

Archaeological monitoring and recording at Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1QA

October-November 2016



by **Laura Pooley**

figures by Chris Lister and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Sarah Carter, Ben Holloway, Chris Lister and Robin Mathieson

on behalf of Colchester Borough Council

NGR: TM 0010 2505 (centre)

Planning reference: n/a

CAT project ref.: 16/10c

Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2016.103

CHER ref: ECC3887

OASIS reference: colchest3-265337



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CAT Report 1045

April 2017

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex during the redevelopment and enhancement of the car park. Despite being located immediately to the south of the Roman town wall and above the Roman town ditch. Groundworks revealed modern layers (L1, L2 and L4) to a depth of 0.5m below current ground level (bcgl). Sealed beneath were patches of a post-medieval/modern silty loam (L3) between 0.5-1.2m bcgl probably associated with housing on the site since the 18th century. Between and sealed by L3 were pockets of 'dark earth' (L5) also identified at depths of between 0.5-1.2m bcgl. This layer of 'dark earth' is possibly either the very top fill of the Roman town ditch or a layer of post-Roman topsoil accumulated over the ditch. Therefore, groundworks on the Priory Street Car Park have shown that significant archaeological horizons have survived in places at a minimum depth of 0.5m bcgl.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at the Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex which was carried out 12th October – 28th November 2016. The work was commissioned by Colchester Borough Council during the redevelopment and enhancement of the car park, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the 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 Continuous Archaeological Recording*, 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 watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located on the south-east corner of the Roman town of *Colonia Claudia Victricensis* and immediately outside the Roman Town Wall (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1003772). The wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and tile. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows

the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

The Roman town ditch runs the length of the Priory Street car park. It was initially dug as a deep V-shaped ditch along the foot of the wall to improve its defensive capabilities. Around AD 275 this ditch was widened to convert its profile from a deep V-shape to a very wide, truncated U-shape (Crummy 1997, 114-115).

There have been three archaeological excavations in the area of the car park (see CAT Report 903 for a full summary of these investigations). Two of them did not reveal the Roman town ditch and showed no significant archaeological remains within at least 1.2m (and in places 2.1m) below modern ground level. However, in 1965 a trench was excavated to the south of Bastion 3 and across the Roman town ditch. This revealed that beneath approximately 6.5 feet of disturbance (1.9m) was the top of the ditch, with the bottom of ditch recorded at 11.5 feet (3.5m) below modern ground level.

Houses are known to have been sited along the northern side of Priory Street from at least the 18th century until they were demolished in the mid-20th century to make way for the current car park.

4 Results (Fig 2-3)

Half of the groundworks for the redevelopment and enhancement of the car park, which covered the western half of the site, were carried out before CAT was appointed to carry out the archaeological monitoring and recording. This report deals with those groundworks monitored by a CAT archaeologist on the eastern half of the site.

French drain

The French drain measured approximately 150m long, 1.5m wide and 1m deep and was excavated through three modern layers – tarmac (L1, c 0.1m thick), sand (L2, c 0.1m thick) and crush (L4, c 0.28m-0.4 deep, containing densely packed fragments of brick, tile and concrete (none retained)). These modern layers are likely associated with the construction of the car park.

Beneath L4 and in patches across the trench, was a layer of post-medieval/modern silty-loam containing fragments of brick, tile and other debris (L3, 0.5-0.8m thick). This layer was probably associated with the houses and gardens that used to occupy the development site.

Also in isolated patches across the length of the drain, sealed beneath L4 and cut by pockets of L3 (where it existed) was a 'dark earth' of silty-loam (L5). It is possible that this layer represents either the very top fill of the Roman ditch or a layer post-Roman topsoil that would have built up over the ditch. If it is the ditch, then significant archaeological remains have survived within Priory Street car park at a depth of 0.5m below modern ground level.

A number of disused modern services had been cut into, and were subsequently removed, from all of these layers.

Streetlights

Trenches for the new streetlight cables measured approximately 0.6m wide by 0.60m deep, with the holes for the lamp posts measuring approximately 0.8m wide by 1.20m deep. They were excavated through the five layers as detailed above. This is not shown on Fig 2 but closely followed the fence line next to Priory Street.

Tree pits

A number of new tree pits were excavated across the car park. All of these pits were monitored by a CAT archaeologist. Each measured 0.3-0.4m deep and was excavated through modern layers (see L1, L2 and L4 above).



Photograph 1 'Dark earth' layer L5 at the bottom of the French drain, looking NE



Photograph 2 Groundworks for the French drain, looking SW



Photograph 3 Groundworks for the street light cabling, looking NE

5 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

6 Discussion

Groundworks during redevelopment of the Priory Street Car Park revealed modern layers (L1, L2 and L4) to a depth of 0.5m below current ground level (bcgl). Sealed beneath were patches of a post-medieval/modern silty loam (L3) between 0.5-1.2m bcgl probably associated with housing on the site since the 18th century. Between and sealed by L3 were pockets of 'dark earth' (L5) also identified at depths of between 0.5-1.2m bcgl. This layer of 'dark earth' is possibly either the very top fill of the Roman town ditch or a layer of post-Roman topsoil accumulated over the ditch. Therefore, groundworks on the Priory Street Car Park have shown that significant archaeological horizons have survived in places at a minimum depth of 0.5m bcgl.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Colchester Borough Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by S Carter, B Holloway, CL and R Mathieson. Figures were prepared by CL and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

8 References

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

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous monitoring and recording at the Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1QA</i>
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006.</i>
CAT Report 903	2016	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains at Prior Street Car Park and the old Bus Depot, Colchester, Essex (February 2016)</i>
CBCPS	2016	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, by J Tipper</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
David Gurney	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
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 (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1045)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, attendance register, risk assessment

11 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 2016.103

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Distribution list

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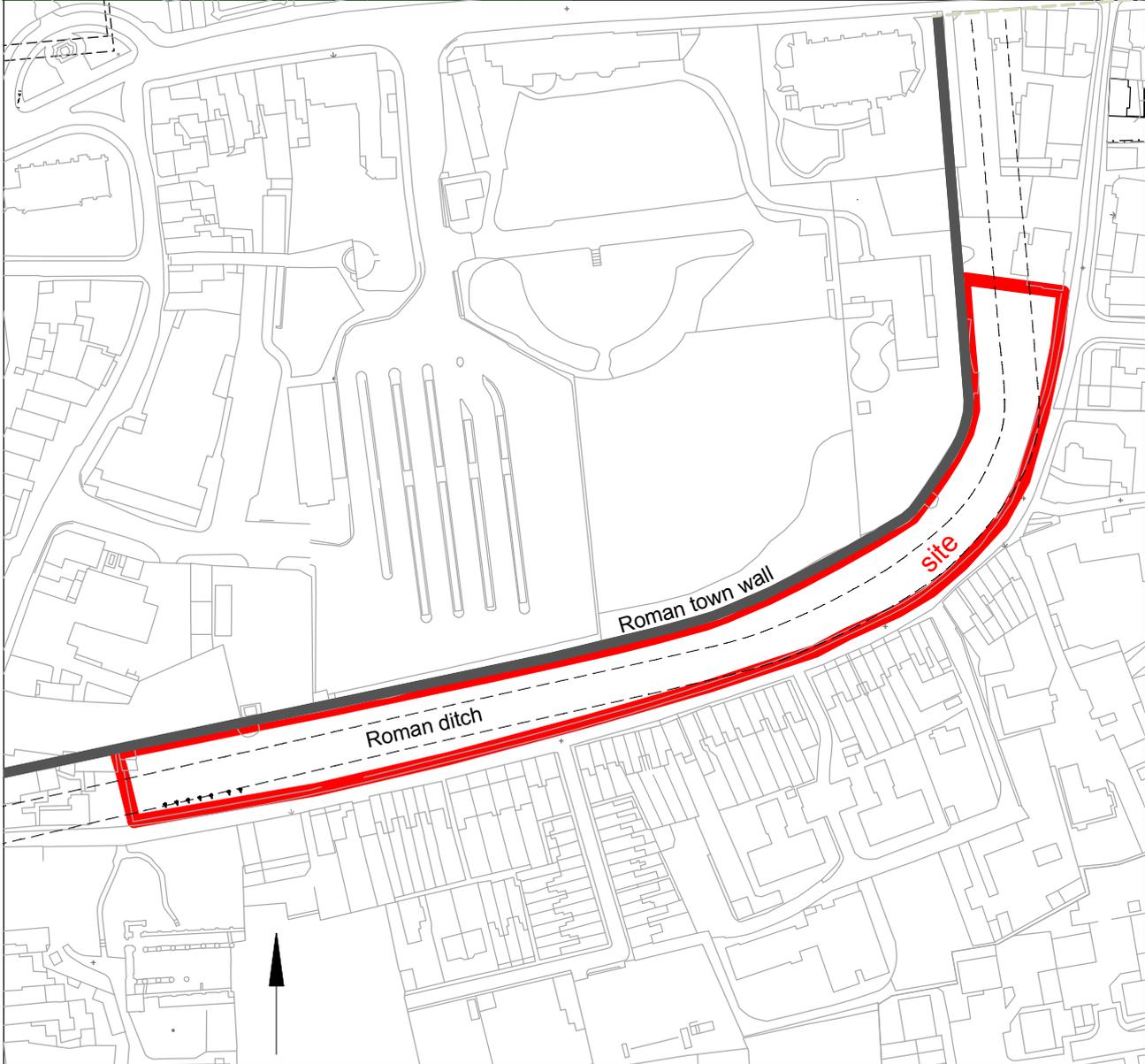
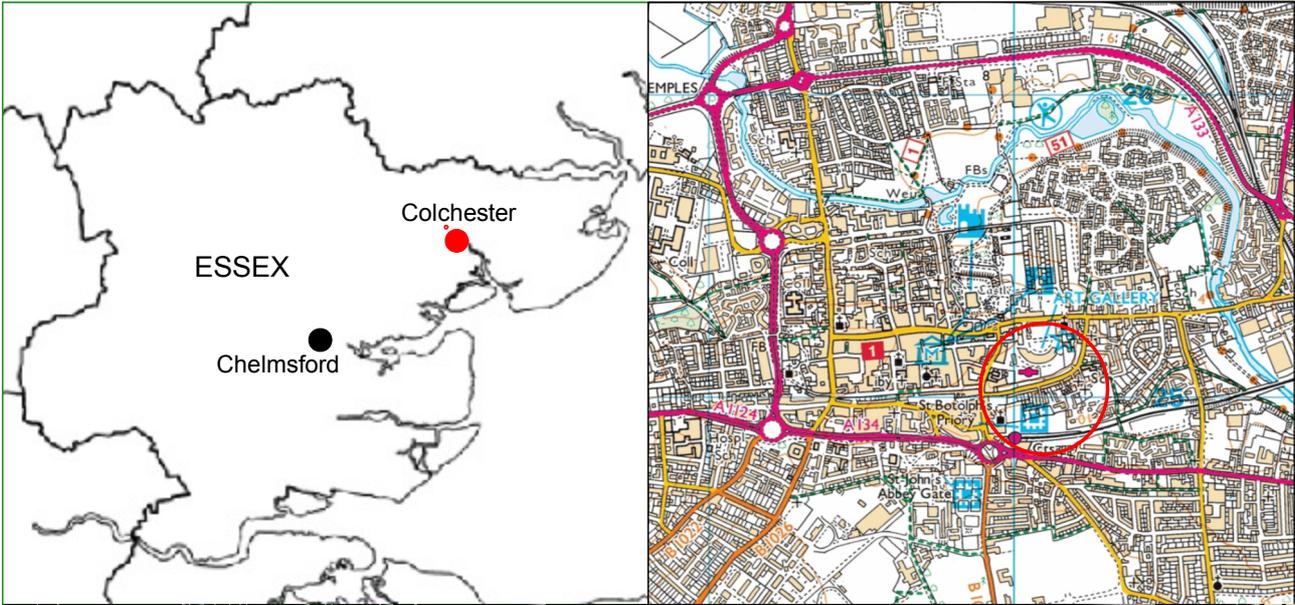
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 11.4.2017



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Fig 1 Site location in red, town wall in grey, projected town ditch dashed



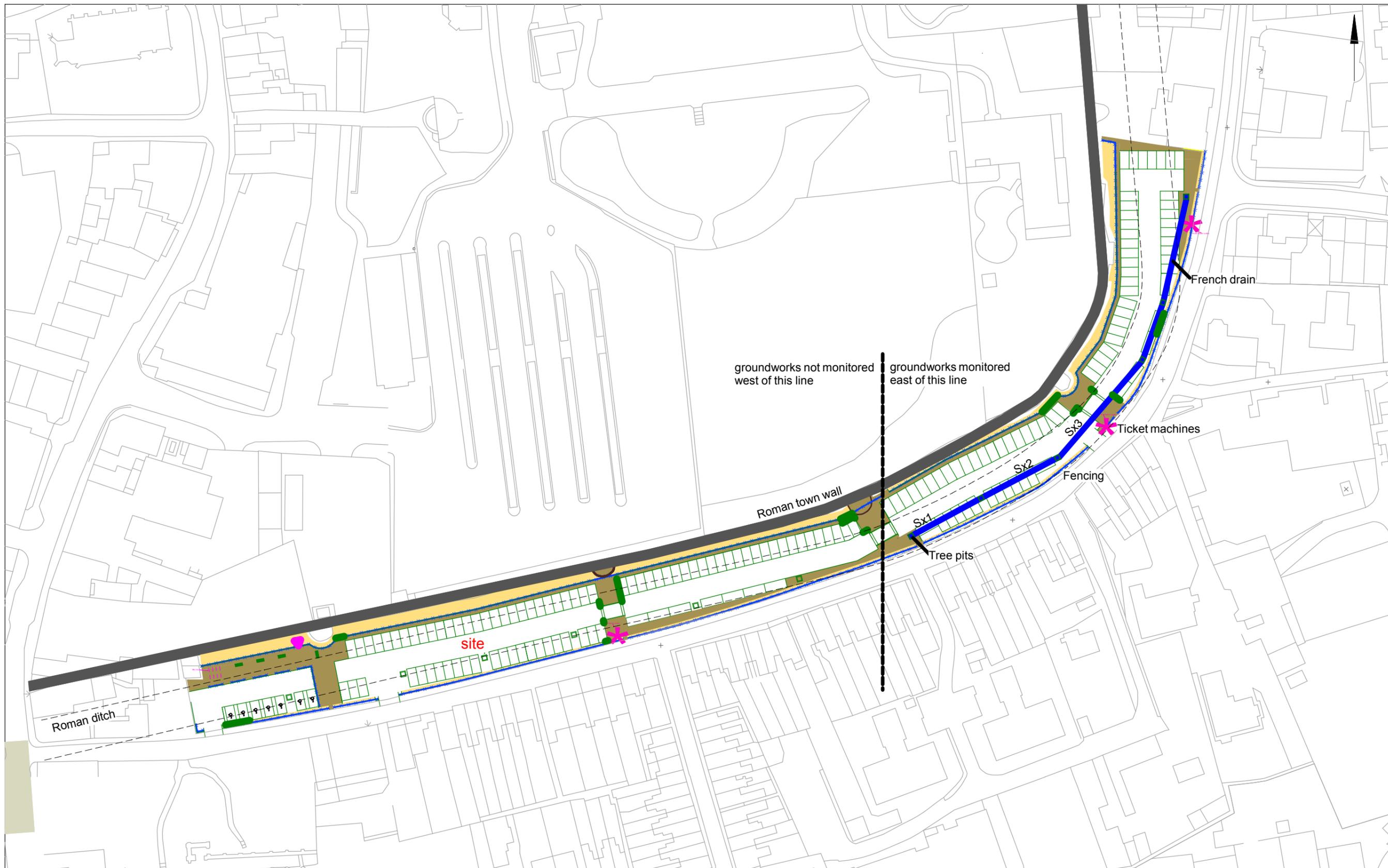


Fig 2 Location plan of groundworks

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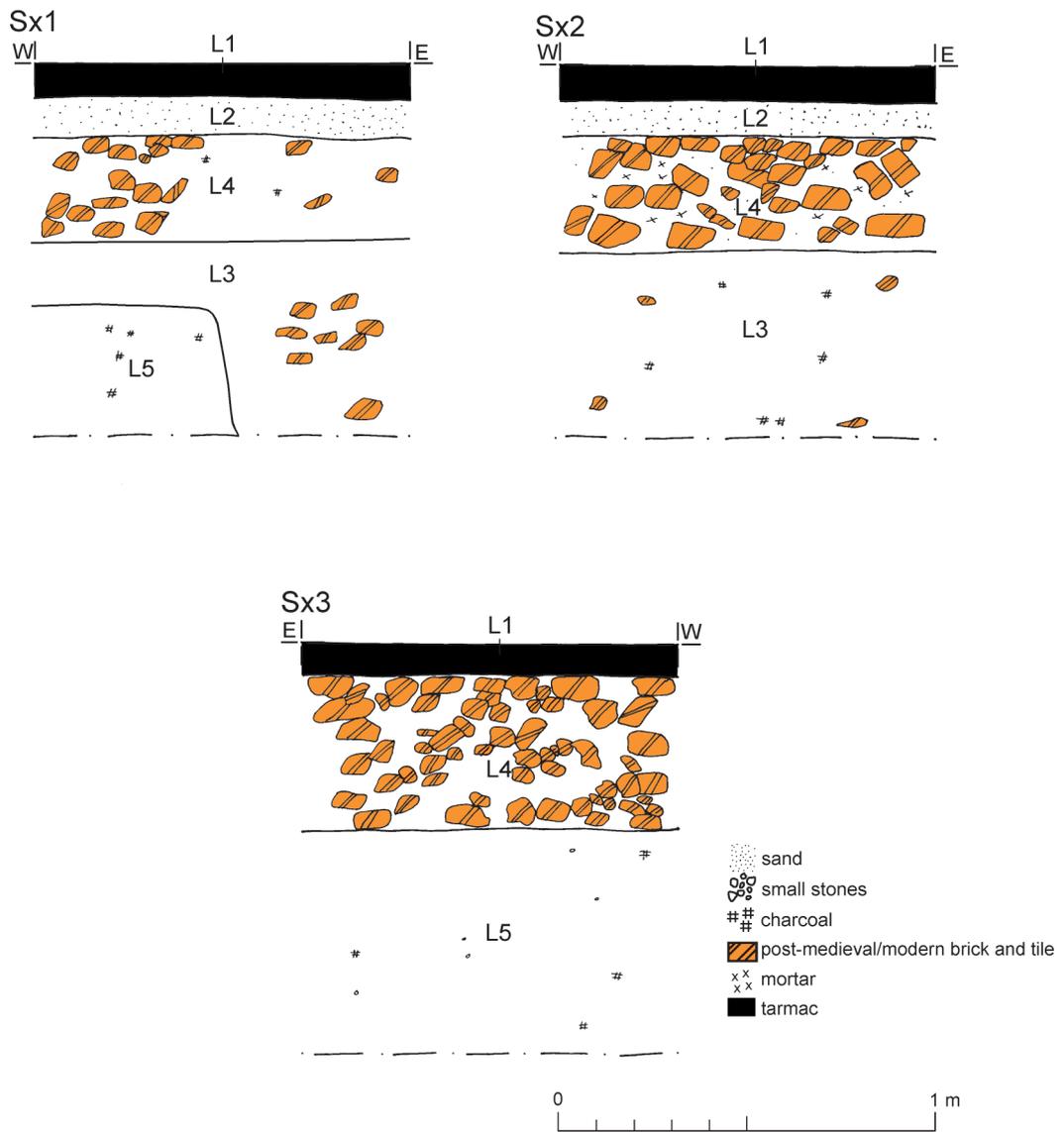


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1QA	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 0010 2505 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/10c CHER ref: ECC3887 OASIS ref: colchest3-265337
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 12th October – 28th November 2016	Size of area investigated: 0.72ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.103	Funding source: Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related CHER/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 1045	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex during the redevelopment and enhancement of the car park. Despite being located immediately to the south of the Roman town wall and above the Roman town ditch. Groundworks revealed modern layers (L1, L2 and L4) to a depth of 0.5m below current ground level (bcgl). Sealed beneath were patches of a post-medieval/modern silty loam (L3) between 0.5-1.2m bcgl probably associated with housing on the site since the 18th century. Between and sealed by L3 were pockets of 'dark earth' (L5) also identified at depths of between 0.5-1.2m bcgl. This layer of 'dark earth' is possibly either the very top fill of the Roman town ditch or a layer of post-Roman topsoil accumulated over the ditch. Therefore, groundworks on the Priory Street Car Park have shown that significant archaeological horizons have survived in places at a minimum depth of 0.5m bcgl.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: –	Significance: none
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: April 2017

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at the Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1QA

NGR: TM 0010 2505 (centre)

Planning references: n/a

Client: Colchester Borough Council

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

UAD Event number: ECC3887

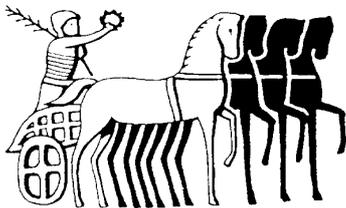
CAT Project code: 16/10c

OASIS project number: colchest3-265337

Site Manager: Chris Lister

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 13.10.2016



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Site location and description

Priory Street Car Park site lies between the Roman town wall and Priory Street in the centre of Colchester (Fig 1). It covers an area of approximately 240m in length and 18-23m wide. Site centre is NGR TM 0010 2505.

Proposed work

The development comprises the redevelopment and enhancement of Priory Street car park including resurfacing and the excavation of tree-pits, fence posts, lighting and charging points.

Archaeological background

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

The development site is located on the south-east corner of the Roman town of *Colonia Claudia Victricensis* and immediately outside the Roman Town Wall (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1003772). The wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and tile. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 shows the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

The following is taken from CAT Report 903 – A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains at Prior Street Car Park and the old Bus Depot, Colchester, Essex (February 2016):

The archaeological background of PSCP is well known. Its southern and eastern half lies directly over the infilled Roman town ditch. Originally dug out in the 3rd century AD, this ditch was gradually infilled up over the centuries, and was presumably invisible when houses were built over it from the 17th century onwards. The houses were demolished 1920s-1970s to make way for the current Car Park.

There have been three archaeological excavations in the PSCP. Two of them show that there are no significant archaeological remains within at least 1.2m (and in places 2.1m) below modern ground level. This is because the ground has been disturbed to that depth by the demolition of the brick houses which used to stand here. Below that depth is the Roman town ditch, whose top and bottom are at 7 feet (2.1m) and 12 feet (3.6m) below modern ground respectively.

It would appear that any proposed works which will intrude up to a metre below the existing car park surface are very unlikely to have an impact on buried archaeological remains, since they will be within the layer of soil already disturbed by the demolition of the houses which once stood here. Any groundworks between 1 metre and 2 metres below the surface are more likely to have an impact on buried archaeological remains.

A full summary of all of the archaeological remains and previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the Priory Street Car Park can be found in CAT Report 903, including information on the town wall, the bastions and the Roman town ditch.

Planning background

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 Officer (CBCAO). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (CBC 2016).

Specifically:

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

However, approximately half of this work has already been carried out without archaeological supervision as no archaeological contractor was appointed until now.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Briefs issued by the 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.

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 EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify 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 CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring methodology

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

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

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

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

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

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. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. 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: 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 5-18 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects/coins, and other artefacts deliberately deposited with those items.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

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 trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- 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

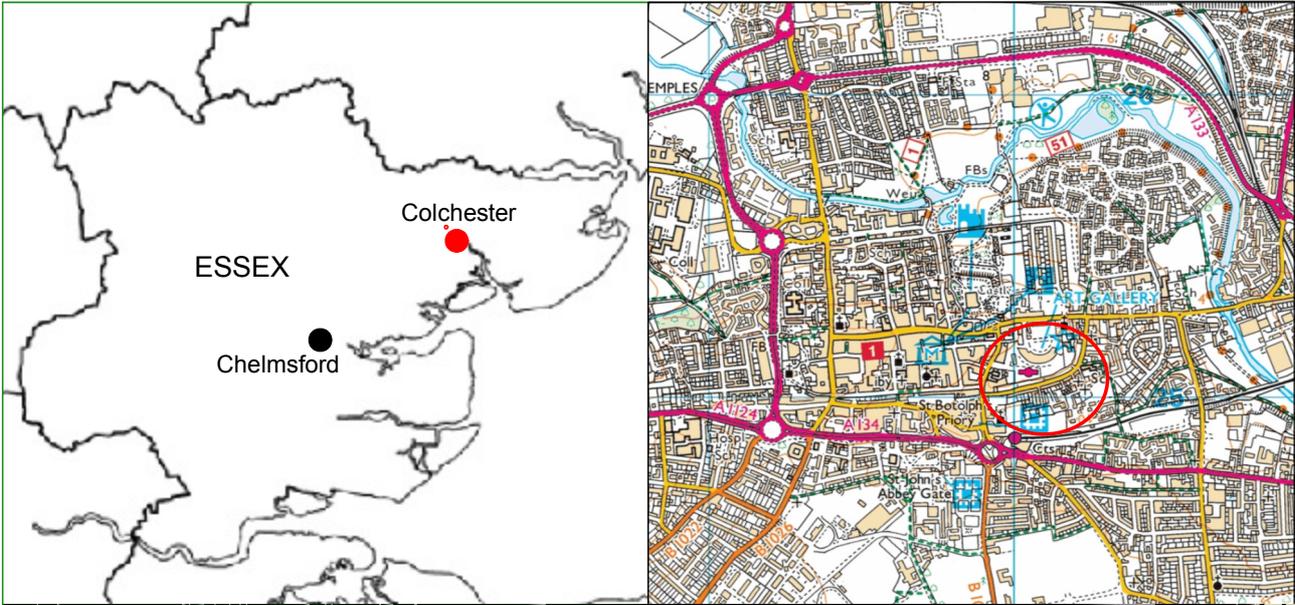
- | | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| Brown, D | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 347 | 2009 | <i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006.</i> |
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| David Gurney | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i> |
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| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i> |

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Fig 1 Site location in red, town wall in grey, projected town ditch dashed



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OASIS ID: colchest3-265337

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1QA
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex during the redevelopment and enhancement of the car park. Despite being located immediately to the south of the Roman town wall and above the Roman town ditch. Groundworks revealed modern layers (L1, L2 and L4) to a depth of 0.5m below current ground level (bcgl). Sealed beneath were patches of a post-medieval/modern silty loam (L3) between 0.5-1.2m bcgl probably associated with housing on the site since the 18th century. Between and sealed by L3 were pockets of 'dark earth' (L5) also identified at depths of between 0.5-1.2m bcgl. This layer of 'dark earth' is possibly either the very top fill of the Roman town ditch or a layer of post-Roman topsoil accumulated over the ditch. Therefore, groundworks on the Priory Street Car Park have shown that significant archaeological horizons have survived in places at a minimum depth of 0.5m bcgl.
Project dates	Start: 12-10-2016 End: 28-11-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/10c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3887 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.103 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 2 - Other transport infrastructure
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Priory Street Car Park
Postcode	CO1 1QA
Study area	0.72 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 0010 2505 51.887510012028 0.908063445191 51 53 15 N 000 54 29 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer

Project design originator Laura Pooley

Project director/manager Chris Lister

Project supervisor Chris Lister

Type of sponsor/funding body Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.103

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.103

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at Priory Street Car Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1QA: October-November 2016

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