

Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG

May-July 2017



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**
contributions by **Stephen Benfield and Julie Curl**
figures by **Laura Pooley, Sarah Carter, Ben Holloway and Emma
Holloway**

fieldwork by **Adam Tuffey and Sarah Carter**

Commissioned by **Jonathan Frank**
on behalf of **Lexden Restoration and Developments**

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Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, in advance of the restoration of the water tower, extensions and their change of use to offices. The development site is located within an area in which hundreds of Roman burials have previously been excavated. Groundworks uncovered the disturbed remains of an urned Roman burial and late 19th-century building remains associated with the Colchester Garrison.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out on the 3rd May – 5th July 2017. The work was commissioned by Jonathan Frank on behalf of Lexden Restoration and Developments, in advance of the restoration of the water tower, extensions and change of use to offices, 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 Continuous Archaeological Recording*, 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 watching briefs* (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 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 fifteen 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 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.

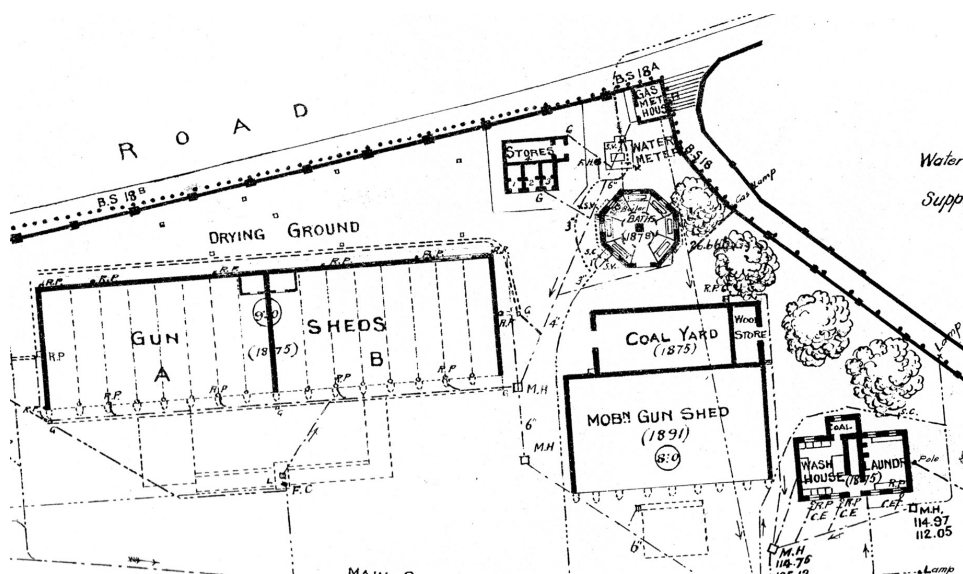
Approximately 150m to the N of the site over 700 Roman inhumations were excavated in the 1970s and 1980s in advance of the construction of the Butt Road Police station (CAR 9, 4-202). In 1998 an evaluation at 47 Butt Road revealed a single inhumation (EHER 1185518). Subsequent excavation revealed three 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) shows gun sheds, a coal yard and wood store, a wash house and laundry, and store in the immediately vicinity of the water tower.

In March 2017 three trial-trenches were excavated on the development site (CAT Report 1079) (Fig 3). The trenches were excavated through 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). These 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. Modern features included a pit (F11) and the brick and concrete foundations of two buildings (F8 and F13, c 100mm below current ground level) recorded on the 1909 Royal Artillery Barracks plan (stores and coal yard).



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

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 158.6m of foundation trenches were dug under archaeological supervision. The trenches measured 0.4-0.9m wide by approximately 0.3m to 1.78m deep. The area bounded by the trenching was reduced by approximately 0.3m.

Excavations occurred through five layers. Modern levelling and topsoil (L1, c 0.22-0.3m thick) sealed a demolition layer (L2, c 0.7-0.8m thick). Beneath this lay buried topsoil (L4, c 0.5-0.52m thick), and subsoil (L5, c 0.24-0.4m thick). Below L5 was a layer of naturally-deposited sands and gravels (L6).

Possible Roman linear feature F100¹ was uncovered. It was aligned E-W but its dimensions could not be determined as it was too deep to be excavated. Roman finds recovered from the surface of the feature indicate that it might be of Roman date. The feature was not observed in the trenching further to the E or W and was presumably truncated by later activity in the area.



Photograph 1 Overall shot of F100 - looking east northeast

Roman urned cremation F101 was discovered one morning after part of the trench had collapsed overnight so only the disturbed remains could be recorded. The measurements of the cut were unclear, but the hollow in which the urn was situated measured 0.45m in width.

In addition, the partial foundations of a former gas hut (F102) and coal yard (F8 – numbered F8 during the earlier evaluation) were identified, with both buildings present on the 1909 Royal Artillery Barrack plan of area – see Map 1). The foundations of coal yard, however, were not observed in the trenches to the southwest of this location, and must have either been removed or disturbed at some point during the 20th-century.

5 Finds

By Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The watching brief produced a small quantity of finds of Roman date. The most significant among these is an urned Roman cremation burial, although of singular interest is a part of a two-handled late Roman pottery cantharus, which is a product of the Hadham pottery industry. All of the finds are listed and described by context in Table 2 while the cantharus is discussed below. The pottery fabrics (listed in Table 1)

¹ Feature numbers start at F100 to distinguish this site from the earlier evaluation carried out in this area (see CAT Report 1079).

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
CZ	Colchester (and other) red colour-coated wares
CH	Oxidised Hadham ware
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares
GX	Other coarsewares, principally local greywares

Table 1 Roman pottery fabrics

Ctxt	Find no	Context type	Type/ description	Spot date
F100	8	Ditch	<p>Pottery Roman: Fabric CH Significant part (broken) of a two-handled pedestal cup - <i>cantharus</i> (355 g) EVE 0.32 (dated- late 3rd-4th century); Fabric CZ, small rim sherd from a Cam 392 beaker (2 g) (dated late 2nd/early 3rd-mid/late 3rd century)</p> <p>Metal (Fe): corroded section of the shaft of an iron nail stuck to wall of the pottery cup (above) by the corrosion leaching into the surrounding sandy soil</p> <p>Animal bone: Single small piece, broken, flaking (weight 8 g) - degraded piece of large mammal rib, encrusted with cemented sandy soil deposit</p>	Rom L3-4C
F101	9	Cremation burial (Roman)	<p>Pottery Roman: Fabric DJ, neck from a ring-necked flagon in buff fabric, slightly abraded, weight 112 g (dated- mid/late 1st-mid 2nd century)</p>	Rom M/L1-2C
F101	10	Cremation burial (Roman)	<p>Pottery Roman: Urn containing cremated bone - Fabric GX body of a large jar (narrow-mouth jar/flask) broken into 4 large sections, some small shoulder sherds with small cordon at one edge (medium sherds to small pieces c 10 in number), urn burnished on shoulder and lower (base) wall, rim missing, fabric red-brown core with grey margins and surface, weight 2174 g (dated Roman – probably 2nd-3rd century)</p> <p>Also - three other small greyware sherds possibly part of the urn above, but slightly different in feel and some abrasion to surfaces (8 g). Three sherds from a bowl, Fabric GX, 2 sherds join, simple, rounded everted rim, burnished on shoulder, Cam 299, weight 54 g (dated- Antonine-4th century).</p> <p>CBM: Three small pieces/fragments of what is almost certainly modern brick with pale lime mortar adhering to them and intrusive to this context (dated 18th/19th-20th century)</p>	Rom M2-3/4C (intrusive mod brick frags)
F101	11	Cremation burial (Roman)	<p>Human bone: Quantity of burnt (cremated) human bone recovered as larger pieces from urn and urn soil and as smaller pieces/fragments from processing urn soil (total approximately 1100 g)</p>	Rom M2-3/4C
L5	12	Buried subsoil	<p>Pottery Roman: Fabric GX, jar with lid-seated rim, burnished neck and rim top (1 sherd, 36 g) possibly from a large jar/flask, grey fabric throughout and probably not the rim of the cremation pot L5 (11). Fabric GX, everted rim from a jar, similar to BB-type jars (1 sherd, 10 g) (dated- probably 2nd -3rd century)</p>	Rom 2-3C?

Table 2 Finds by context

Pottery cantharus

A significant part of a pottery cantharus, a two-handled drinking cup, was recovered from F100 (8) (Photograph 2). This is an oxidised fineware product of the late Roman Hadham potteries (Fabric CH) and can be dated to the period of the late 3rd-4th century.

The cantharus form originates in ancient Greece (Kantharos) where it is specifically associated with wine drinking and with the symposium, a convivial sometimes raucous male (drinking) party. The form itself probably copies metal vessels of the same purpose and appears in both metal (silver) and glass in the Roman period. Typically, the form has a pedestal base, tall wide body/neck (often flaring) and two opposed, elongated, looping handles; the lower body is commonly rounded and distinct from the neck. As relatively rare or unusual vessels they would have been socially visible and notable objects. Their association with wine drinking is reinforced by its frequent accompaniment in depictions of Bacchus and on Bacchic mosaics, although they are also common pictured on mosaics. This imparts a symbolic aspect, based on their associations with wine, celebration, re-birth, and immortality and notably one appears with a griffin on the crest of the well-known Crosby Garret Roman parade helmet.



Photograph 2 F100 (8) Pottery cantharus (Fabric CH) complete profile, part of second handle (joining)

In pottery, although relatively rare, the vessel type probably appears most often in samian ware, a fine pottery often associated with the table and there is a large, barbotine decorated East Gaulish samian cantharus from Castle Street Chester (on display in Chester museum) (see *Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin* no. 5 1977). Colchester has produced a few pottery examples, both in samian and other finewares. Most recently much of an East Gaulish samian cantharus (dating to the late 2nd-early 3rd century) was recovered from Flagstaff House (unpublished) while other examples are recorded in imported colour-coated ware (probably of 3rd-century date) recovered during excavations on Roman pottery kilns in 1938 (Hull 1963, fig 55.1) and a cantharus in 'red ware' is recorded from the Abbey Gate area (May 1930).

It is interesting to note that of the four examples recorded from Colchester, three have been found to the south of the town, all within c 100 m-200 m of the circus. However, to some extent this might be fortuitous as there may be other unrecognised examples from the town. Sherds from several pots, also in Hadham oxidised ware and illustrated in *CAR 10* (figs 5.54 nos. 104 & 5.55 nos. 106-110) appear to be from vessels with

upper body profiles (?necks) similar to the cantharas here. Two (figs 5.54, nos. 104; 5.55, nos. 109) have examples of similar handles which could be the single surviving example of what was a handle pair. These come from Culver Street (site coded 1.81), Balkerne Lane (site code BKN) and Butt Road (site code BUC) and all can be broadly dated to the period of the late 3rd-4th century. The location of some of the finds might suggest some association with cemetery areas and funeral feasting.

6 Cremation material/burnt bone

By Julie Curl

Methodology

Two bags of burnt bone were submitted for recording and analysis. The contents were dry-sieved through a stack of 10, 5, 2 and 1mm sized mesh to ensure maximum recovery and assess the degree of fragmentation. Fragments measuring over 5mm were manually separated for analysis, those below 5mm were scanned, but not fully sorted and examined in greater depth for this report. Greatest lengths were measured for the larger pieces in the assemblage.

Quantification, provenance and preservation

The cremated bone from F101 (11) totals 1130g and consists of a minimum of 1104 pieces of bone, with the assemblage quantified in Table 1 and with detail of counts and weights of human remains by fragment size in Table 2. Some of the material was found inside and associated with a Roman ceramic jar of a mid-2nd to 3rd/4th century date.

Level of burning	Count	Weight (g)	Human	Animal	Species	NISP	Adult	Element range
Range of burning	1130	1104	1128	2	Human	1128	1128	Skeleton
White					Sheep / goat	2		Metapodial, tooth

Table 3 Quantification of the assemblage from F101 (11)

Preservation is good, with many large fragments of bone surviving. Many small fragments and bone dust are present, it is possible that at least some of these may have been from debris from previous cremations and collected with the bone to be placed in the pot. The bulk of the bone is of human origin, although two small pieces of sheep/goat bone were recorded and it is possible that some small and unidentifiable fragments are from animal remains.

>10mm	Wt	5-9mm	Wt	2-4mm	Wt	<1mm	Wt
469	785g	279	253g	178	45g	204	16g

Table 4 Quantification of the cremated material by fragment size count and weight. This table does not include two small pieces of sheep/goat that were identified.

Analysis results and discussion

Size of Cremation

The size of a cremation depends on the individual (age, sex, body mass, bone density), maintenance of the pyre, the extent of bone recovery from the pyre site and during excavation, as well as on the rate of bone preservation (McKinley, 1993).

The weight for the cremation in this assemblage is below the middle weight in the weight range in comparison to average archaeological cremations (range: 57 – 3000 g) (McKinley, 2000) and just above the lowest weight in comparison to a modern cremation (1000 – 3600 g) (McKinley, 2000).

Cremations in containers are normally larger than cremations in pits and finely crushed cremations tend to be smaller due to poor preservation. The cremation at Butt Road was recovered in association with a ceramic jar, but this jar was broken, which would have led to degrading of the bone. The smaller size of this cremation may also be due to a range of factors including loss of some of the bone of bone before burial as well as post-depositional bone decay. There was also clearly some damage to the pot and disturbance of the bone, some bone may have been lost when the pot was damaged.

Fragmentation

The fragmentation of bone resulting from the cremation process may be increased by funerary practices such as raking and tending of the pyre, collection of bone at the pyre site, deliberate crushing prior to burial, as well as a result of post-depositional processes, excavation and processing (McKinley, 1989).

There is quite a lot of variation in fragment size with the largest fragment in the assemblage coming from within the urn, measuring 70mm and numerous fragments around 45-65mm.

In terms of fragment count, 42% of the fragments measured over 10mm in size, which is less fragmentation than the average for an archaeological cremation. The overall degree of bone fragmentation is less than that generally seen in archaeological cremations where an average of 50% of bone fragments are over 10mm in size (McKinley, 1994).

The fragmentation is likely to have been affected by the protection of the pot (until it was damaged) and the degree of burning seen, leaving several parts reasonably unaffected.

Colour

The colour of cremated bone depends on a range of factors including the maximum temperature reached, the length of the cremation process, the type and amount of fuel, the quantity of oxygen, the amount of body fat as well as on the degree of uniformity of exposure to the heat across the body. A correlation has been found between the temperature attained and colour changes. Cremated bone can exhibit a large range of heat-induced colour variation from normal coloured (unburnt), to black (charred: c 300 °C), through hues of blue and grey (incompletely incinerated: up to c 600 °C) to fully oxidised white (> c 600 °C) (McKinley, 2004).

Approximately 30% of the bone was fully oxidised. Much of the bone was not fully cremated. Several fragments of blue-grey bone were recorded and some fragments were relatively unburnt or just charred. The variation in colour might suggest that the cremation was not raked and tended sufficiently to ensure fully burning of all of the remains.

Surface changes

Surface changes such as warping, cracking and fissuring are characteristics of cremated bone and are produced during the process of dehydration undergone by bone exposed to heat. The pattern of heat-induced bone changes in colour and texture can be exploited to infer the technological aspects of the ritual, the condition of the body at the time when the cremation process took place and the nature of post-depositional disturbance (Shipman *et al* 1984).

Approximately 40% of the bone in this assemblage showed warping, twisting, cracking and fissures, with fragments that were burnt at higher temperature and fully oxidised.

Elements and species identified

Fragments of human skull, mandible, vertebrae, ribs, clavicle, pelvis, scapula, upper and lower limb bones, some hand and foot bones were recorded.

In addition, two bones of sheep/goat were identified, with a fragment of metatarsal and a piece of molar.

Age, sex and pathologies

Some of the bones identifiable are not completely fused. Fusion lines were still visible around the femur, which would indicate a young adult of approximately 20 years old.

No elements were seen that would allow estimation of sex or stature.

No pathologies were observed on any of the bone, which again suggest the adult was young and had not developed any noticeable bone health problems.

Additional finds

Small fragments of flint, most of which were burnt, were found within the cremated material. Small fragments of charcoal were also noted.

A small fragment of pale blue glass and some fragments of pottery and ?cbm were found in the cremated material and these have been returned for identification.

Conclusions

This cremation appears to be that of a young adult of approximately 20 years of age which remains unsexed. Several cremations have been found in Butt Road during past excavations (Crummy *et al*, 1993), although most human burials in the area are inhumations. The cremations from here are generally confined to the 1st and 2nd centuries and it is possible that this cremation was associated with those.

A higher than average number of fragments were over 10mm in length and a number of elements were not fully cremated. The incomplete cremation and higher number of larger fragments may be due to any or a combination of several factors, such as adverse weather conditions and insufficient fuel. The placing of the collected bone into a pot would offer protection and generally produced remains in a better state of preservation. A lack of tending the remains by raking and redistributing the bones in the fire can result in some elements avoiding the intense heat. Equally, overzealous raking and movement may result in some fragmenting bone being pushed away from the more concentrated heat.

The heavily burnt sheep/goat remains in the assemblage may be from food placed with the person to be cremated, but may be from residual bone.

7 Discussion

Monitoring revealed a single Roman urned cremation of mid 2nd- to 4th-century date containing the remains of a young adult, approximately twenty years old. Hundreds of Roman burials are known from this part of Colchester (see Archaeological background) with the closest located 30m southeast during 2012-3 excavations on Garrison Area H (CAT Report 1033, in progress). Designated Area H1, a total of 86 burials were recorded from this cemetery area (68 inhumation burials, 16 urned cremation burials and two unurned cremation burials). The northern and western boundaries for this cemetery area were not identified at the time, and it is possible that the urned cremation from the water tower belongs with the Area H1 cemetery. The date of the urn would certainly fall within the dates of the H1 cemetery (2nd to the late 3rd/early 4th centuries) and, where identification was possible, all of the H1 cremation urns were jars.

It is interesting to note that none of the features identified as ditches in the evaluation (CAT Report 1079) were traced during monitoring. This could be the result of disturbance over the area when the Garrison buildings were constructed or could suggest that the features were actually pits.

8 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 Tuffey and S Carter. Figures were prepared by S Carter, B Holloway 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>

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
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording 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>
CAT Report 1079	2017	<i>Archaeological evaluation at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG: March 2017</i>
CBCAA	2016	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording 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 deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CifA	2014c	<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)

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CifA	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 c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 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
wsi written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: One box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1158)

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 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,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 22.9.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F8	-	Wall foundations	Foundations of the former garrison coal yard (numbered F8 during the earlier evaluation – CAT Report 1079)	Modern
F100	8	Linear	Friable, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions and occasional stone and gravel piece inclusions	?Roman
F101	9, 10, 11	Cut of cremation urn	Loose, dry, dark brown silty-sand	Roman
F102	-	Wall foundations	Foundations of the former garrison gas hut	Modern
L1	-	Levelling and topsoil	Firm, medium grey/brown/black clayey-silt with occasional stone inclusions	Modern
L2	-	Demolition layer	Firm, medium orange/grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with frequent gravel, stone and tile/brick piece inclusions	Modern
L3	-	Hoggin	Firm, dry medium orange sand and clay with frequent stone piece inclusions	Modern
L4	-	Buried topsoil	Firm, medium grey/brown silty-clay with occasional stone piece inclusions	Post-Roman
L5	12	Buried subsoil	Friable, medium grey/brown silty-sand with occasional stone piece inclusions	Roman
L6	-	Natural	Firm, medium orange sand with frequent gravel and stone inclusions	Post-glacial

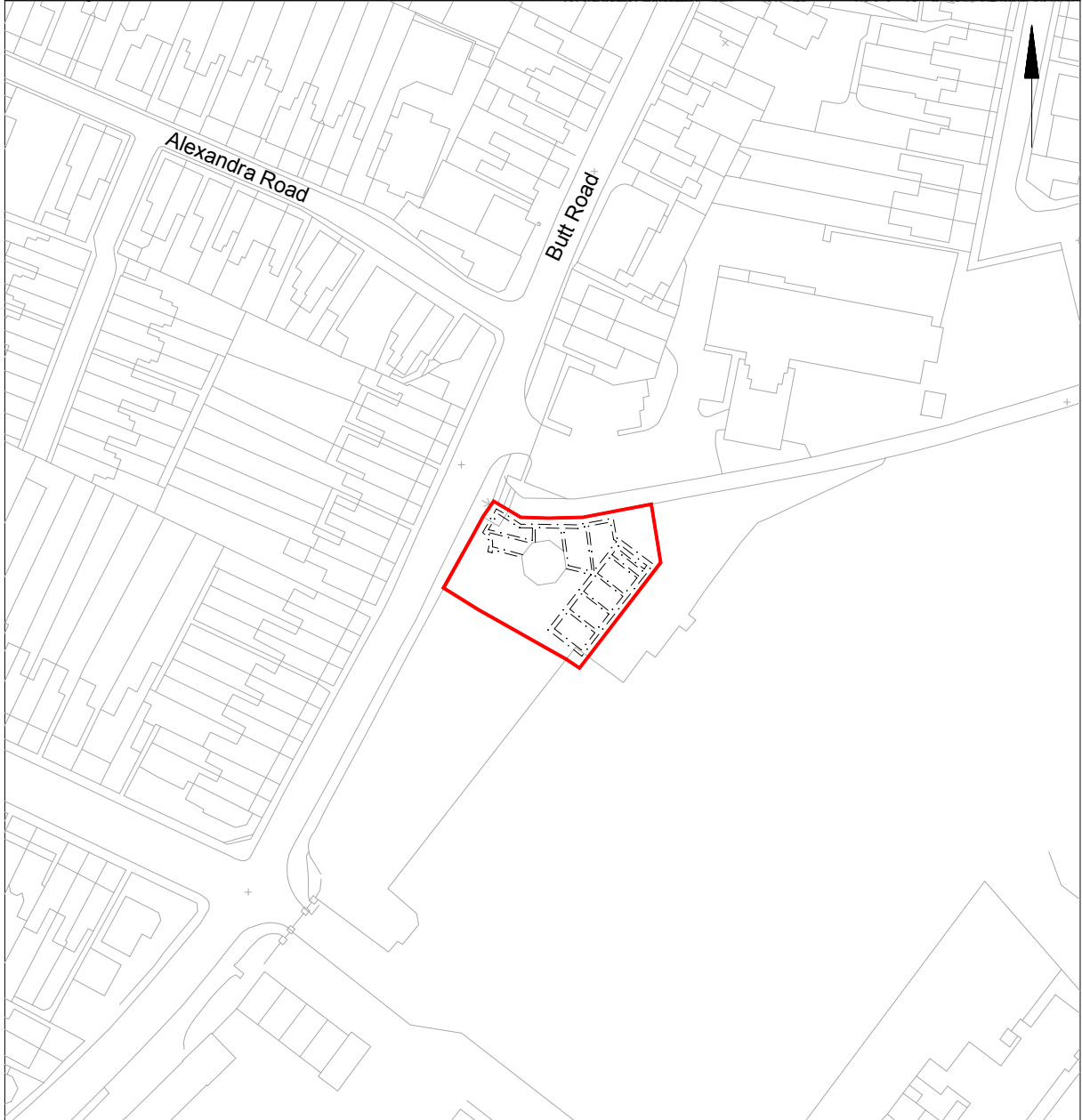
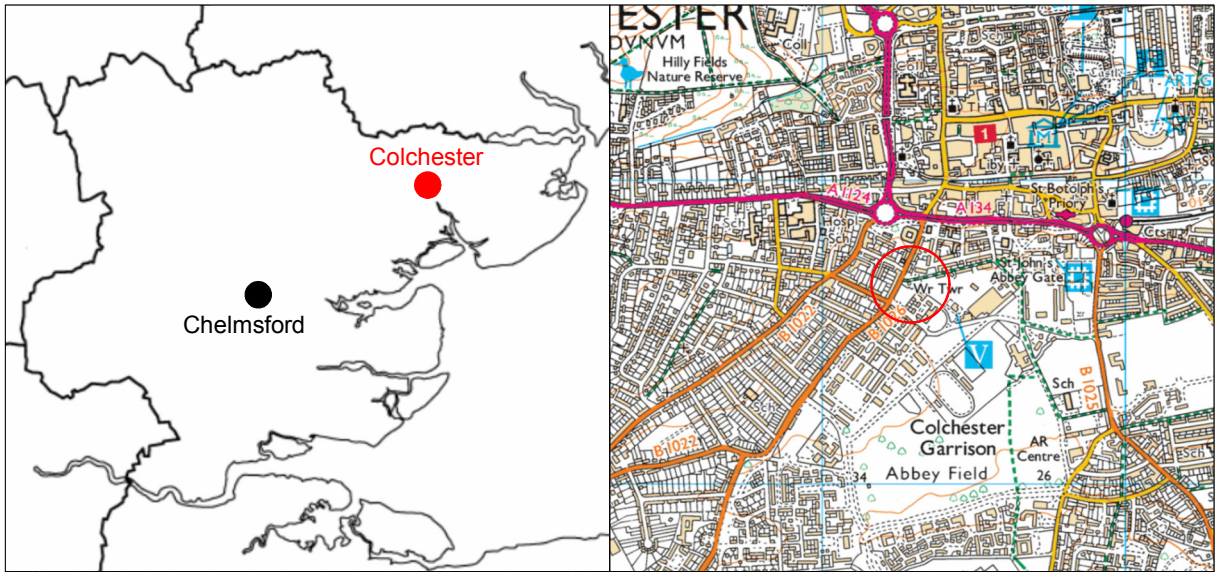
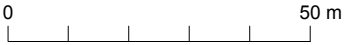
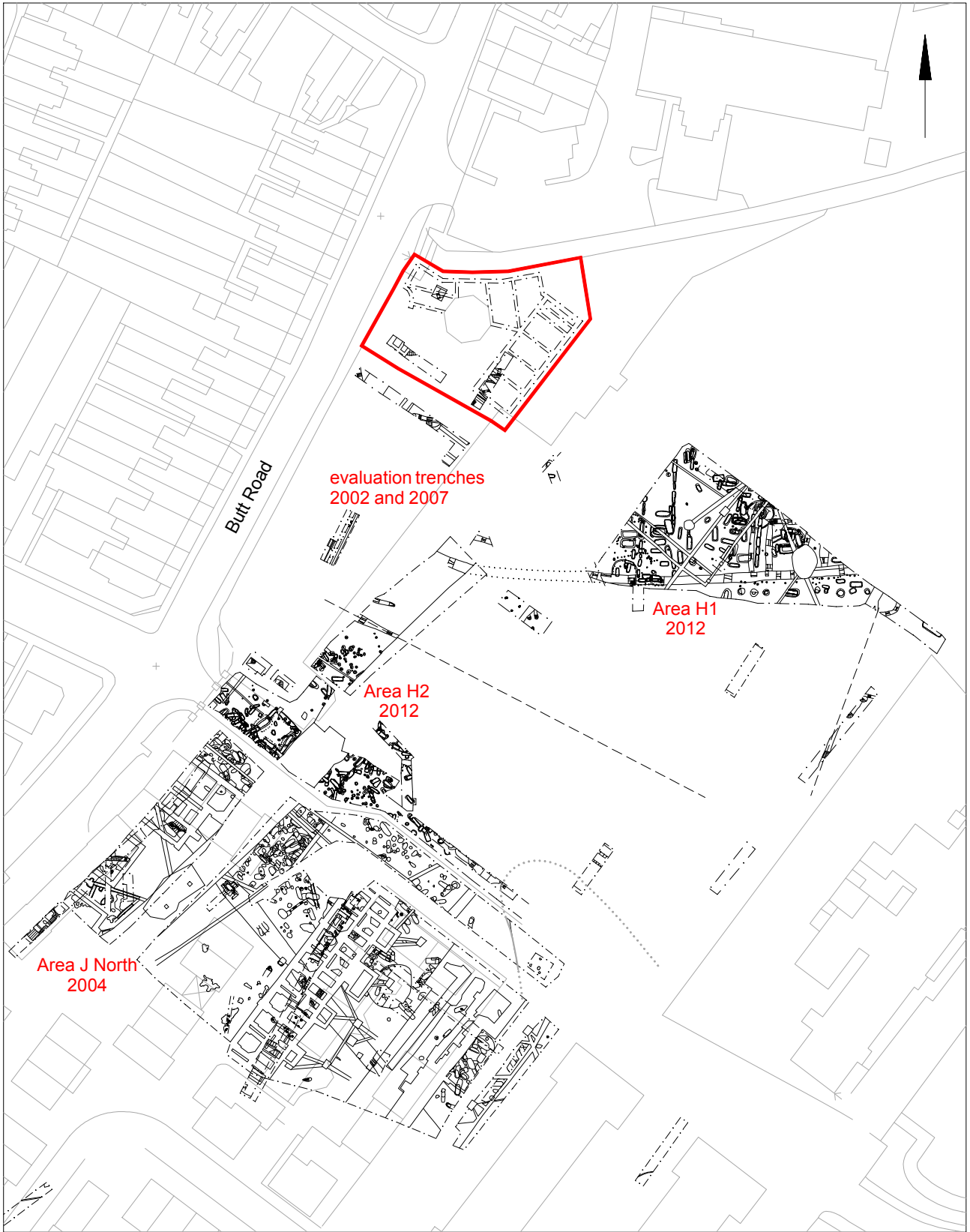


Fig 1 Site location.

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Fig 2 Site in relation to recent archaeological work





Fig 3 Monitoring results

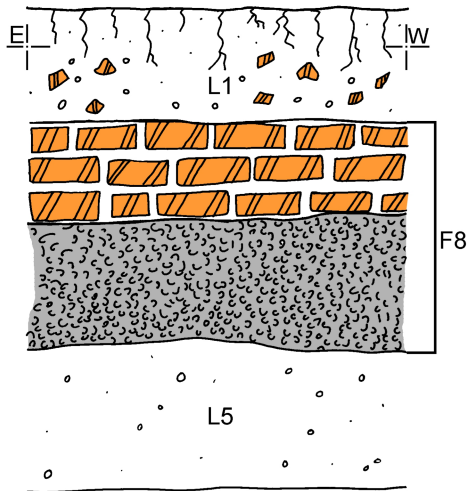
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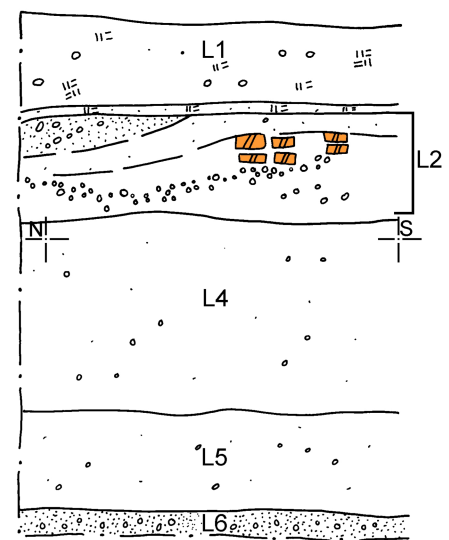


Fig 4 Results from monitoring and 2017 evaluation shown in relation to buildings on the 1909 Garrison Artillery Barracks plan (shown in brown)

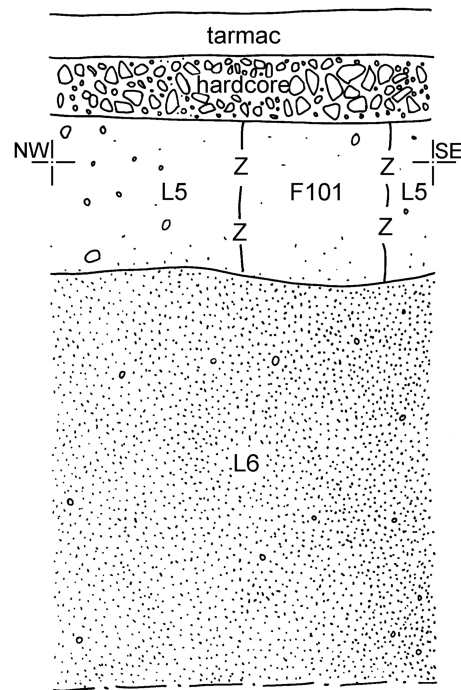
Sx 1



Sx 2



Sx 3



- sand
- small stones
- large stones
- clay
- roots
- post-Medieval/Modern brick
- concrete



Fig 5 Representative sections

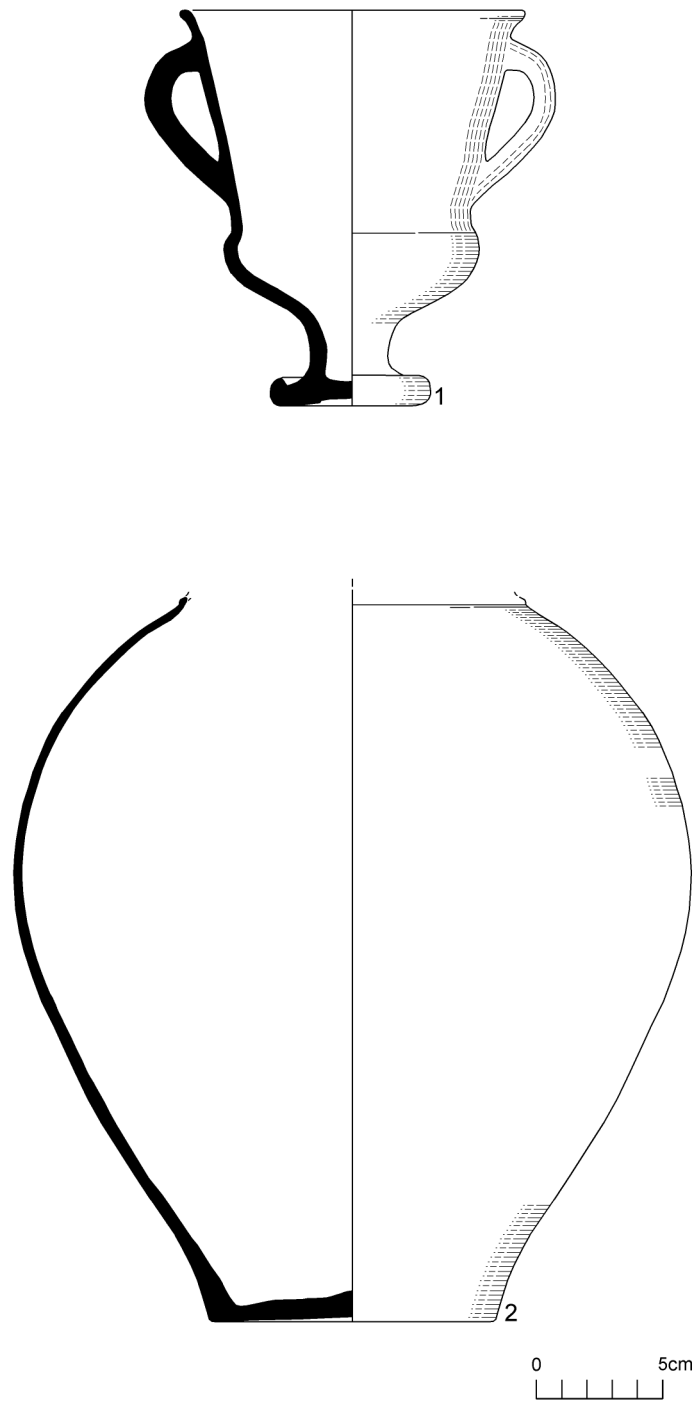


Fig 6 Roman pottery.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: The Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9927 2465 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/05c CHER ref: ECC3992 OASIS ref: colchest3-284192
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 3rd May – 5th July 2017	Size of area investigated: 0.07 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.17	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: EHER 1185518, 1267469
Final report: CAT Report 1158	
Periods represented: Roman, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, in advance of the restoration of the water tower, extensions and their change of use to offices. The development site is located within an area in which hundreds of Roman burials have previously been excavated. Groundworks uncovered the disturbed remains of an urned Roman burial and late 19th-century building remains associated with the Colchester Garrison.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: urned cremation	Significance: *
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: September 2017

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording 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: COLEM: 2017.17

CHER number: [tbc](#)

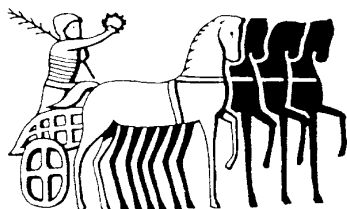
CAT project code: 17/05c

OASIS project id: colchest3-284192

Site Manager: Chris Lister

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 04.05.17



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ
tel: 01206 501785
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:

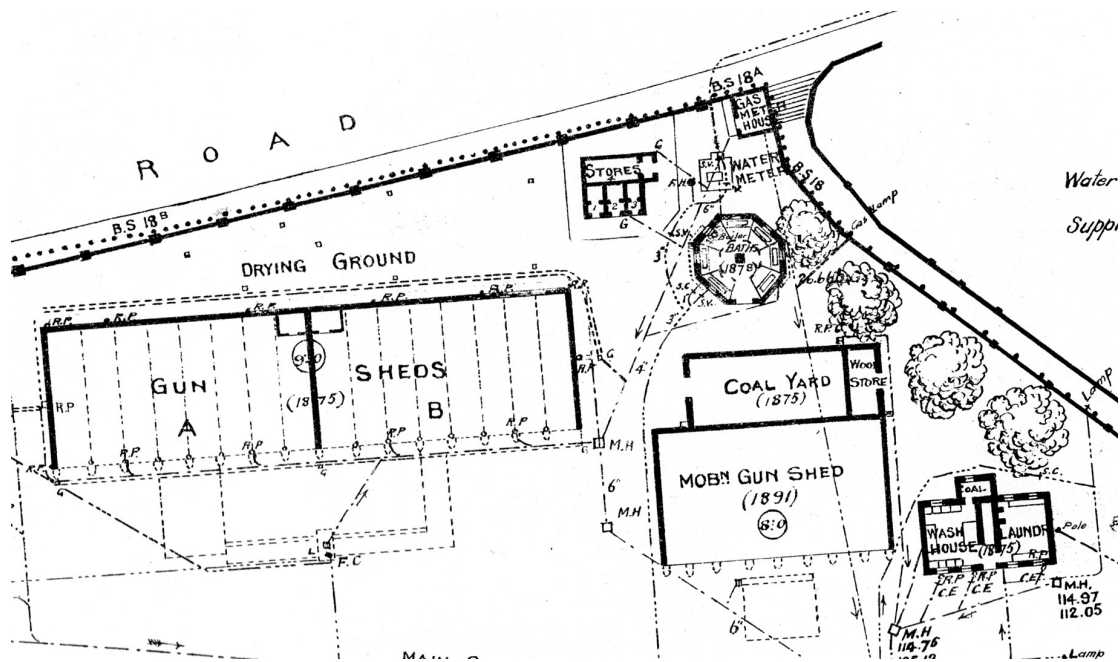
The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically within an area of Roman cemeteries. Evaluations and excavations over the last 15 years as part of the Colchester Garrison Urban Village development have revealed hundreds of Roman burials in two distinct cemetery 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)). 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) shows gun sheds, a coal yard and wood store, a wash house and laundry, and store in the immediately vicinity of the water tower.

In March 2017 three trial-trenches were excavated on the development site (CAT Report 1079) (Fig 3). The trenches were excavated through 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). These 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. Modern features included a pit (F11) and the brick and concrete foundations of two buildings (F8 and F13, c 100mm below current ground level) recorded on the 1909 Royal Artillery Barracks plan (stores and coal yard).



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 CHER/EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). 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 the monitoring and recording of all groundworks taking place on the development site. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2017).

Specifically:

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

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. The CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief and this WSI are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

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)
- 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 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' groundworks 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), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of any burial related features.

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/Lisa Gray 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 VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG 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:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter / Laura Pooley

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

- CAR 8 1995 *Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85* by J Price

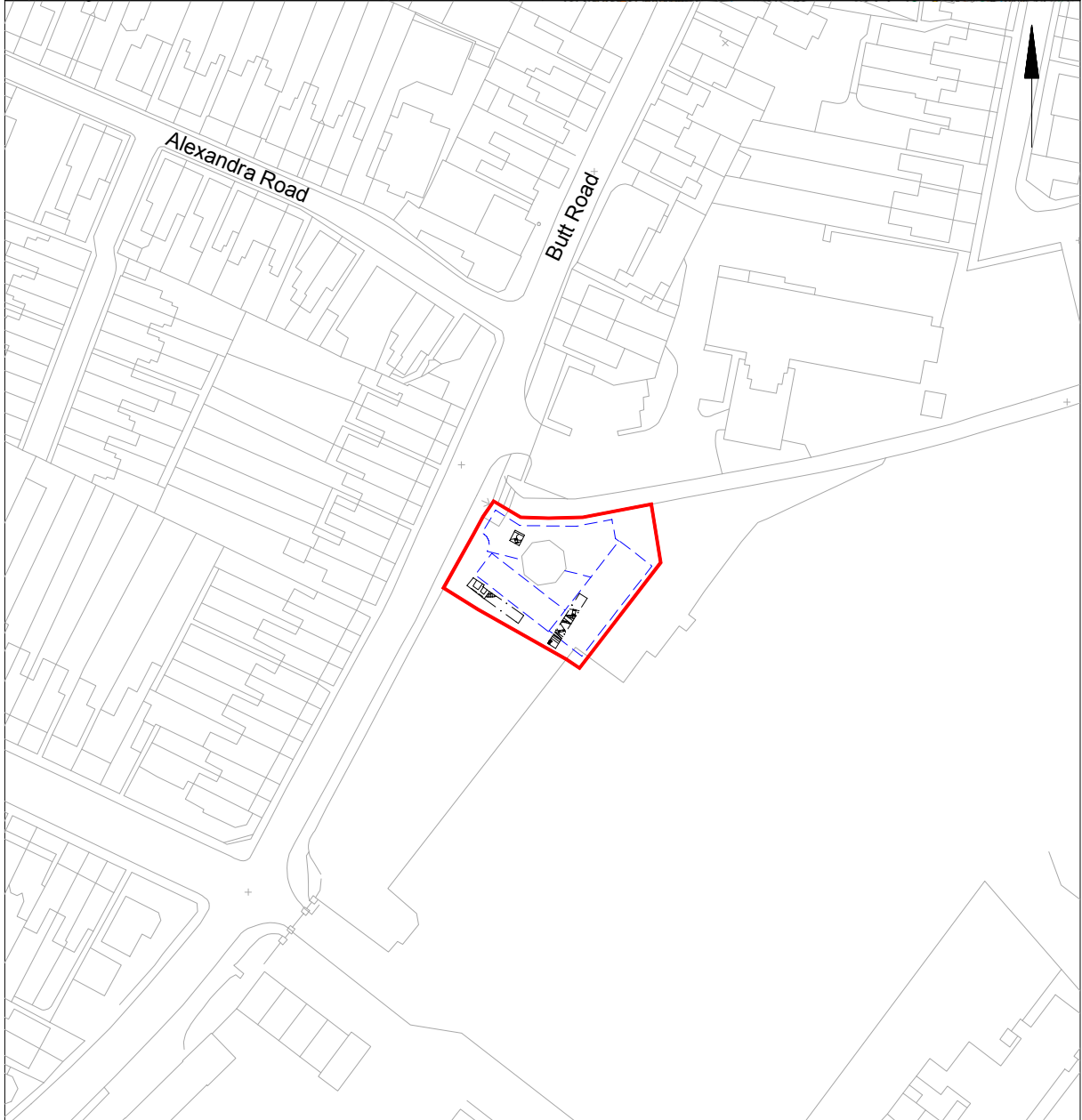
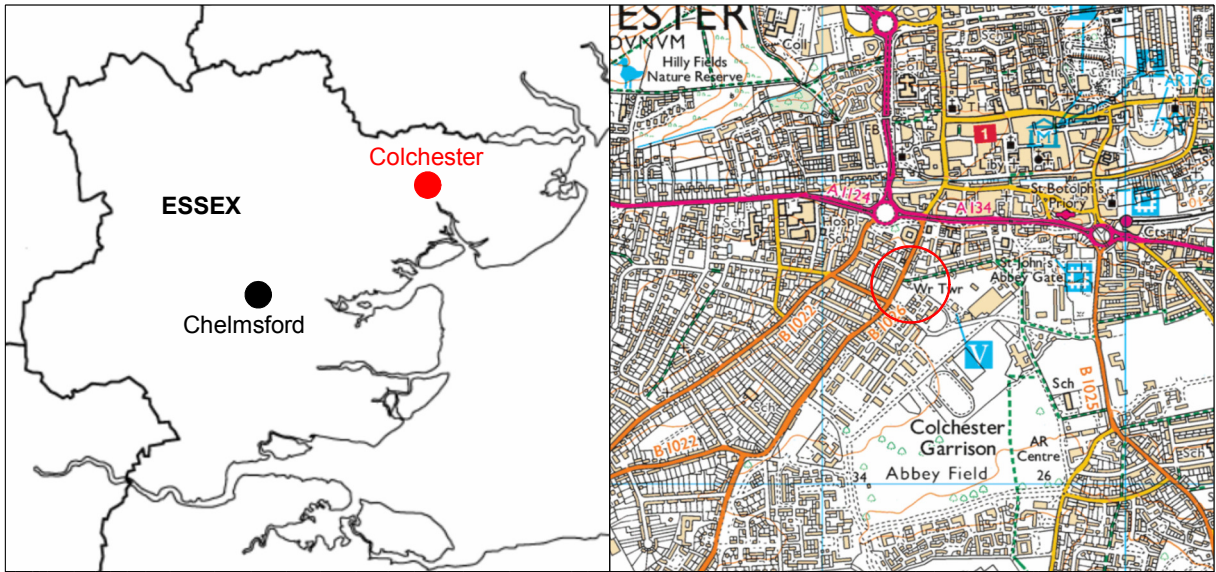
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> by N Crummy, P Crummy & C Crossan
CAT Report 412	2011	<i>Report on the archaeological investigations carried out on Areas C1, C2, E, J1, O, Q and S1 of the Alienated Land, Colchester Garrison, including the Time Team trenches and the Alienated Land watching brief: May 2004-January 2005</i>
CAT Report 1079	2017	<i>Archaeological evaluation at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG: March 2017</i>
CBCAA	2016	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording 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 deposition of archaeological archives</i>
Cifa	2014c	<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)

L Pooley



Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester
Essex
CO2 2GZ

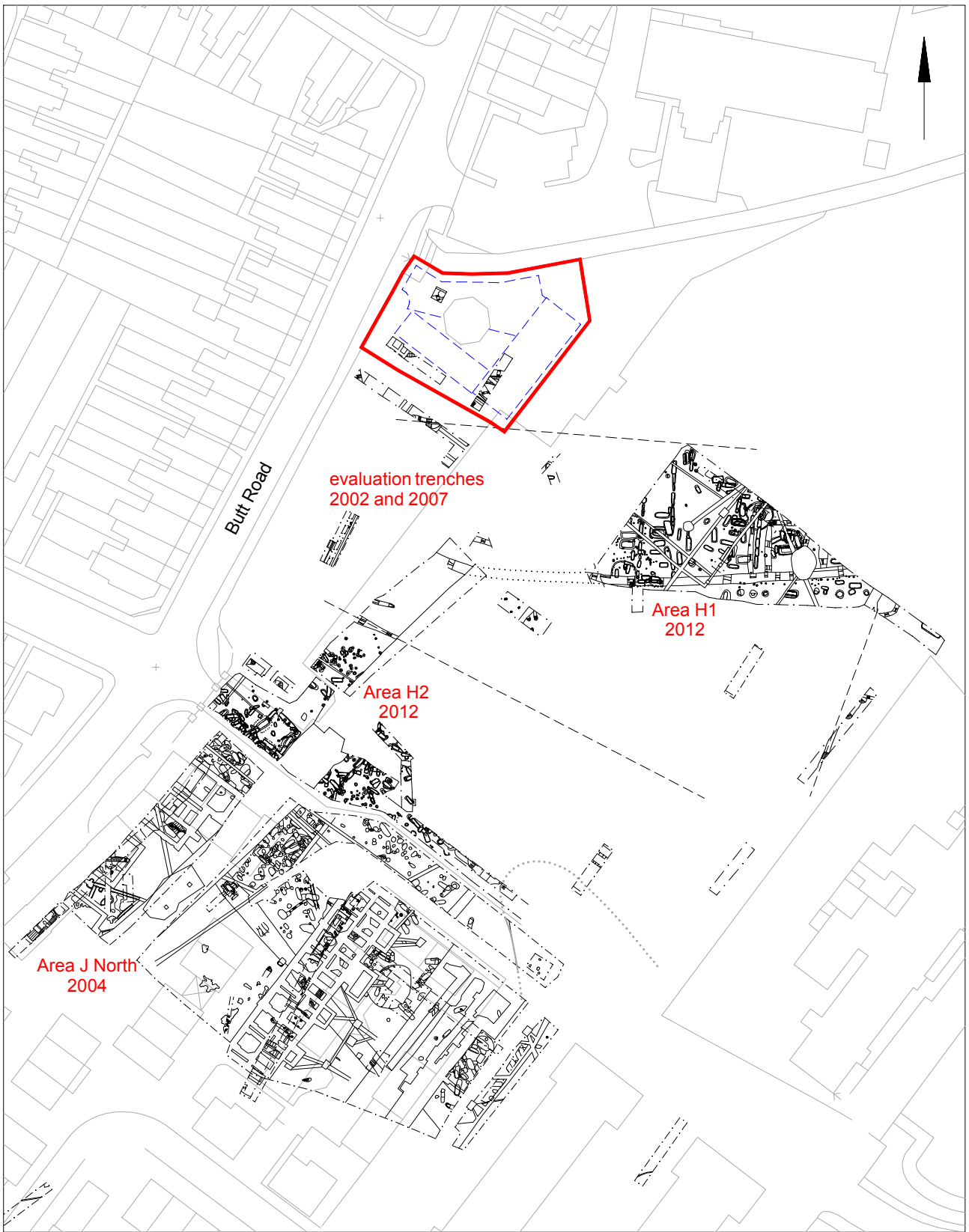
tel: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org



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Fig 1 Site location, proposed development dashed blue with 2017 evaluation results.





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

0 50 m

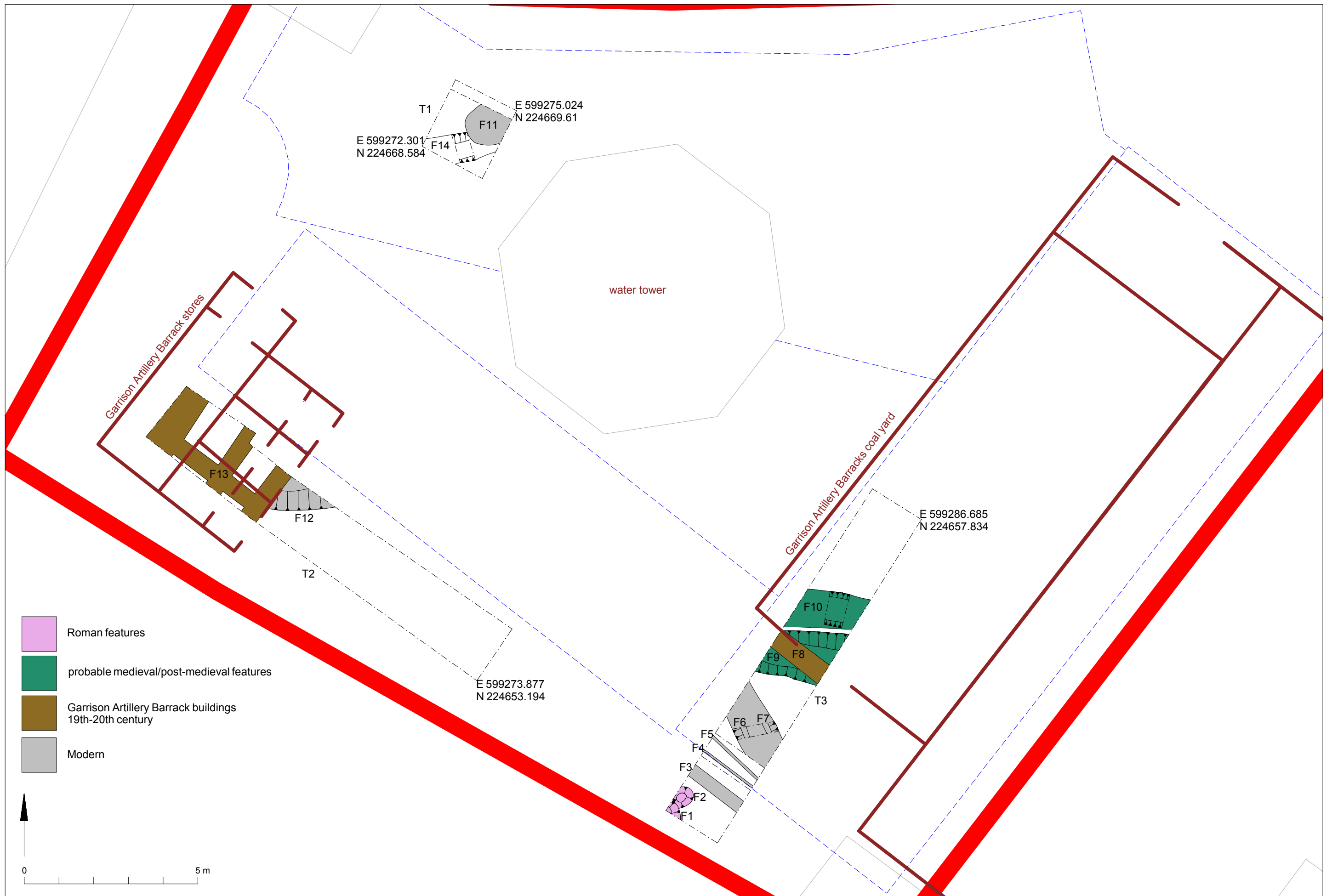


Fig 3 Results shown in relation to buildings on the 1909 Garrison Artillery Barracks plan, proposed development dashed blue

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OASIS ID: colchest3-284192

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, in advance of the restoration of the water tower, extensions and their change of use to offices. The development site is located within an area in which hundreds of Roman burials have previously been excavated. Groundworks uncovered the disturbed remains of an urned Roman burial and late 19th-century building remains associated with the Colchester Garrison.
Project dates	Start: 03-05-2017 End: 05-07-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/05c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	161252 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3992 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.17 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	URNED CREMATION Roman
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATIONS Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	NAIL Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Roman
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Water Tower, Butt Road
Postcode	CO3 3DG
Study area	0.07 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9927 2465 51.884216593526 0.895786628098 51 53 03 N 000 53 44 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	Adam Tuffy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.17
Physical Contents	"Human Bones","Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.17
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.17
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Photograph","Report"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Water Tower, Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3DG: May-July 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1158
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A-4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/
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Entered on	22 September 2017

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