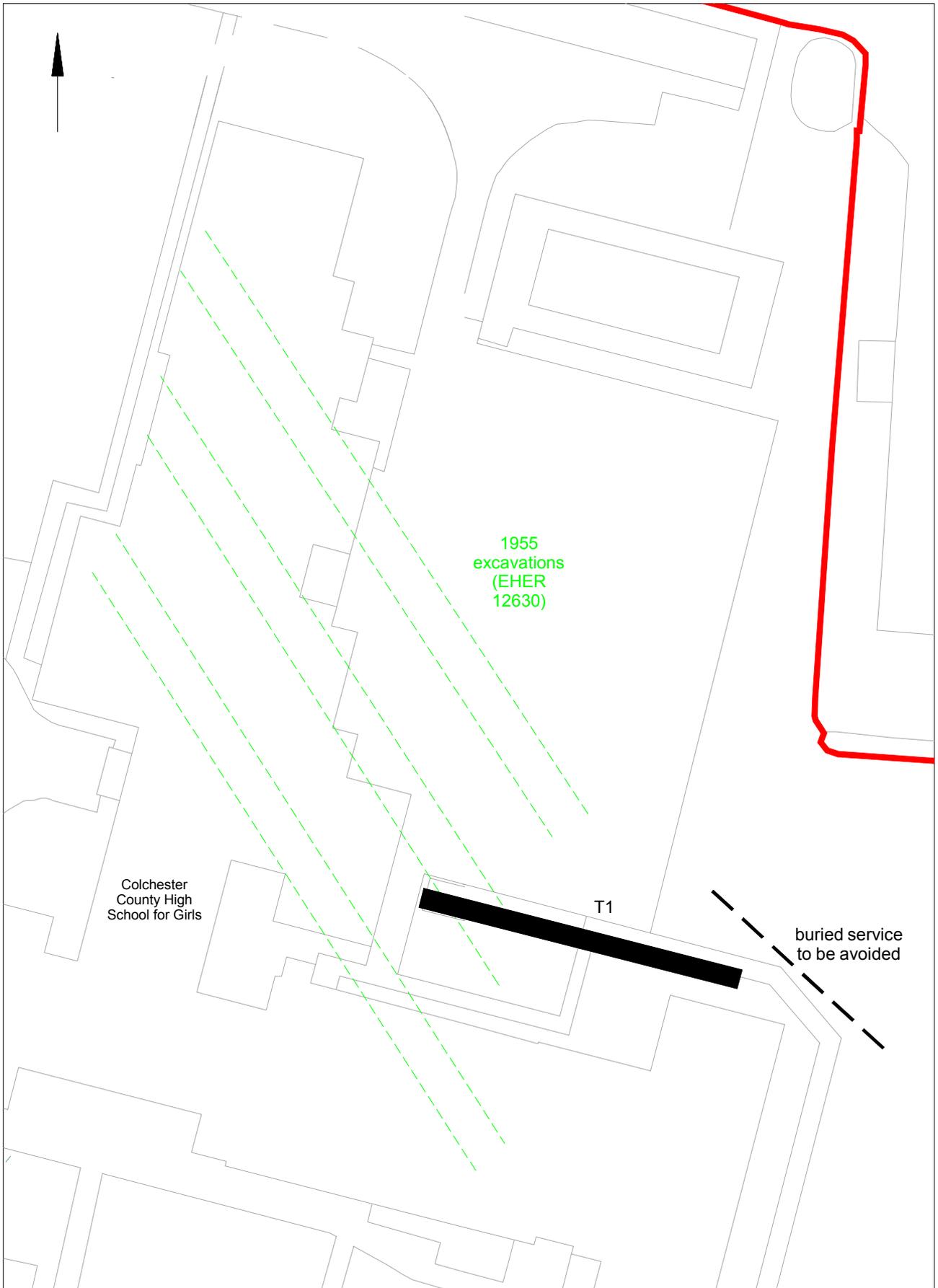


Fig 3 Trench location.

0 20 m

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-254636**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex CO3 3US
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester in advance of the construction of a single-storey extension. Previous archaeological investigations in and around CCHS have revealed widespread Roman activity including a fort, triple-dyke, palisade trenches and a wattle-and-daub structure, and burials. A single trial-trench excavated across the footprint of the new building revealed a Roman ditch (F4) aligned north-east to south-west. It was recorded along with five modern and two natural features. No trace of the triple-dyke was identified even though it was projected to run through the evaluation trench.
Project dates	Start: 29-06-2016 End: 29-06-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.61 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3801 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	16/06e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	160863 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

**Project location**

Country England  
 Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Colchester County High School for Girls  
 Postcode CO3 3US  
 Study area 54 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TL 9750 2486 51.886735276215 0.870220220065 51 53 12 N 000 52 12 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 36.27m Max: 36.37m

**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 Ben Holloway  
 Type of sponsor/funding body School  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Colchester County High School for Girls

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.61  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"  
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.61  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US: June 2016  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.  
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 975  
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