

Archaeological evaluation at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG

March 2017



by **Laura Pooley**

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fieldwork by Adam Wightman with Ziya Eksen, Harvey Furniss
and Adam Tuffy

on behalf of **Jonathan Frank,**
Lexden Restoration and Developments

NGR: TL 9927 2465 (centre)

Planning reference: 161252

CAT project ref.: 17/02g

Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2017.17

CHER ref: ECC3958

OASIS reference: colchest3-277371



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CAT Report 1079

March 2017

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CAT WSI

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester in advance of the restoration of the water tower with extensions for new offices. The water tower is located in the northwest corner of the former Garrison Artillery Barracks close to several large Roman cemetery areas. The evaluation trenches revealed the brick and concrete foundations of two former Garrison buildings (the stores and coal yard), modern pits, two probable medieval/post-medieval ditches, two Roman pits and an undated ditch.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 6th-7th March 2017. The work was commissioned by Jonathan Frank of Lexden Restoration and Developments, in advance of the restoration and change of use of the water tower to offices and the construction of new extensions, 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 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (wsi) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

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* (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 the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

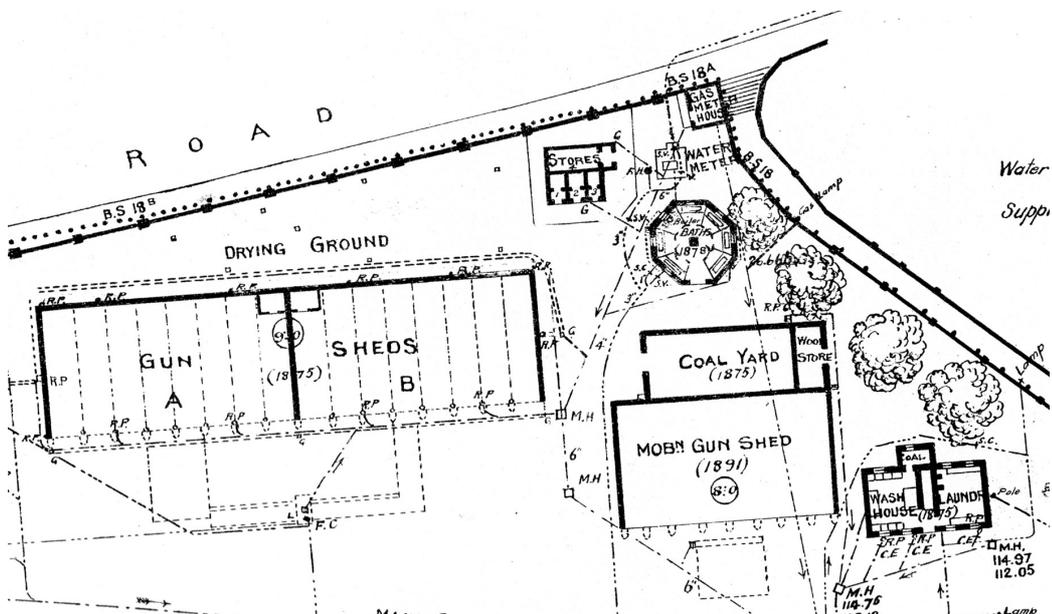
The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically within an area of Roman cemeteries. Evaluations and excavations over the last 15 years as part of the Colchester Garrison Urban Village development have revealed hundreds of Roman burials in two distinct cemetery areas to the SE/S/SW, all within an area approximately 30-140m from the site (CAT Report 412 (Area J1 North); CAT Report 1033 pending (Area H)). Burial features range from the 1st-4th century AD and include inhumations, urned and unurned cremations, busts and pyre sites, and evidence of at least one mausoleum. A Roman trackway bounded the cemetery area to the south, with the Roman circus (Scheduled monument 35614, NHLE no.1021426) 150m to the SE.

Approximately 150m to the N of the site over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Butt Road Police station (CAR 9, 4-202). In 1998 an evaluation at 47 Butt Road revealed a single inhumation

(EHER 1185518). Subsequent excavation revealed three Roman inhumations, two in coffins (EHER 1267469). Eighteen Roman inhumation burials were also excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (CAR 9, 261).

A further 520m to the NW, several Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (CAR 9, 258) along with the famous 'Colchester Sphinx', and many others have been found since. A number of burials have also been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5) also to the NW of the site: a single Roman burial at 23 Wellesley Road (just to the south of the Colchester County High School); a Roman lead coffin from the west side of Wellesley Road (just north of the school); and a group of five Roman burials from the north-west corner of Wellesley Road. This last is also the reported find spot of the glass Colchester circus cup (CAR 8, 43-9).

As well as Roman archaeology there is potential for late 19th century building remains to have survived on the site. The 1909 Royal Artillery Barracks plan (Map 1 and Fig 3) shows gun sheds, a coal yard and wood store, a wash house and laundry, and store in the immediately vicinity of the water tower.



Map 1 1909 Royal Artillery Barrack plan of area around the water tower.

4 Results (Figs 2-5)

Three trial-trenches were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Trench 1 (T1): 2m long by 2m wide

Trench T1 was excavated through a layer of modern topsoil (L1, c 150mm thick) onto a post-Roman buried topsoil (L4, c 500mm thick, possibly imported onto the site). Beneath L4 was medium yellow/grey/brown subsoil containing Roman pottery (L5, c 200mm thick) which sealed natural sands and gravels (L6). Modern pit (F11, containing modern brick, tile and pottery) cut an earlier ditch. The undated ditch (F14) was aligned ENE-WSW, had a U-shaped profile and relatively flat base.

Trench 2 (T2): 12m long by 1.8m wide

Trench T2 was moved slightly to the southwest to avoid an inspection pit and modern services. In the western end of the trench were the remains of the garrison building

labelled as 'STORES' on the 1909 Royal Artillery Barrack plan (Map 1). The foundations of the building consisted of four courses of bonded bricks set on concrete footings (F13). These were located c 100mm below ground level, sealed by L1.

To the east, the trench was excavated through a layer of modern topsoil (L1, c 200mm thick) onto a layer of modern demolition rubble/levelling (L2, c 70-140mm thick) and hoggin (L3, c 80mm thick). Beneath L3 was a thick layer of post-Roman buried topsoil (L4, c 500-650mm thick) sealing a medium yellow/grey/brown subsoil containing Roman pottery (L5, c 70-170mm thick), which sealed natural sands and gravels (L6).

Several natural silt patches were noted but not recorded along with a very modern posthole. A cut or possible pit (F12) was observed beneath the foundations F13. Roman and post-medieval/modern finds were recovered from the feature.



Photograph 1 T2 showing the red brick and concrete foundations (F13) for the former store of the Garrison Artillery Barracks, looking SE

Trench 3 (T3): 11m long by 1.8m wide

Trench T3 was excavated through a layer of modern topsoil (L1, c 250mm thick) onto a layer of modern demolition rubble/levelling (L2, c 60mm thick) and hoggin (L3, c 170mm thick). Beneath L3 was a thick layer of post-Roman buried topsoil (L4, c 330mm thick) sealing a medium yellow/grey/brown subsoil (L5, c 200mm thick), which sealed natural sands and gravels (L6).

Five modern services (F3-F7) were located in the trench, two were buried in topsoil L1 and a small section of trench was not excavated to protect these services. In the centre of the trench was a brick wall with concrete foundation (F8). This was part of the garrison building labelled as 'COAL YARD' on the 1909 Royal Artillery Barrack plan (Map 1).

At the southern end of the trench were two small pits (F1-F2) containing fragments of Roman CBM. Further to the northeast were two parallel east-west features (F9-F10).

Feature F9 was cut by wall foundation F8 and had been disturbed on its northern edge by root/animal activity. It is almost certainly a ditch containing a small quantity of Roman finds with a single medieval/post-medieval pottery sherd indicating a post-Roman date. Feature F10 was slightly more unusual being very straight-sided with a flat base. The shape of this feature meant that it was originally identified as a possible Roman inhumation burial, however post-excavation analysis identified a probable late medieval/post-medieval floor tile/brick from the lower fill, suggesting that this feature was probably also a post-Roman ditch.



Photograph 2 T3 showing the red brick and concrete foundation (F8) for the former coal yard of the Garrison Artillery Barracks with features F9 and F10, looking W

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

A small quantity of finds of Roman, late medieval/post-medieval-modern date were recovered from features and subsoil layers in the three evaluation trenches (T1-T3). The finds consist mostly of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone, slate and oyster shell. All of the finds are listed and described by context in Table 2. The pottery fabrics (listed in Table 1) refer to the Colchester Roman pottery fabric series (*CAR 10*) and vessel forms refer to the Colchester *Camulodunum* (Cam) type series (Hull 1958).

| Fabric | Fabric description |
|----------|--|
| BXCG | Central Gaulish decorated samian |
| CH | Oxidised Hadham ware |
| CZ | Colchester and other red colour-coated wares |
| GA | BB1: black-burnished ware category 1 |
| GB | BB2: black-burnished ware category 2 |
| GX | Other coarsewares, principally local greywares |
| GX (BSW) | Roman coarseware (black surfaced wares) |

| Fabric | Fabric description |
|--------|---|
| HZ | Large storage jars in heavily tempered fabric |

Table 1 Roman pottery fabrics

| Context | Find no. | Type/ description | Spot date |
|---------|----------|---|--|
| T3, F1 | 1 | Roman CBM: (1 piece, 90g) orange-red, grey core, fine sand fabric, 30mm thick, probably Roman brick | Roman |
| T3, F2 | 2 | Roman CBM: (3 pieces, 98g) orange-red, one with grey core, fine sand fabric, two pieces 28mm-30mm thick, probably Roman brick | Roman |
| T3, F9 | 3 | Roman pottery: Small quantity (7 sherds, 52g), Fabric GB base sherd, probably from a Cam 278 jar (E2-3C); Fabric GX (2) (Rom); Fabric GX (BSW) (4) (Rom). Other pottery: (1 sherd, 6g) sandy orange fabric, light abrasion, not closely dated – probably late medieval or post-medieval rather than Roman (intrusive?) Roman CBM: (2 pieces, 294g) orange-red, grey core, fine sand fabric, 30mm thick, probably Roman brick Animal bone: Horse, broken jaw (teeth, bone) including part of maxilla (288g) Shell: small quantity of flakes from oyster shell | ?Roman, E2-3C (with intrusive? med/p-med pot sherd) |
| T3, F10 | 7 | Roman pottery: (1 sherd, 8g) Fabric DJ (M1-2/E3C). Roman CBM: (2 pieces, 192g) quite broken-up and one abraded; also a small tile piece (10mm thick) slightly curving, probably from a Roman <i>imbrex</i> rather than peg-tile (44g). Other CBM: One end/half of a square(?) tile (surviving measurements 125mm x 35mm, 722g) in a medium sand fabric – coarse finish and visually appears possibly Roman although the relatively small size and slightly soft, sandy fabric would be unusual; the smallest Roman common brick type the <i>Bessalis</i> (apart from small rectangular floor bricks – <i>spicae</i>) is recorded as measuring between c 170mm - 235mm (Brodrribb 1987, 34) so this tile is probably a late medieval/post-medieval floor tile/brick. Iron: (1) very small piece of corroded iron with surrounding sand concretion (not closely dated). | ?late medieval/post-medieval |
| T2, F12 | 5 | Roman pottery: (3 sherds, 240g), Fabric CH (1) abraded surface (L3-4C); Fabric HZ (2) (M1-2/3C). Roman CBM: (1 piece, 168g) piece from an <i>imbrex</i> roof tile. Other CBM: (1 piece, 62g) small piece 10-12mm thick, heavily sanded on base and edge, uneven surface, orange fine sand fabric probably peg-tile (late medieval-post-medieval/modern). Animal bone: (16 pieces, 88g), ulna piece (probably cow), skull piece and vertebrae from large mammal Other finds: piece of bitumised service pipe wrap (modern) | ?Modern |
| T2, F12 | 6 | Roman pottery: (1 sherd, 2g) Fabric CZ beaker with cornice rim, pale grey fabric with brown colour-coat (2C) - possibly Nene Valley, but early form for Colchester Slate: (1) small piece of grey slate, probably late post-medieval/modern | Late p-med/modern |
| L5 | 4 | Roman pottery: Small quantity (4 sherds, 62g) Fabric BXCG (1) sherd from a Dr 37 bowl, ovolo and small area of decoration below (E/M-L2C); Fabric GX (2) rim from a Cam 268 jar (E/M2-L3/E4C), one other jar rim sherd; Fabric GX (BSW) (1) jar/bowl sherd (Rom) Roman CBM: (1 piece, 22g) small piece of thick tile, burnt/overfired almost certainly Roman Flint: flint flake (primary – dorsal face 100% cortex), | Roman, E/M2-3C |

| Context | Find no. | Type/ description | Spot date |
|---------|----------|--|-------------|
| | | edge damage or possible use wear, clearly an old piece (prehistoric) probably utilised but not clear Shell: small oyster shell | |
| L5 | 4 | Roman pottery: (10 sherds, 138g) Fabric GA (2) bowl form (2-4C); Fabric GB Cam 37B bowl (L2-3C); Fabric GX (BSW) (6) four joining sherds from a jar/bowl base, two other probably same pot (Roman). | Rom L2-3/4C |

Table 2 All finds by context

6 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation at the water tower has revealed a depth of modern (c 150-400mm) and post-Roman soil layers (c 500-600mm thick) sealing five significant archaeological features (F1-F2 and F9-F10). Cut into the modern layers were a pit (F11) and the brick and concrete foundations of two buildings (F8 and F13) recorded on the 1909 Garrison Artillery Barracks plan (stores and coal yard). The foundations were recorded at a depth of c 100mm below current ground level and were only slightly out of alignment with the 1909 plan.

The five significant archaeological features consisted of two small pits (F1-F2), two parallel east-west ditches (F9-F10) and an undated ditch aligned ENE-WSW (F14). The pits contained small fragments of Roman CBM and are likely to be of Roman date. Both ditches contained a small quantity of Roman finds along with a sherd of medieval/post-medieval pottery (F9) and a fragment of probable medieval/post-medieval floor-tile/brick (F10), indicating a post-Roman date for both features.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Jonathan Frank of Lexden Restoration and Developments for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by A Wightman with Z Eksen, H Furniss and A Tuffy. Figures were prepared by E Holloway, L Pooley and A Wightman. The project was monitored for the 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>

| | | |
|----------------|-------|--|
| Brodribb, G | 1987 | <i>Roman brick and tile</i> |
| CAR 8 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by J Price |
| CAR 9 | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan |
| CAR 10 | 1999 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds and S Wade |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2016 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, Co3 3DG</i> |
| CAT Report 412 | 2011 | <i>Report on the archaeological investigations carried out on Areas C1, C2, E, J1, O, Q and S1 of the Alienated Land, Colchester Garrison, including the Time Team trenches and the Alienated Land watching brief: May 2004-January 2005</i> |
| CBCAA | 2016 | <i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester</i> by J Tipper |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CIfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and</i> |

| | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| ClfA | 2014c | <i>deposition of archaeological archives</i> <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Crummy, P | 2001 | <i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</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> , RRCSAL, 20 |
| 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) |

9 Abbreviations and glossary

| | |
|---------------|--|
| CAT | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| CBC | Colchester Borough Council |
| CBCAA | Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor |
| CBCPS | Colchester Borough Council Planning Services |
| CBM | ceramic building material, ie brick/tile |
| CHER | Colchester Historic Environment Record (previously UAD, Urban Archaeological Database) |
| 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 |
| medieval | period from AD 1066 to c 1500 |
| modern | period from cAD 1800 to the present |
| natural | geological deposit undisturbed by human activity |
| NGR | National Grid Reference |
| OASIS | O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main |
| post-medieval | from cAD 1500 to cAD 1800 |
| residual | something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit |
| Roman | the period from AD 43 to cAD 410 |
| section | (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s |
| wsi | written scheme of investigation |

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1079)

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

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 2017.17.

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Distribution list

Jonathan Frank, Lexden Restoration and Developments
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

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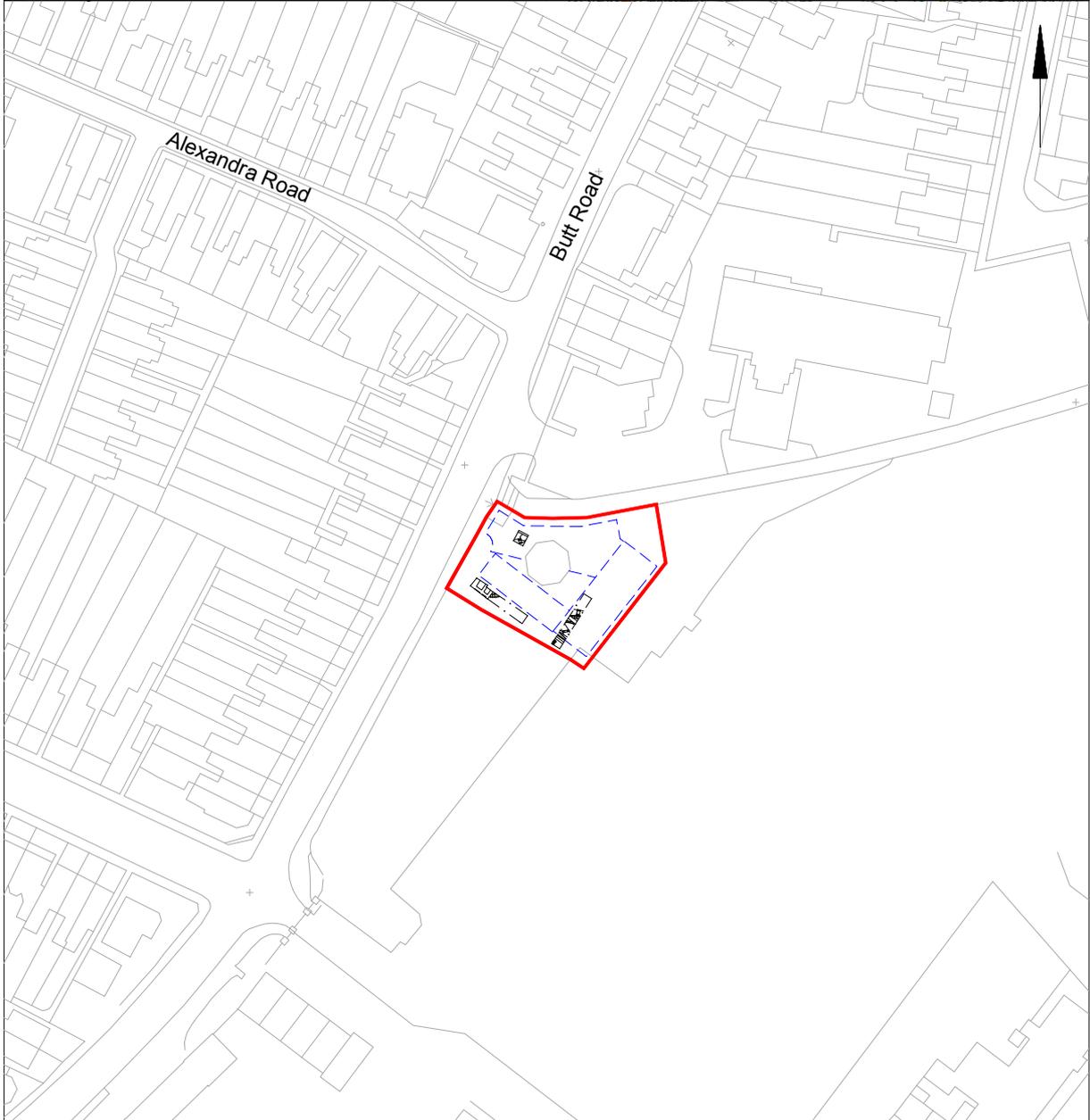
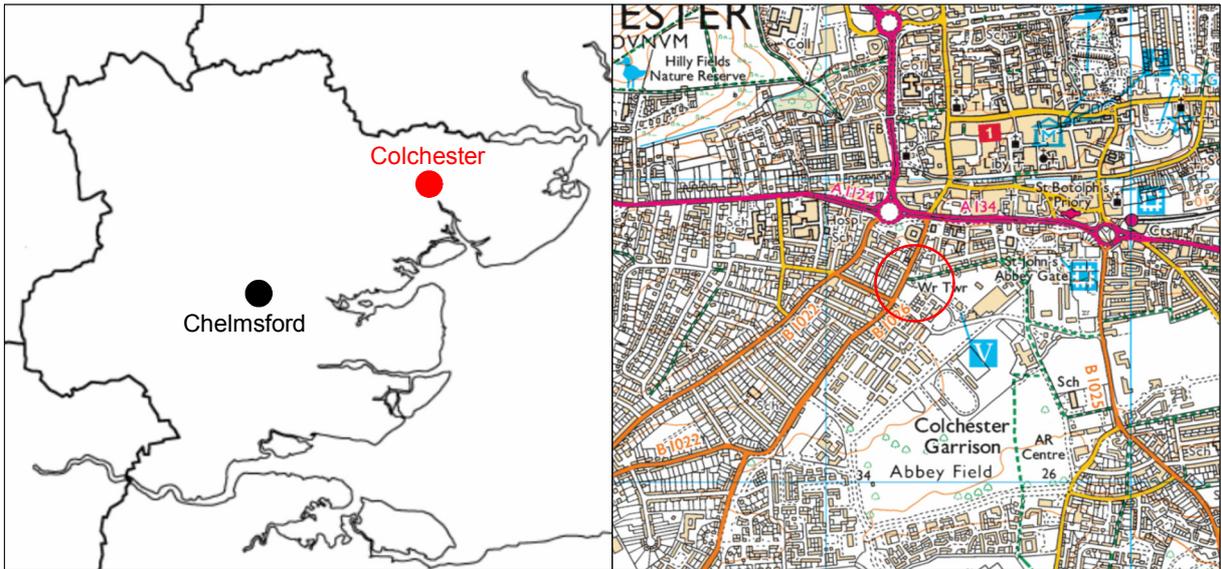
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 15.3.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

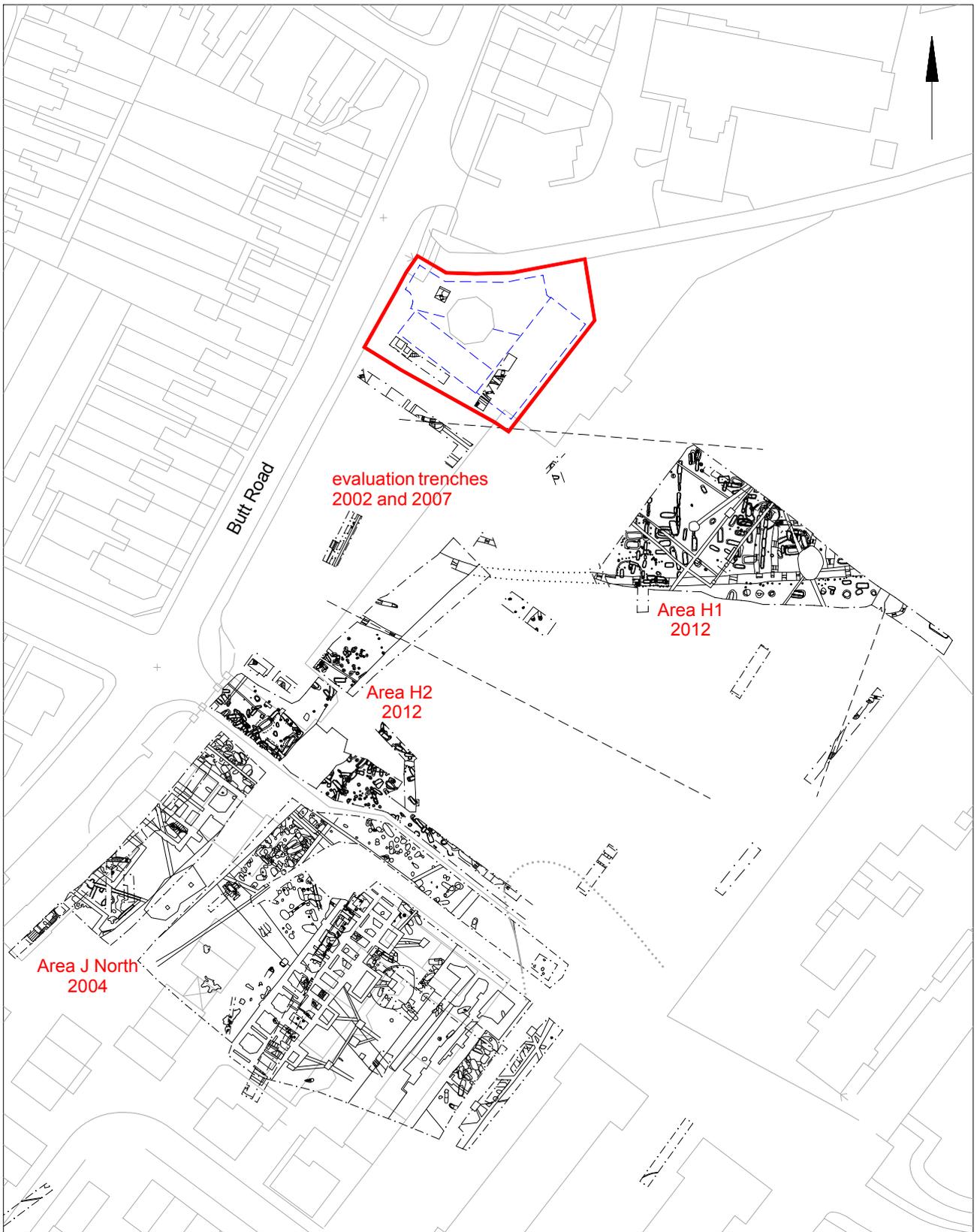
| Context number | Finds no. | Context type | Description | Date |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------------|--|---|
| F1 | 1 | ?Pit | Soft, moist, medium grey sandy-silt with 8% stone and 2% tile/brick | Roman |
| F2 | 2 | Pit | Soft, moist, medium-dark grey sandy-silty loam with 7% stone and 2% tile/brick | Roman |
| F3 | | Service trench | Modern, 21st century, plastic pipe in shingle | 21st century |
| F4 | | Service trench | Modern, 19th-20th century, metal pipe | 19th-20th century |
| F5 | | Service trench | Modern, 19th-20th century, metal pipe | 19th-20th century |
| F6 | | Service trench | Modern, 19th-20th century, water/foul-water pipe | 19th-20th century |
| F7 | | Service trench | Modern, 19th-20th century, water/foul-water pipe | 19th-20th century |
| F8 | | Wall foundation | Mortared red bricks on a deep concrete foundation – foundation of the old garrison coal yard | 19th-20th century |
| F9 | 3 | Ditch | Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silty loam with fragments of pottery, CBM and animal bone | Roman (early 2nd-3rd century) or med/pmed |
| F10 | 7 | ?Ditch | Soft, moist, medium orange sandy-silt | Probably later medieval/post-medieval |
| F11 | | Pit | Soft, moist, dark grey sandy-silty loam with modern brick/tile and pottery (not retained) | 20th century |
| F12 | 5, 6 | ?Cut / ?Pit | Soft, dry, dark grey/brown silty-clay | Modern |
| F13 | | Wall foundation | Four courses of mortared red bricks on a concrete foundation – foundation of an old garrison store | 19th-20th century |
| F14 | | Ditch | Firm, dry, medium grey-brown sandy-silty with 5% stone | Undated |
| | | | | |
| L1 | | Topsoil | Loose, dry, dark brown clayey-silt, <2% charcoal | Modern |
| L2 | | Demolition or levelling | Firm, dry, dark brown clayey-silty-sand with 25% stone | Modern |
| L3 | | Hoggin | Firm, dry, medium orange sand and clay with 25% stone | Modern |
| L4 | | Buried topsoil | Friable, dry, dark brown/black silty-clay with 5% stone; possibly imported onto the site | Undated (post-Roman) |
| L5 | 4 | Subsoil | Firm, dry, medium yellow/grey/brown clayey-silt | Roman |
| L6 | | Natural | Natural orange sands and gravels | - |



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Fig 1 Site location, proposed development dashed blue





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Fig 2 Site in relation to recent archaeological work, proposed development dashed blue

0 50 m

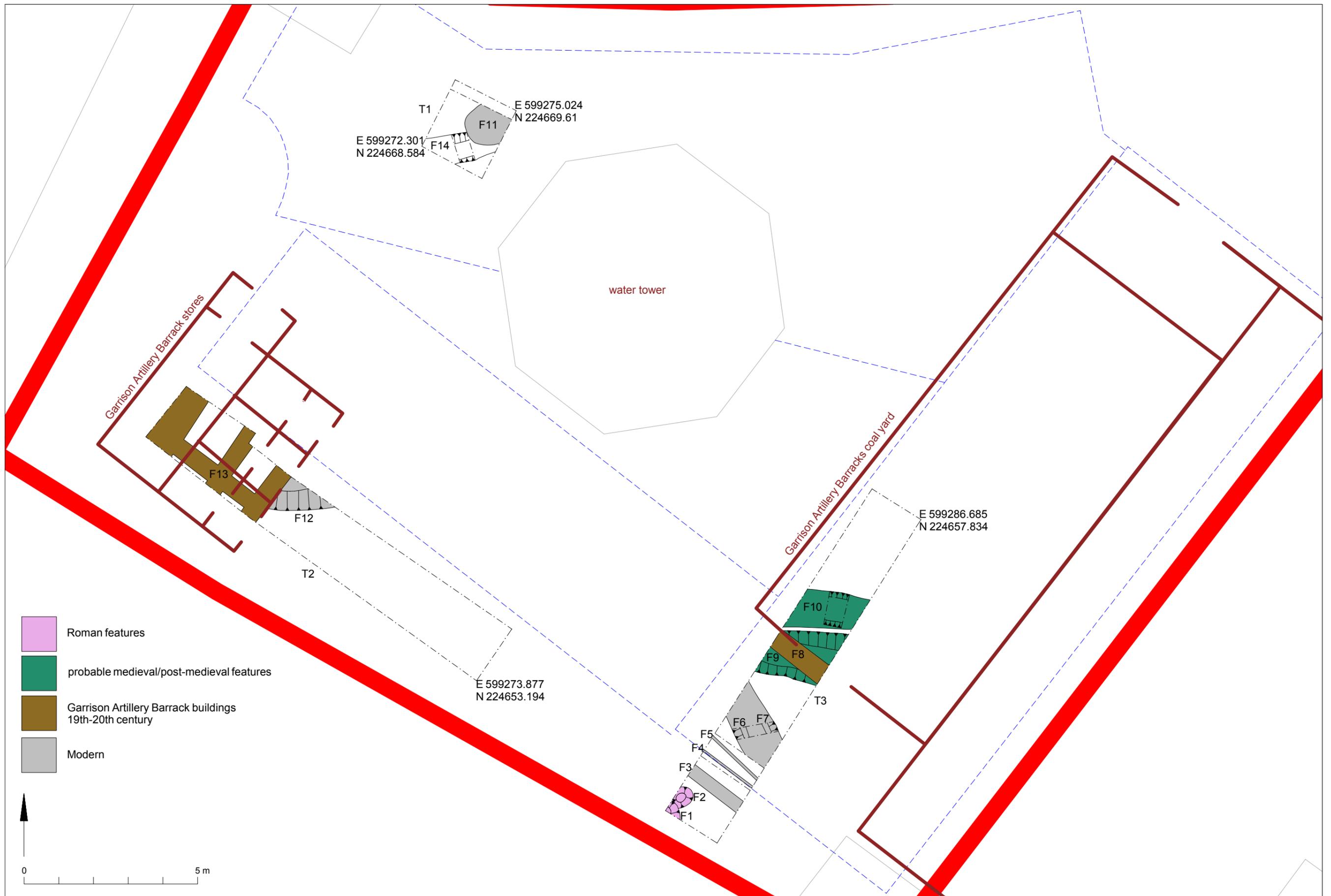


Fig 3 Results shown in relation to buildings on the 1909 Garrison Artillery Barracks plan, proposed development dashed blue

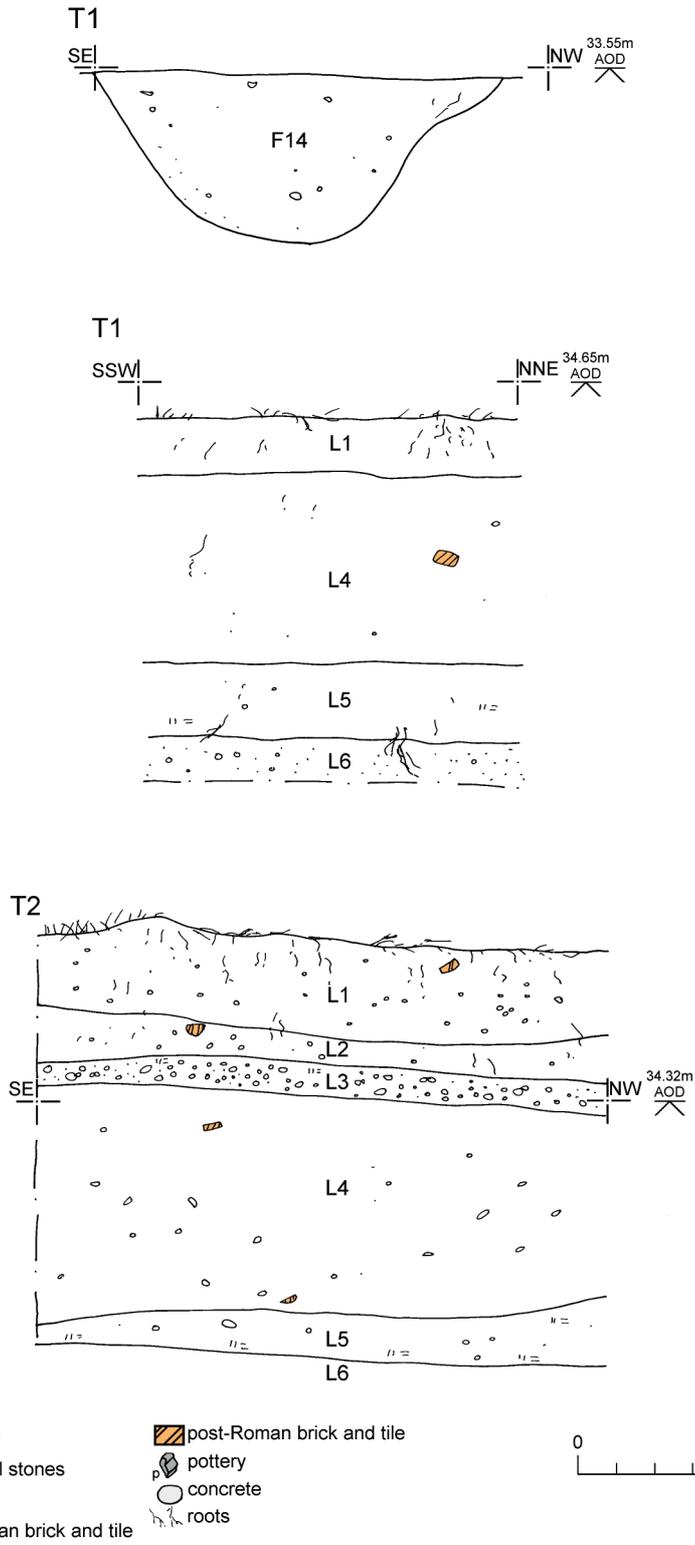


Fig 4 Feature and representative trench sections.

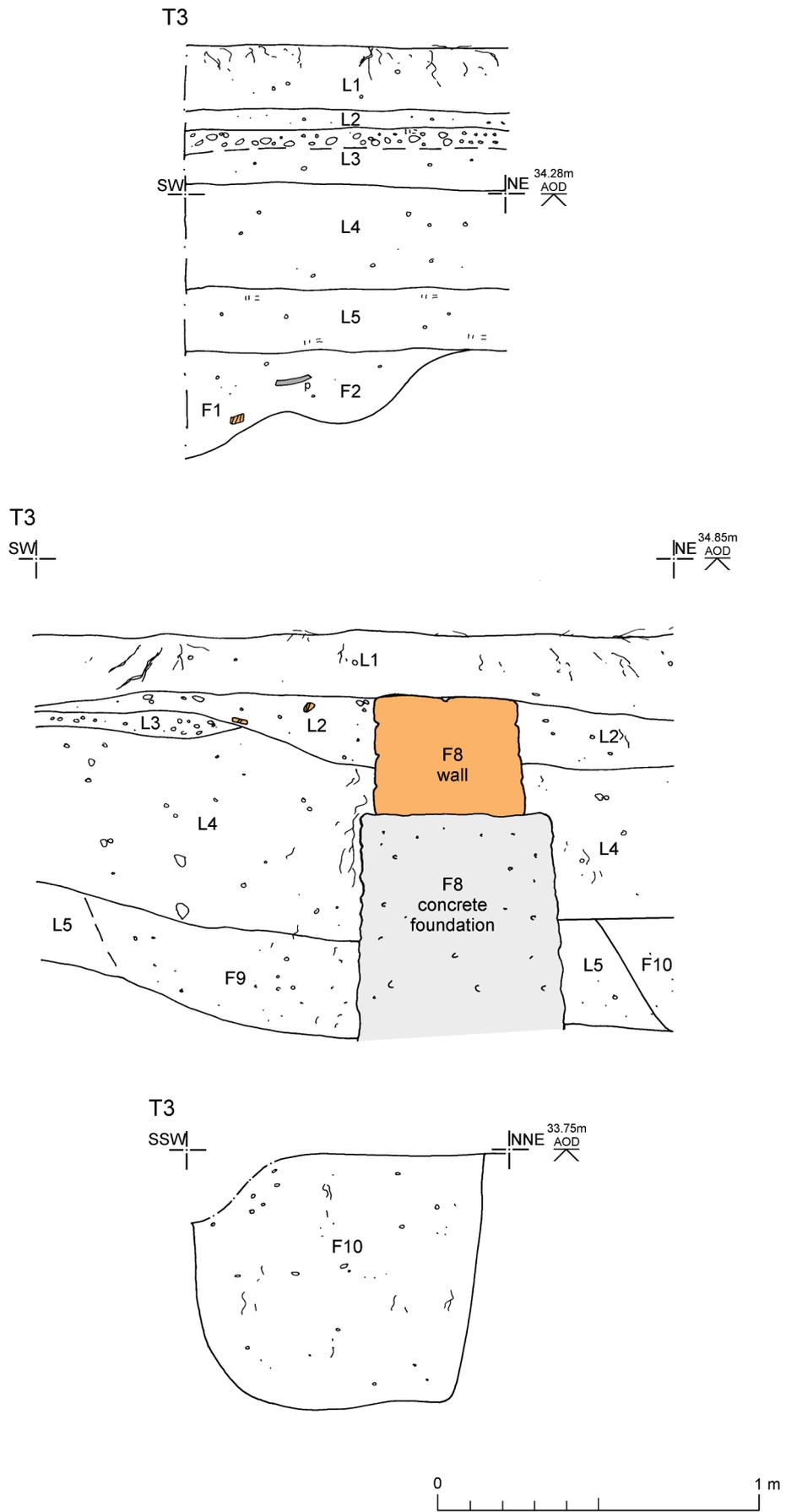


Fig 5 Feature and representative trench sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ *Essex Archaeology and History*

Summary sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| Address: Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG | |
| Parish: Colchester | District: Colchester |
| NGR: TL 9927 2465 (centre) | Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/02g CHER ref: ECC3958 OASIS ref: colchest3-277371 |
| Type of work: Evaluation | Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Date of work: 6th-7th March 2017 | Size of area investigated: 0.08ha |
| Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.17 | Funding source: developer |
| Further seasons anticipated? Not known | Related CHER numbers: |
| Final report: CAT Report 1079 | |
| Periods represented: modern, medieval/post-medieval, Roman | |
| Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester in advance of the restoration of the water tower with extensions for new offices. The water tower is located in the northwest corner of the former Garrison Artillery Barracks close to several large Roman cemetery areas. The evaluation trenches revealed the brick and concrete foundations of two former Garrison buildings (the stores and coal yard), modern pits, two probable medieval/post-medieval ditches, two Roman pits and an undated ditch. | |
| Previous summaries/reports: none | |
| CBC monitor: Jess Tipper | |
| Keywords: – | Significance: * |
| Author of summary: Laura Pooley | Date of summary: March 2017 |

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG

NGR: TL 9927 2465 (centre)

Planning reference: 161252

Client: Jonathan Frank, Lexden Restoration and Developments

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc

CHER number: ECC3958

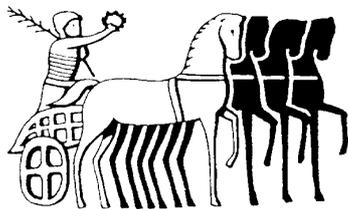
CAT project code: 17/02g

OASIS project id: colchest3-277371

Site Manager: Chris Lister

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 24.2.2017



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ
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email: lp@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 800m southwest of Colchester town centre at the Water Tower on Butt Road, Colchester (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 9927 2465.

Proposed work

The development comprises the restoration of the water tower, extensions and change of use to offices.

Archaeological background (Figs 2-3)

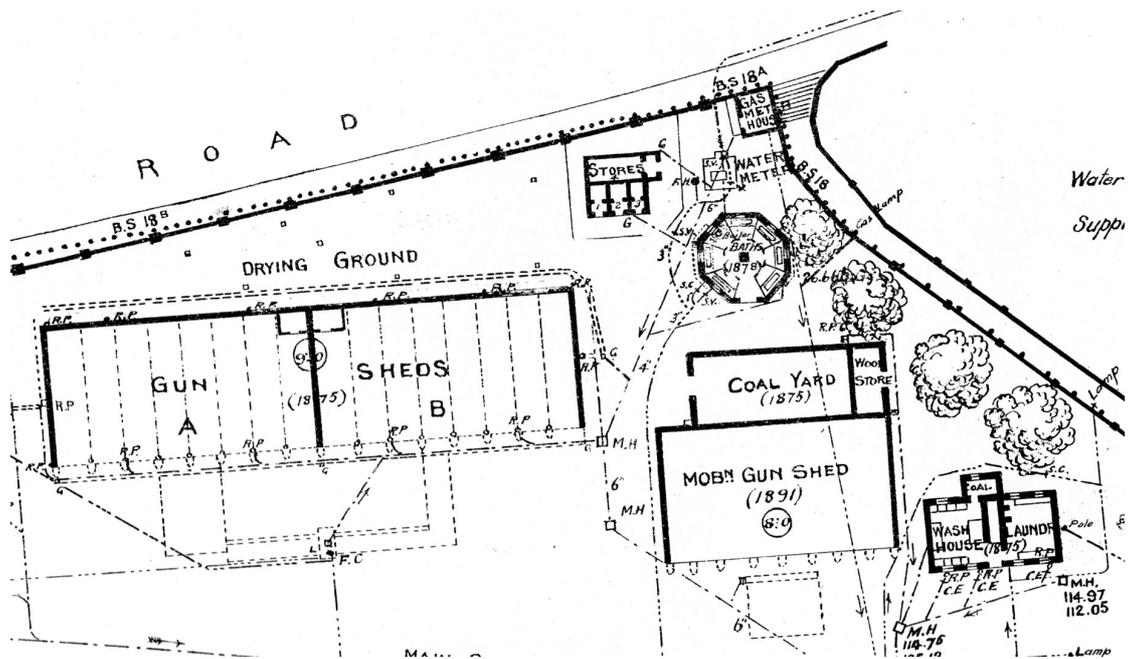
The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically within an area of Roman cemeteries. Evaluations and excavations over the last 15 years as part of the Colchester Garrison Urban Village development have revealed hundreds of Roman burials in two distinct cemetery areas to the SE/S/SW, all within an area approximately 30-140m from the site (CAT Report 412 (Area J1 North); CAT Report 1033 pending (Area H)). Burials features range from the 1st-4th century AD and include inhumations, urned and unurned cremations, bustums and pyre sites, and evidence of at least one mausoleum. A Roman trackway bounded the cemetery area to the south, with the Roman circus (Scheduled monument 35614, NHLE no.1021426) 150m to the SE.

Approximately 150m to the N of the site over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Butt Road Police station (*CAR 9*, 4-202). In 1998 an evaluation at 47 Butt Road revealed a single inhumation (EHER 1185518). Subsequent excavation revealed three Roman inhumations, two in coffins (EHER 1267469). Eighteen Roman inhumation burials were also excavated in 1971 on the west side of the Maldon Road roundabout before the construction of Southway (*CAR 9*, 261).

A further 520m to the NW, several Roman burials were discovered in 1819-20 when the Essex County Hospital was constructed (*CAR 9*, 258) along with the famous 'Colchester Sphinx', and many others have been found since. A number of burials have also been recorded along Wellesley Road (Hull 1958, 203-5) also to the NW of the site: a single Roman burial at 23 Wellesley Road (just to the south of the Colchester County High School); a Roman lead coffin from the west side of Wellesley Road (just north of the school); and a group of five Roman burials from the north-west corner of Wellesley Road. This last is also the reported find spot of the glass Colchester circus cup (*CAR 8*, 43-9).

As well as Roman archaeology there is potential for late 19th century building remains to have survived on the site. The 1909 Royal Artillery Barracks plan (Map 1 and Fig 3) shows gun sheds, a coal yard and wood store, a wash house and laundry, and store in the immediately vicinity of the water tower.



Map 1 1909 Royal Artillery Barrack plan of area around the water tower.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 2016 (application No.161252) proposing the restoration of the water tower, extensions and change of use to offices.

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

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for trenched archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2017).

Specifically, two trial-trenches measuring 10m long by 1.8m wide and one test-pit measuring 2m by 1.8m, will be excavated to cover the area of the new development (Fig 4). The trenches have been specifically located to target both the buildings on the 1909 Royal Artillery Barracks plan and open spaces where potential Roman archaeology may have survived. They have also been positioned away from known services.

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* (ClfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- The Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2017)

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 plus two archaeologists for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Mark Baister

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 / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do all processing with flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

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

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:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

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 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.

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 trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench 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 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

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|--|
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| CAR 9 | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan |
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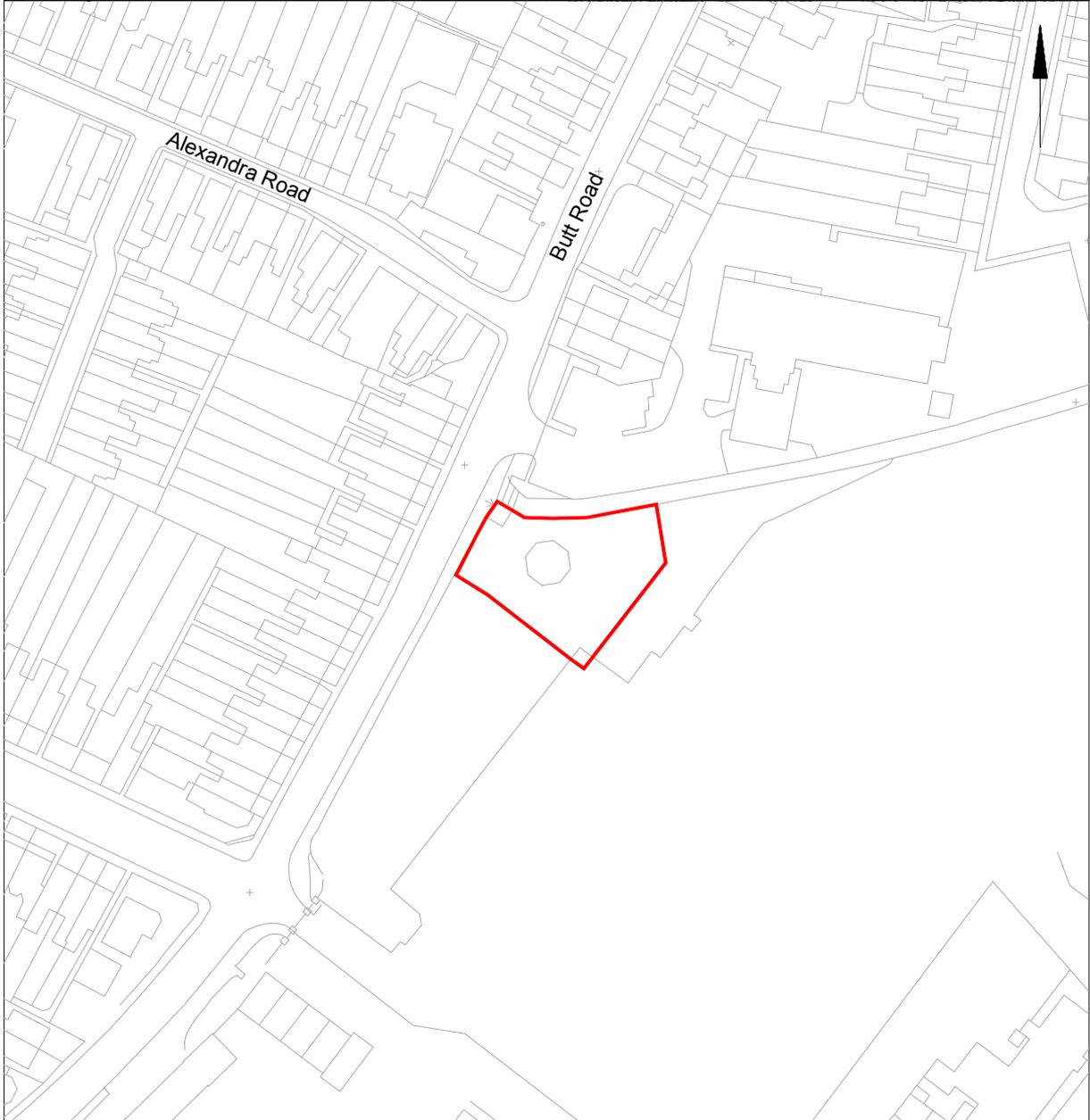
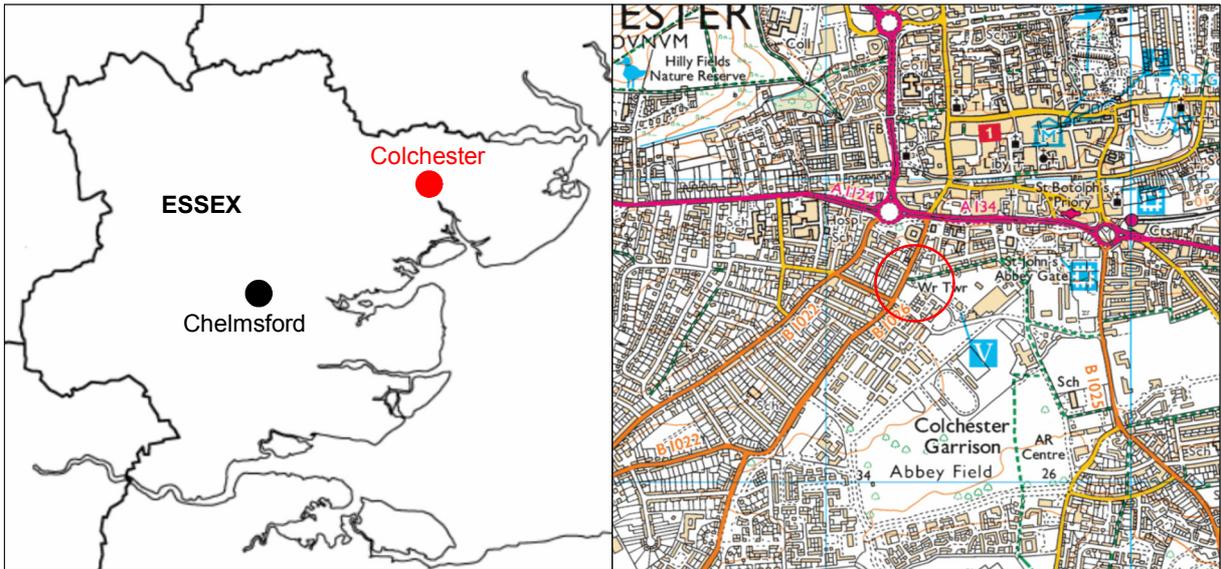
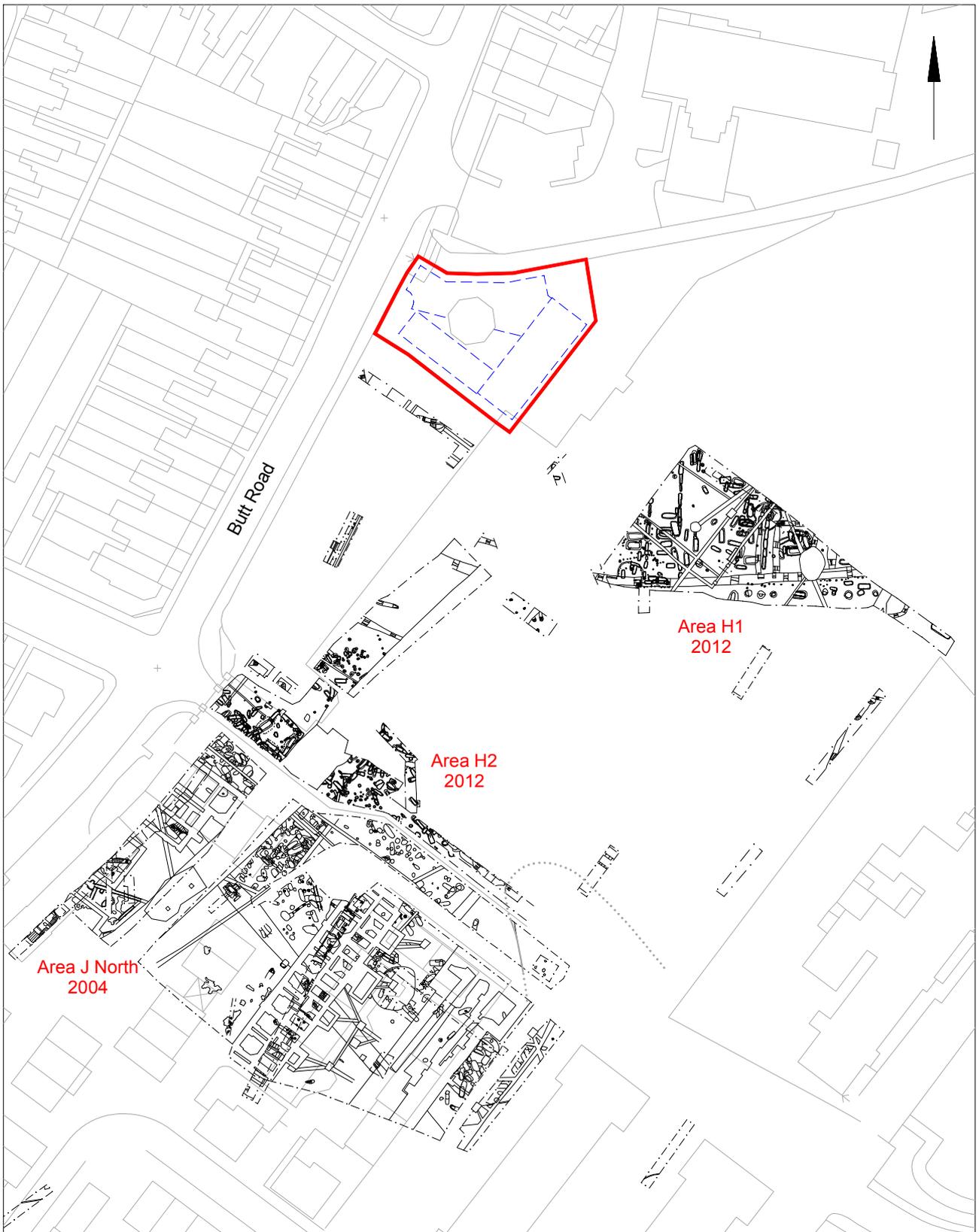


Fig 1 Site location

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Fig 2 Site in relation to recent archaeological work, with the proposed development shown as a dashed blue line.

0 50 m

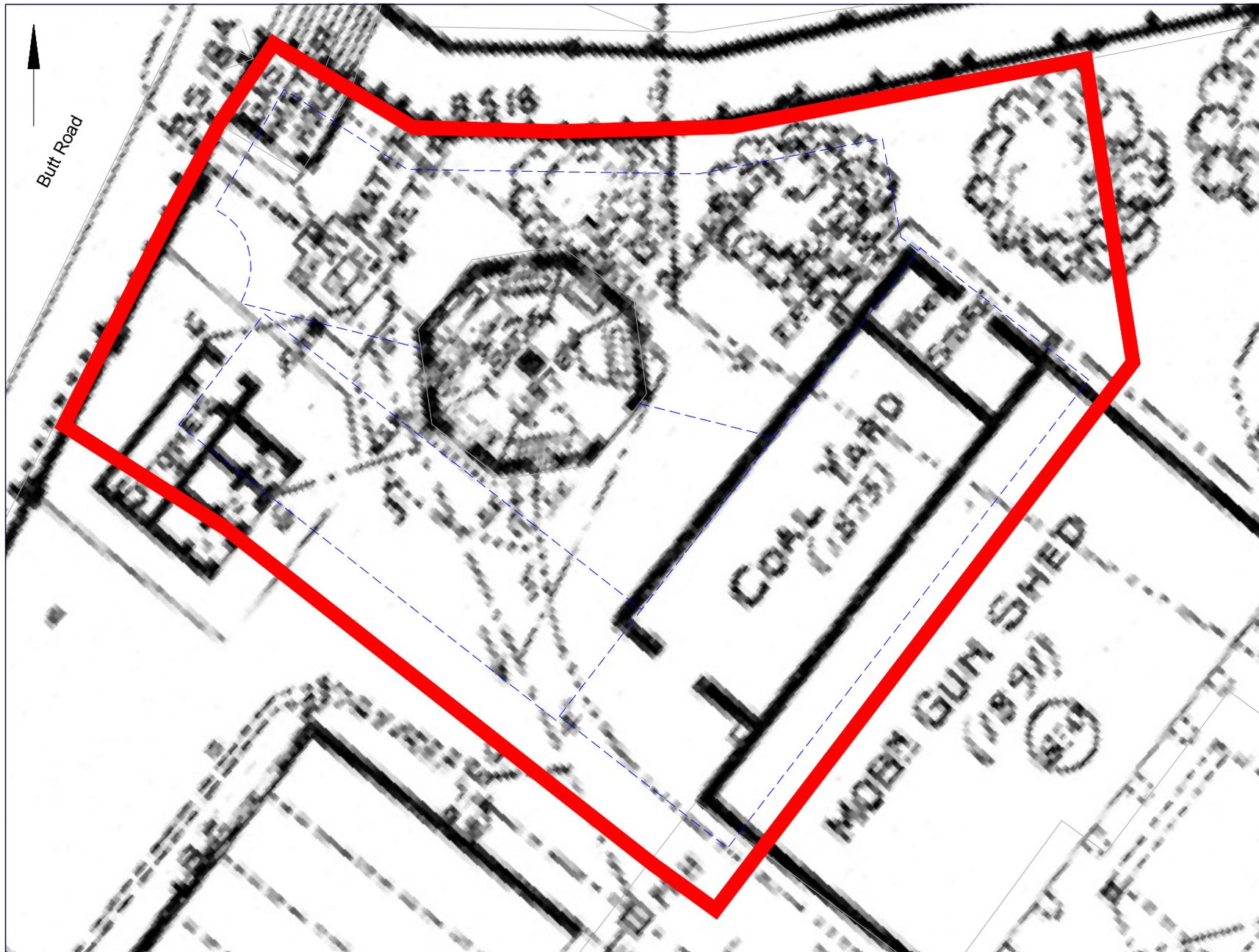


Fig 3 Proposed development in relation to the 1909 Royal Artillery Barracks plan.

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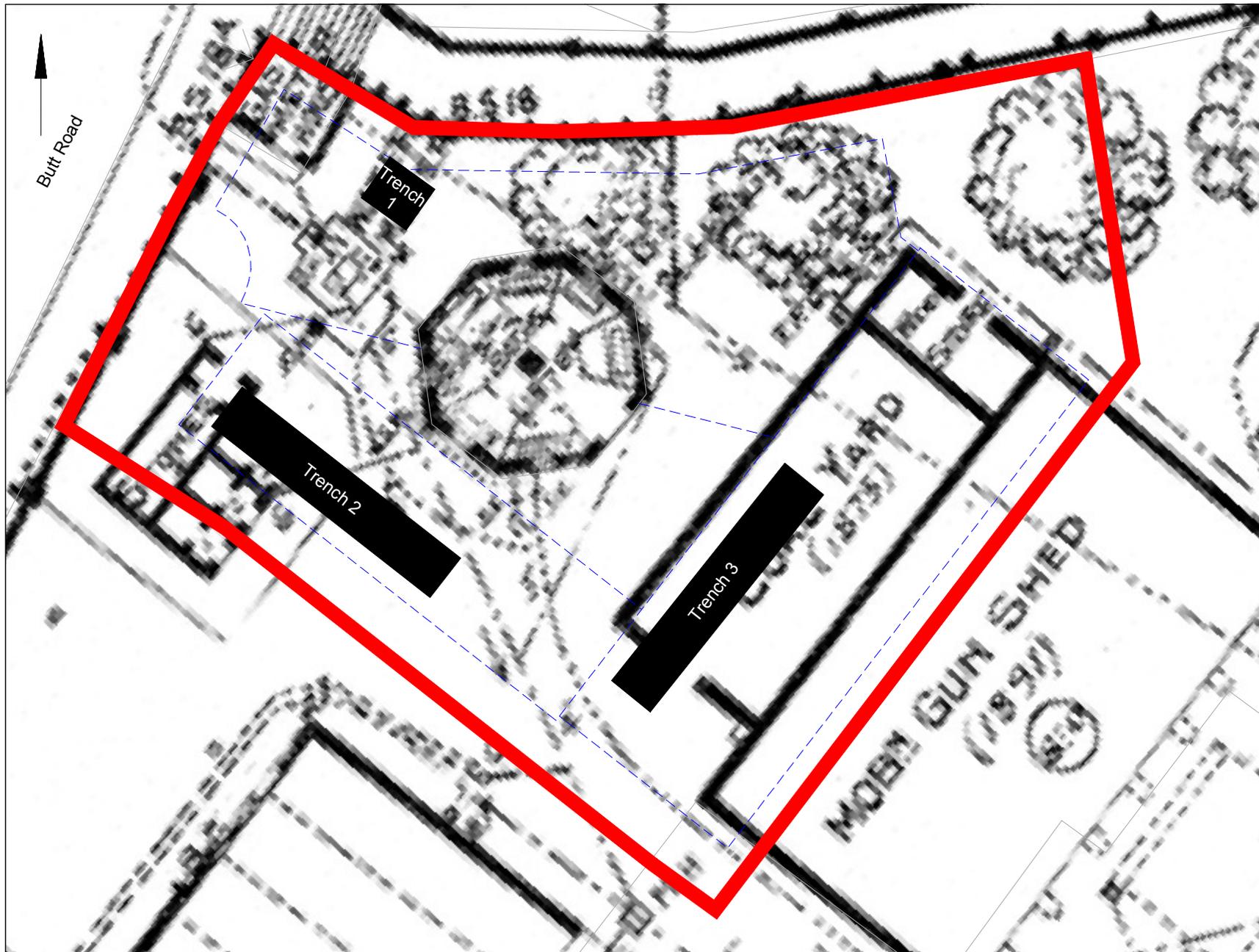


Fig 4 Trench proposal.

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-277371

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Archaeological evaluation at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester in advance of the restoration of the water tower with extensions for new offices. The water tower is located in the northwest corner of the former Garrison Artillery Barracks close to several large Roman cemetery areas. The evaluation trenches revealed the brick and concrete foundations of two former Garrison buildings (the stores and coal yard), modern pits, two probable medieval/post-medieval ditches, two Roman pits and an undated ditch. |
| Project dates | Start: 06-03-2017 End: 07-03-2017 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 17/02g - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | 161252 - Planning Application No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECC3958 - HER event no. |
| Any associated project reference codes | COLEM: 2017.17 - Museum accession ID |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed |
| Monument type | PITS Roman |
| Monument type | DITCHES Medieval |
| Monument type | DITCHES Post Medieval |
| Monument type | WALL FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval |
| Monument type | WALL FOUNDATIONS Modern |
| Monument type | PITS Modern |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Roman |
| Significant Finds | CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Significant Finds | CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | ANIMAL BONE Uncertain |
| Significant Finds | SHELL Uncertain |
| Significant Finds | WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches" |
| Development type | Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.) |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Position in the planning process | Not known / Not recorded |

Project location

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Water Tower, Butt Road |
| Postcode | CO3 3DG |
| Study area | 0.08 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TL 9927 2465 51.884216593526 0.895786628098 51 53 03 N 000 53 44 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 33.35m Max: 34.31m |

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 | Adam Wightman |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |

Project archives

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
| Digital Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Digital Archive ID | COLEM: 2017.17 |
| Digital Contents | "Stratigraphic","Survey" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography","Survey" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Paper Archive ID | COLEM: 2017.17 |
| 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 evaluation at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG: March 2017 |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Pooley, L. |
| Other bibliographic details | CAT Report 1079 |
| Date | 2017 |
| Issuer or publisher | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Place of issue or publication | Colchester |
| Description | A4 ringbound loose leaf |
| URL | http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html |
| Entered by | Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org) |
| Entered on | 15 March 2017 |

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