

**Archaeological evaluation at
Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QJ**

May 2018



by Laura Pooley

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**commissioned by Duncan Clark
on behalf of Beardwell Construction Ltd**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (one T-shaped trial-trench) was undertaken at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex as part of a pre-planning application to construct a new school building. Kingswode Hoe School is located on the southwestern edge of the scheduled monument of Sheepen (no. 1002173), forming one of the major centres of the Late Iron Age and early Roman oppidum of Camulodunum. Previous archaeological work at the school identified the remains of the Sheepen Dyke with a parallel Roman trackway alongside.

Archaeological evaluation revealed 11 features of prehistoric, Late Iron Age/early Roman, Roman and modern date, and five undated features. Significant features included a ditch and pit probably associated with Late Iron Age/early Roman activity at Sheepen, and a large Roman quarry pit and two possible Roman inhumation burials.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, which was carried out on 29th to 31st May 2018. The work was commissioned by Duncan Clark, on behalf of Beardwell Construction Ltd, as part of a pre-planning applicant for the construction of a new school building, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within a scheduled monument and has a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by Richard Havis, Historic Environment Advisor at Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS) and Deborah Priddy, Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England (HE). They 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS and HE (CAT 2018).

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

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed by Heritage Gateway. It also incorporates information contained within the desk-based assessment for the application, produced in 2017 (CAT Report 1200).

The desk-based assessment (CAT Report 1200, 1) states that:

The school lies in an area of high archaeological importance. It is inside the Late Iron Age and early Roman oppidum of *Camulodunum*, and on the south-western edge of the Sheepen site – a Scheduled Ancient Monument (site of pre-Roman Settlement). Sheepen is one of the major centres of

Camulodunum, and the Sheepen Dyke (the defensive earthwork around the western side of Sheepen) passes under the school buildings.

The Sheepen Dyke appears to be around 5m to the east of the new (proposed) building, but service trenches to supply the new building may cross the line of the Dyke. Apart from the dyke, archaeological work on the school site has revealed a previously unknown Roman trackway running parallel with and west of the Sheepen Dyke. The proposed new building is on the projected line of this trackway.

Beyond the school site, there are Roman pottery kilns 160m to the NW of the school building, and many Roman burials, the nearest being 160m to the W.

In summary, Kingswode Hoe School is a significant site located within the nationally important Late Iron Age and early Roman *oppidum* (defended stronghold) of *Camulodunum*, on the southwestern edge of the scheduled monument of Sheepen (CHER MCC7487; scheduled monument 1002173). In addition, Sheepen Dyke (CHER MCC498) crosses the school, and previous archaeological investigations have revealed Bronze Age pits and a Roman trackway to the west of the Dyke (CAT Report 623).

A watching brief on building work on the western side of the school (nearest to the proposed new building) show that 'the archaeological level' (ie, the depth at which archaeological remains will be visible, if present) is at 0.4-0.5m below modern ground level (CAT Report 578). Details of other negative watching briefs on the development site can be found in CAT Reports 1000 (Volume 2) and 1200.

See Fig 2 for locations on the development site in relation to previous archaeological investigations, Sheepen Dyke and the Roman trackway.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to identify and record the presence or absence, the extent, date, character and significance of any archaeological remains present, particularly those associated with the Iron Age *oppidum* and Roman settlement. The results of which will be used by ECCPS and HE to determine the need for any further archaeological investigation.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

A T-shaped trial-trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Located within the footprint of the proposed development it measured 20m and 11m long by 1.8m wide. It was excavated through modern topsoil L1, which measured between 0.24-0.65m deep, straight onto natural sands and gravels (L2). All features (apart from F1) were sealed by L1 and cut into L2.

Two features contained prehistoric finds. Pit/posthole F11 contained a prehistoric flint flake and pit F14 a sherd of prehistoric, probably Iron Age, pottery. If F14 is a prehistoric pit, then undated pit F15 must also be prehistoric as it is cut by F14.

Possible ditch terminal F10 was located close to the southern edge of the trench. It was U-shaped, measured 1m wide by 0.4m deep, and contained a single sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery (early/mid to late 1st century).

There were five Roman features. Two small Roman pits, F8 and F13, were excavated along with a large quarry pit, F2, recorded in the far northern extent of the trench. It was excavated to a safe-working depth of 1.3m, with natural sand identified during with

an auger at 1.5m below current ground level. It contained finds dating from the 1st to the 2nd/early 3rd century.

Two possible Roman inhumation burials were recorded (F5 and F6). Both features were half-sectioned as they were only partially located within the trench, and contained pottery and CBM of a c mid to late 1st/(early) 2nd century date. No human bone or grave goods were recorded, but little bone (aside from animal teeth) had survived in any of the other features indicating highly acidic soil conditions. Feature F5 had a characteristic 'grave'-shaped profile with straight-sides and a flat base, although the profile of F6 was more like a pit. However, without being able to fully excavate both features it was not possible to confirm whether they are inhumation burials.

Modern features included a backfilled pond (F3) visible on the OS map of 1952 and possible post-hole F1.

Five undated features included a pit/natural feature (F4), pits (F7, F9 and F16) and pit/posthole (F12). However, pit F7 was cut by Roman pit F8, so must be of Roman or earlier date.



Photograph 1 Possible Roman inhumation burial F5, looking NE



Photograph 2 Evaluation trench, looking NW



Photograph 3 Evaluation trench, looking S

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

The majority of the finds are Roman, primarily dated to the Late Iron Age/early Roman (1st century AD) and early Roman periods (c mid 1st to 2nd century). By association most of the undated finds are also likely to be Late Iron Age/early Roman. In addition, there are also a few finds of prehistoric (flint and pottery) date and a single piece of modern pottery.

All of the fabrics present are listed and described in Table 2. The prehistoric pottery recording relates to the fabric series commonly used in recording prehistoric pottery from Essex (see Brown 1988). The Roman and post-Roman fabrics follow those used in CAR 10 (Roman) and CAR 7 (post-Roman) for recording pottery in Colchester. The pottery fabrics are listed in Table 1. Roman pottery vessel types refer to the Colchester (*Camulodunum*) type series (Hawkes & Hull 1927, Hull 1958).

Fabric code	Fabric name
<i>Prehistoric:</i>	
E	Sand & flint
<i>Roman:</i>	
AA	Amphorae, all (excluding Dressel 20 & Brockley Hill/ <i>Verulamium</i> region)
AJ	Amphorae, Dressel 20
BXSG	South Gaulish decorated samian
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares (general)
GTW	Late Iron Age ('Belgic') grog-tempered ware
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares
RCW	Romanising coarsewares
<i>Modern</i>	
51B	Modern flowerpot

Table 1 Pottery fabrics

Most of the finds are quite broken-up with various degrees of abrasion to edges and surfaces, although there are a few medium- to large-size pottery sherds. The surfaces and the fabric of some pottery sherds appears to have been damaged by the soil conditions and it is noticeable that there is no bone surviving, other than fragmented pieces from animal teeth (pit F2 (10) and topsoil (L1)), suggesting acidic soil conditions.

Prehistoric

The earliest dated finds are two small flint flakes, recovered from F3 and F11. One (F3) is possibly a Mesolithic microlith (c 8000-4000 BC) and thus might be indicative of activity in a period for which there is otherwise limited evidence in this area. The single small sherd of sand and flint-tempered pottery (F3) has a combed surface. The fabric suggests a possible Iron Age date, although occupation dated to the Late Bronze Age is known close by at Kiln Road (CAR 11 66d 131-137) and the sherd might relate to that site.

Late Iron Age and Roman

The small quantity of pottery includes a few sherds with some grog-temper, sometimes with burnt organic fragments. The fabric of one sherd (F5) appears typical of Late Iron Age ('Belgic') grog-tempered pottery (Fabric GTW), but this is from a large storage jar (Cam 270B-type) and could be early post-conquest. However, a pre-conquest date cannot be excluded for some of these sherds and they have been broadly classified as Romanising coarseware (Fabric RCW). Also in this group are sherds with relatively soft fabrics containing occasional grog and/or burnt organic fragments that probably date to the early post-conquest period of the mid to late 1st century.

Other Roman pottery includes a coarse, sandy sherd from a large pot, probably an amphora (F2), sherds of sandy coarseware/greyware (Fabric GX), a number of oxidised buff-coloured sherds (Fabric DJ) and a single sherd of decorated South

Gaulish samian (Fabric BXSG) from F3. One vessel form identified in coarsewares/ greyware is a necked jar of form Cam 266 (F5), dating to the mid to late 1st or early 2nd century. Most if not all of the buff ware sherds are probably from flagons broadly dating to the mid 1st to 2nd or early 3rd century. The samian sherd is from the rim of a decorated bowl of form Dr 29 (Claudian to early Flavian). It is worth noting that there is no pottery that would specifically date to after the mid 2nd century, and all of the pottery recovered could be accommodated in an assemblage consistent with that of the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period typical of the Sheepen site located to the northeast and dated c AD 5-61/65 (Hawkes & Hull 1947, Niblett 1985 Table 1).

There is a quantity of Roman ceramic building material (CBM), mostly quite broken-up and with degrees of abrasion or damage from soil conditions. All is in red, fine to medium sand fabrics with few or no other visible inclusions. It includes recognisable pieces from Roman roof tiles (*tegula* and *imbrex*) and one piece from topsoil (L1) is of sufficient thickness to be a piece of Roman brick. Otherwise most of the pieces have simply been catalogued as Roman brick or tile (brick/tile).

Modern

One sherd of pottery, from pit F2 (1), seems likely to be an intrusive piece of modern flowerpot (Fabric 51B).

Context	Find no.	Type/ description	Finds spot date
F2, quarry pit	1 (sx1)	Roman pottery: (3 sherds, 34g), Fabric AA/AJ (coarse sandy fabric, buff and pink, possibly amphora but rather thin, abraded); Fabric DJ (abraded, soft (degraded) (mid 1st-2nd century); Fabric GX (base edge from jar/bowl, may have some grog-pellets (mid 1st-early 2nd century?). ?Modern pottery: Single sherd in red fabric with some small white inclusions, wheel-made, slightly rough finish, might possibly be modern flowerpot (Fabric 51B) but not clear. Roman CBM: (11 pieces, 490g), red fine-medium sand fabric, broken-up and mostly abraded; flange and probable base (25mm thick) from <i>tegula</i> roof tiles, one piece possibly from a <i>tegula</i> lower cut-away (LCA); two pieces almost certainly curved <i>imbrex</i> roof tile; miscellaneous other pieces mostly identifiable as Roman. Iron nails: two corroded nail shaft pieces, both bent 90 degrees, heads missing.	Roman, c mid 1st-2nd/ 3rd century
	7 (sx1)	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: Fabric GTW, single rim sherd from a large storage jar (62g), undercut rim Cam 270B-type, abraded (early/mid-late 1st century).	Late Iron Age/ Early Roman, early/mid-late 1st century
	10 (sx2)	Roman pottery: (3 sherds, 70g), Fabric DJ (2 sherds) buff, covered in fine adhering dirt/staining somewhat similar to encrustation seen with cess deposits (c mid 1st-2nd century); Fabric RCW (1 sherd) small sherd with burnt organic inclusions and some grog?, black surface, slightly abraded (mid-late 1st/early 2nd century). Roman CBM: (11 pieces, 262g) red fine-medium sand fabrics, quite broken-up, some pieces abraded, one piece flange edge from a <i>tegula</i> roof tile, one brick/tile piece c 30mm thick. Fired clay: single, abraded, small piece (2g), grey brown & brown orange. Iron nails: head ends of three small, corroded, iron nails with small flat round heads, max. length of surviving shaft 40mm, presumed Roman corresponding to	Roman, 1st-2nd/early 3rd century

Context	Find no.	Type/ description	Finds spot date
		Manning type 1B (Manning 1985, 134). Slag: small piece (10g) of irregular hard slag. Stone: small abraded (rounded) piece of sandy limestone (soft, vesicular, friable & dusty) Animal bone: (8g) broken (laminating) large ruminant tooth/teeth pieces, probably cow.	
F3, modern pond	8	Roman pottery: Fabric BXSG Dr 29, small rim sherd (2g) some abrasion (Claudian-early Flavian). Prehistoric flint: Small probable blade (24mm x 16mm x 3mm) with possible burin removal at distal end; possibly a microlith (Mesolithic?)	Mesolithic & Roman
F5, ?grave	3	Roman pottery: (6 sherds, 36g), generally abraded, Fabric DJ (4 sherds) (c mid 1st-2nd century); Fabric DJ/GX, single, thick, oxidised sandy sherd; Fabric GX, single rim sherd from a necked jar, possibly Cam 266-type (mid 1st-early 2nd century). Roman CBM: single, small piece (8g), red, fine-medium sand fabric, abraded.	Roman, c mid-late 1st/ 2nd century
F6, ?grave	4	Roman pottery: Single sherd, Fabric RCW (24g), abraded, some pitting on surface (mid-late 1st/early 2nd century). Roman CBM: Roman brick/tile (probably <i>tegula</i> roof tile), single, small piece (23mm thick), red fine-medium sand fabric, abraded edges (122g).	Roman, c mid-late 1st/ early 2nd century
F10, ditch	5	Late Iron Age/Roman pottery: Fabric GTW, single sherd (14g), coarse grog and some burnt organic material, wheel made but may have been wiped internally, pitted abraded surface, possibly a coarse-tempered storage jar (early/mid-late 1st century)	Late Iron Age/ early Roman, early/mid-late 1st century
F11, pit/ posthole	6	Prehistoric flint: Small (17mm x 9mm x 3mm) flake(?), broken at the distal end, white colour (probably patinated), probable edge damage	Prehistoric
F13, pit	9	CBM: small piece of relatively thin tile (c 13mm thick) abraded, red, powdering fabric (possibly degraded), limited thickness could suggest a peg-tile (medieval-post-medieval), but relatively soft, fine fabric would suggest a Roman date (most likely to be part of a Roman <i>imbrex</i>). Iron nails: single iron nail, corroded, lower part of shaft missing (52mm), rounded flat head, Manning type 1B (Manning 1985, 134)	Roman
F14, pit	11	Prehistoric pottery: Single sherd (10g), handmade, Fabric E sand-tempered with some burnt flint, combed surface, some abrasion to edges; the sandy Fabric suggests a probable Iron Age date although Late Bronze Age occupation is known from relatively close by at Kiln Road (CAR 11, site 66d)	Prehistoric (probably Iron Age but could be Late Bronze Age)
L1, topsoil	2	Roman pottery: (8 sherds, 52g), generally abraded, Fabric DJ (c mid 1st-2nd century); Fabric GX (3 sherds); Fabric GX (oxidised) orange sandy fabric, rim sherd from a large jar, abraded (c mid-late 1st/2nd century?); Fabric RCW (3 sherds) some grog, blackened surfaces and margins (c mid-late 1st century) Roman CBM: (3 pieces, 1032g), red, fine-medium sand fabric; includes corner from a Roman brick c 60mm thick (974g). Fired clay: single, abraded, small piece (6g), grey brown Animal bone: very degraded piece from a large ruminant tooth, probably cow.	Roman, c mid-late 1st/ 2nd century

Table 2 All finds by context

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at Kingswode Hoe School revealed 11 features of prehistoric, Late Iron Age/early Roman, Roman and modern date and five that were undated. All were sealed beneath a layer of topsoil which ranged in depth from a shallow 0.24m (along the central southern edge of the trench) to 0.65m.

A small number of features of prehistoric date have been recorded at Kingswode Hoe School (CAT Report 623) and its immediate vicinity, particularly along Kiln Road (CAT Report 1200), and pit/posthole F11 and pits F14 and F15, are probably related to this activity.

Pit F14 and ditch F10 are both likely to be associated with the Late Iron Age and early Roman activity on the settlement site at Sheepen. This activity continued into the Roman period until at least the mid 2nd century, with the excavation of a large quarry pit, two small pits, and two possible inhumation burials. It is likely that the quarry pit was associated with the extraction of sand and gravel. This raw material may have been used in the construction of the Roman trackway that ran alongside Sheepen Dyke, although no metallurgy was identified during the 2011 excavations of the trackway (CAT Report 623).

In 2011, two parallel ditches 0.8m deep and 8.5m apart were identified as forming a trackway running parallel to Sheepen Dyke (CAT Report 623). Despite being projected to pass through the current development site, no trace of the ditches or trackway were identified. However, the projection was based on a straight-line running through the 2011 excavation site, and it now seems likely that the trackway either terminated close to the development site or altered course.

The discovery of two possible Roman inhumation burials is potentially significant but further investigation would be needed to confirm their identification. The development site lies to the northwest of the west cemetery of Roman Colchester, which included both inhumation and cremation burials. The burials, covering a long time span, have been found over a large area, generally on both sides of the Roman road leading out of the Balkerne Gate, as far west as The Avenue. Other Roman burials have been identified to the west of the development site at Endsleigh Court, to the east within the Sheepen scheduled monument, and to the north of Lexden Road around Ashley Gardens and Sussex Road (CAT Report 1200, Fig 2, nos. 21, 23, 24, 25, 27-34).

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Duncan Clark and Beardwell Construction Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by A Wightman with S Carter, B Holloway, R Mathison and A Tuffey. Figures are by S Carter, L Pooley and A Tuffey. The project was monitored for Essex County Council Place Services by Richard Havis and for Historic England by Deborah Priddy.

9 References

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

Brown, N	1988	'A Late Bronze Age enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex', in <i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society</i> 54 , 249-302
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds & S Wade
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>

CAT	2018	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QJ.</i>
CAT Report 578	2010	<i>Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2010.</i>
CAT Report 623	2012	<i>Archaeological investigations at Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2012.</i>
CAT Report 1000	2017	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000, Volume 2</i>
CAT Report 1200	2017	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological and historical sites on and around Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, CO3 3QJ: November 2017</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2018	<i>Brief for archaeological evaluation at Kingswode Hoe School, Colchester.</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).
Hawkes, C F C & Hull, M R	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39, Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London 14</i>
Hull, M	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London 20</i>
Manning, W	1985	<i>Catalogue of the Romano-British iron tools, fitting and weapons in the British Museum.</i> British Museum.
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)
Niblett, R	1985	<i>Sheepen, an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum, CBA Research Report 57</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: One box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1278)

CBC 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 2018.21.

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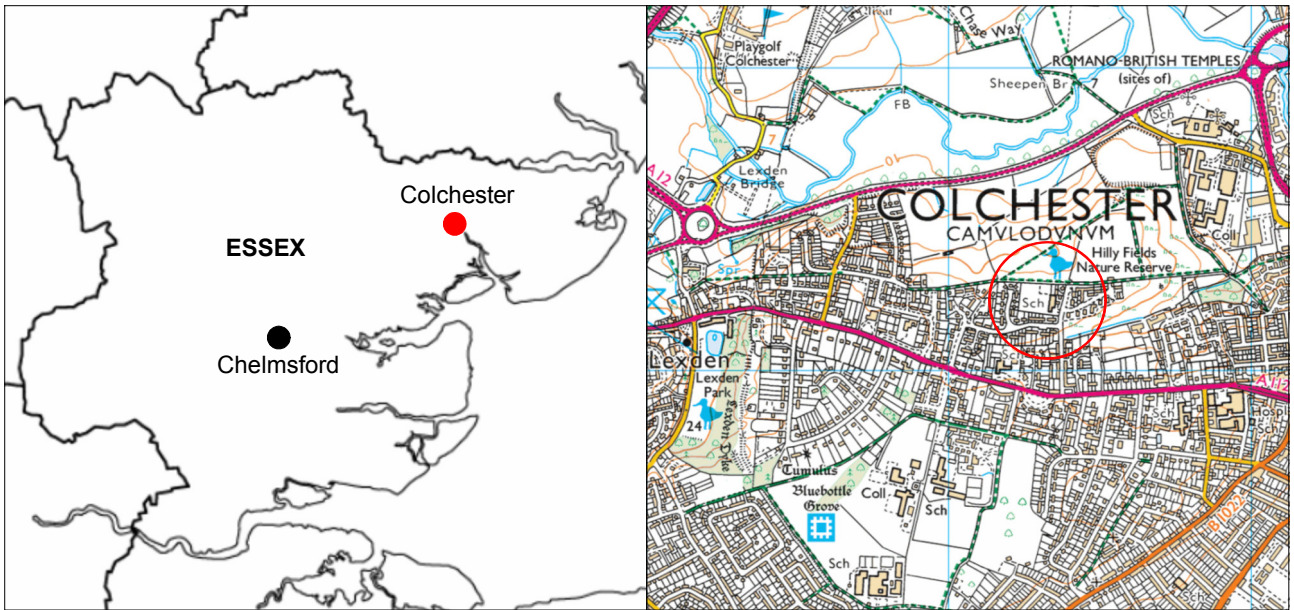
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 7.6.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context no.	Finds no.	Context Type	Description	Date
L1	2	Topsoil	Soft, dry to moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt, turfed and heavily rooted.	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Natural sands and gravels	Post-glacial
F1	-	?Posthole	Soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal and brick, 3% stone	Modern
F2	1, 7, 10	Quarry pit	Soft, dry to moist, medium orange/grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal and brick, 15% gravel, 10% stone.	Roman, c mid 1st-2nd/3rd century
F3	8	Pond	Backfilled remains of a modern pond visible on the OS map of 1952.	Modern, 20th century
F4	-	?Pit / Natural	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated
F5	3	Possible grave	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal.	Roman, c mid-late 1st/2nd century
F6	4	Possibly grave	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal.	Roman, c mid-late 1st/early 2nd century
F7	-	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated
F8		Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Roman (finds misplaced during excavation)
F9	-	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal and daub.	Undated
F10	5	Pit / Ditch terminal	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal.	Late Iron Age / Early Roman, early/mid-late 1st century
F11	6	Pit / Posthole	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal and daub	Prehistoric
F12	-	Pit / Posthole	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal	Undated
F13	9	Pit	Soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Roman
F14	11	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal	Prehistoric, probably Iron Age
F15	-	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal	Undated, earlier than F14.
F16	-	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt containing flecks of charcoal	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location



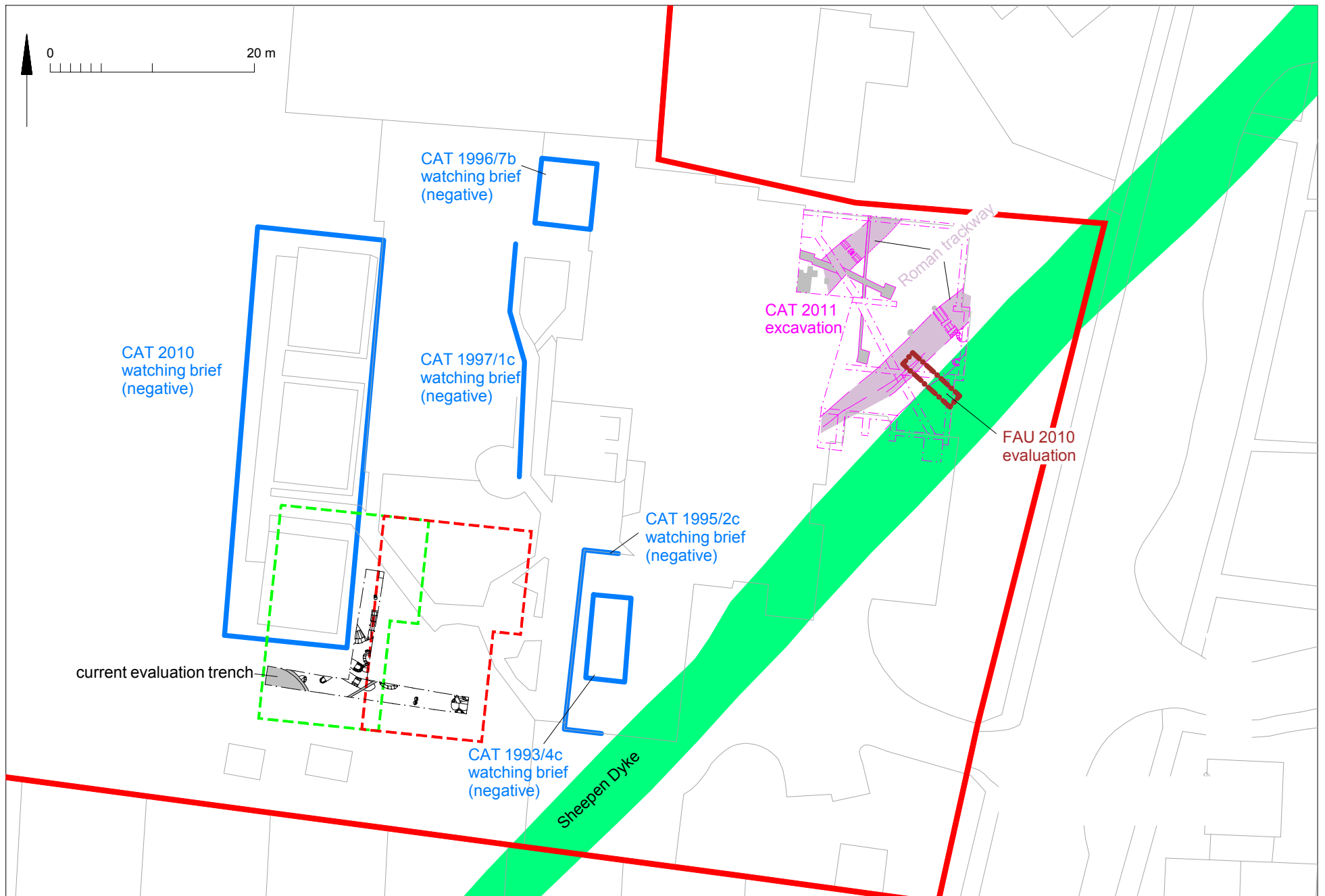


Fig 2 Archaeological work at Kingswode Hoe School 1993-2011, including the location of the Sheepen Dyke and Roman trackway, in relation to the evaluation trench and proposed development sites

- proposed footprint 1
- proposed footprint 2

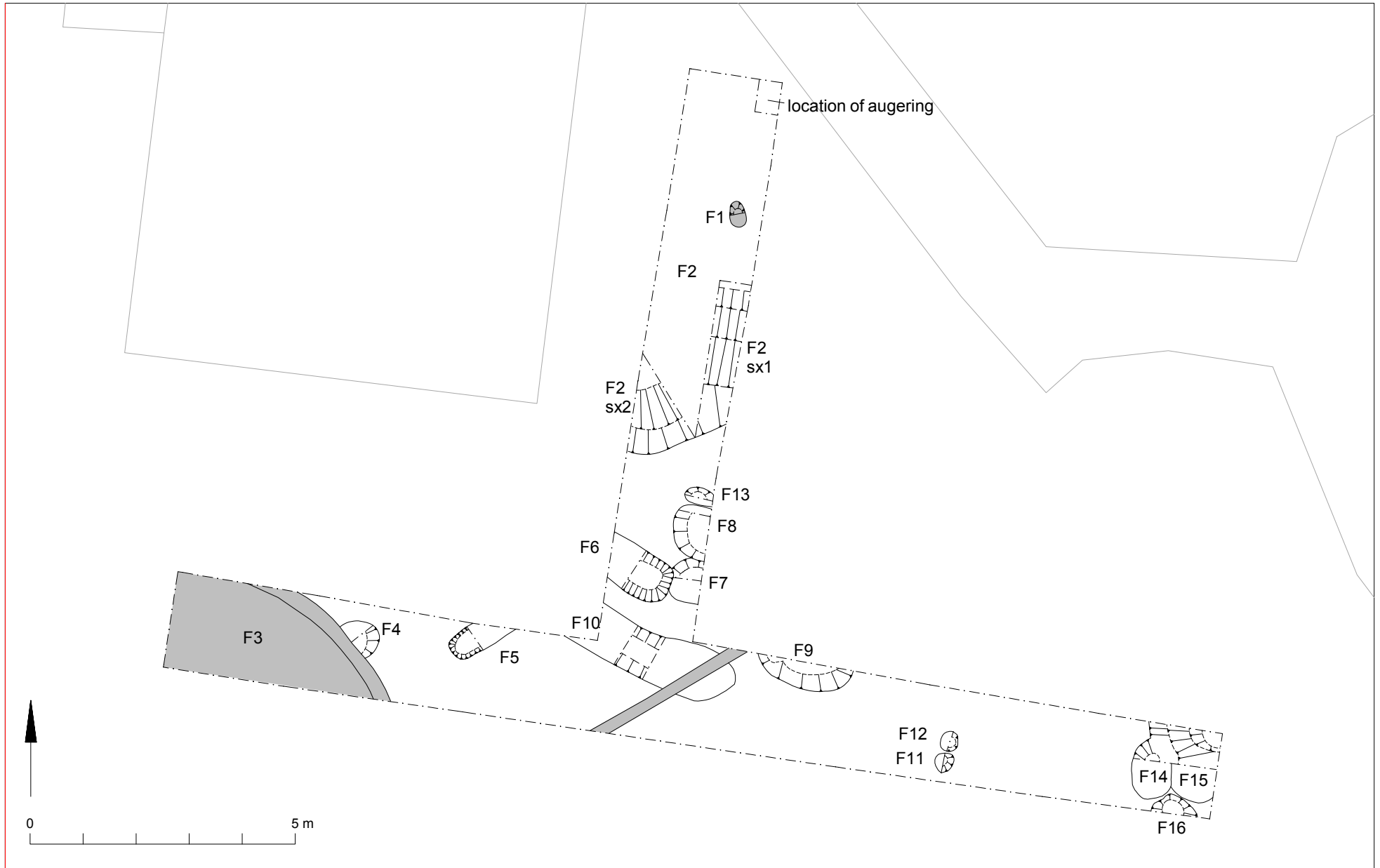


Fig 3 Results

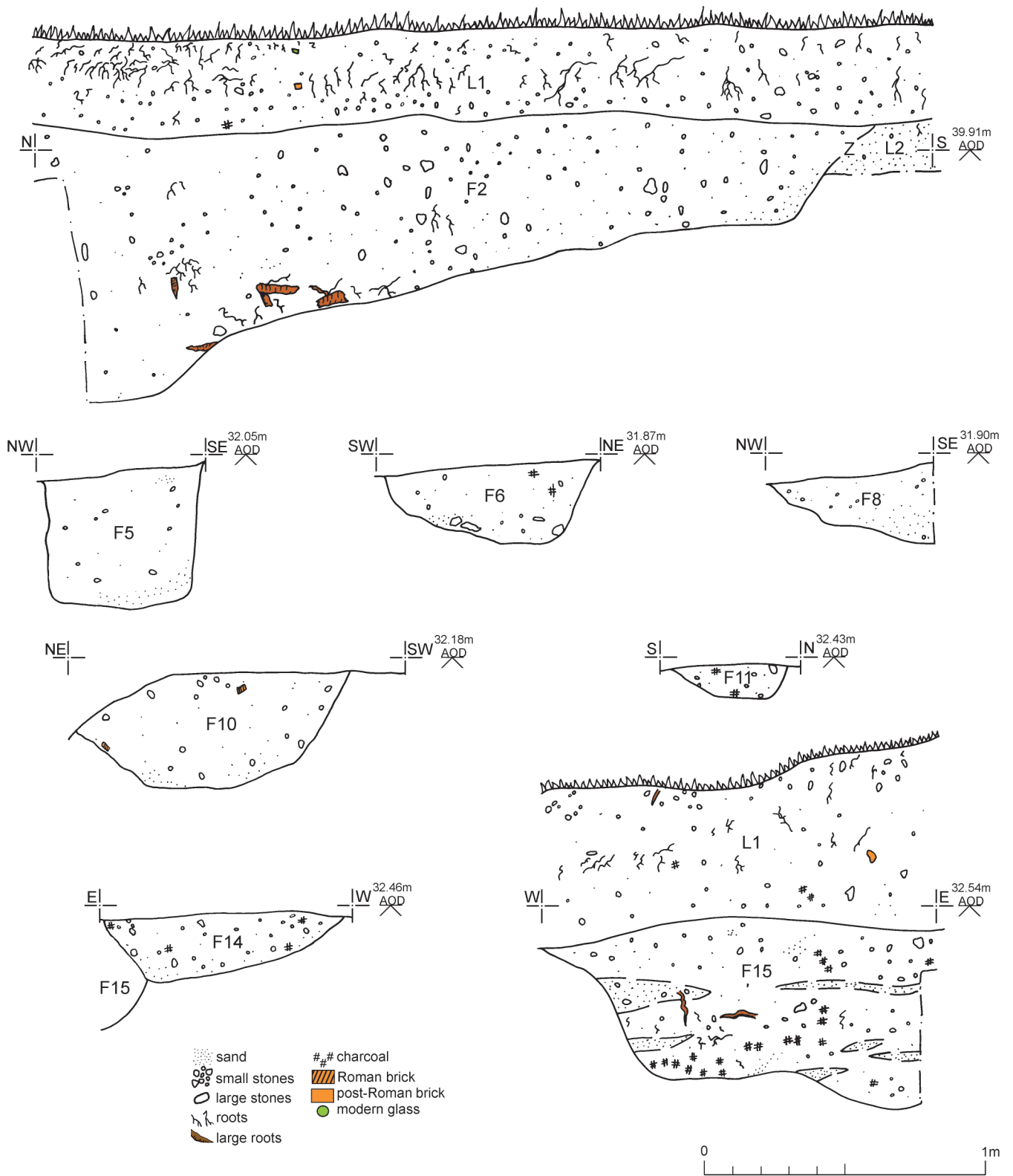


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QJ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98324 25206 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/03c CHER ref: ECC4151 OASIS ref: colchest3-311138 SM consent: S00189448
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 29th-31st May 2018	Size of area investigated: 1.25ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.21	Funding source: School
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related CHER/SM number: SM 1002173 CHER MCC498, MCC7487
Final report: CAT Report 1278	
Periods represented: Prehistoric, Late Iron Age/early Roman, Roman, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (one T-shaped trial-trench) was undertaken at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex as part of a pre-planning application to construct a new school building. Kingwode Hoe School is located on the southwestern edge of the scheduled monument of Sheepen (no. 1002173), forming one of the major centres of the Late Iron Age and early Roman oppidum of Camulodunum. Previous archaeological work at the school identified the remains of the Sheepen Dyke with a parallel Roman trackway alongside.</p> <p>Archaeological evaluation revealed 11 features of prehistoric, Late Iron Age/early Roman, Roman and modern date, and five undated features. Significant features included a ditch and pit probably associated with Late Iron Age/early Roman activity at Sheepen, and a large Roman quarry pit and two possible Roman inhumation burials.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 578, 623, 1200	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords:	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: June 2018

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for an archaeological evaluation at
Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QJ**

NGR: TL 98324 25206 (centre)

Planning reference: CC/COL/04/18/PRE

Commissioned by: Duncan Clark, Beardwell Construction Ltd

Client: Beardwell Construction Ltd

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

CHER number: [tbc](#)

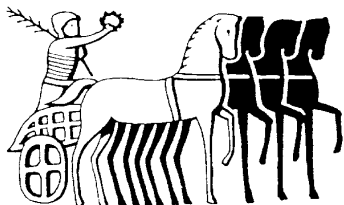
CAT project code: 18/03c

OASIS project id: colchest3-311138

Site manager: Chris Lister

ECC monitor: Richard Havis, His

This WSI written: 7.3.2018



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 1.5km west of Colchester town centre at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 98324 25206.

Proposed work

The development comprises the removal of three temporary classrooms located to the west of the main building, replacing them with a two-storey stand-alone teaching building.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk), and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed by Heritage Gateway. It also incorporates information contained within the desk-based assessment for the application, produced in 2017 (CAT Report 1200).

The desk-based assessment (CAT Report 1200, 1) states that:

The school lies in an area of high archaeological importance. It is inside the Late Iron Age and early Roman oppidum of *Camulodunum*, and on the south-western edge of the Sheepen site – a Scheduled Ancient Monument (site of pre-Roman Settlement). Sheepen is one of the major centres of *Camulodunum*, and the Sheepen Dyke (the defensive earthwork around the western side of Sheepen) passes under the school buildings.

The Sheepen Dyke appears to be around 5m to the east of the new building, but service trenches to supply the new building may cross the line of the Dyke. Apart from the dyke, archaeological work on the school site has revealed a previously unknown Roman trackway running parallel with and west of the Sheepen Dyke. The proposed new building is on the projected line of this trackway.

Beyond the school site, there are Roman pottery kilns 160m to the NW of the school building, and many Roman burials, the nearest being 160m to the W.

In summary, Kingswode Hoe School is a significant site located within the nationally important Late Iron Age and early Roman oppidum (defended stronghold) of *Camulodunum*, and on the southern edge of the scheduled Sheepen site (one of the two centres of *Camulodunum*) (CHER MCC7487; scheduled monument 1002173). In addition to this, Sheepen Dyke (CHER MCC498) crosses the school, and previous archaeological investigations have also revealed the presence of Bronze Age pits and a Roman trackway to the west of the Dyke.

Watching briefs on building work on the western side of the school (nearest to the proposed new building) show that 'the archaeological level' (ie, the depth at which archaeological remains will be visible, if present) is at 0.4-0.5m below modern ground level (CAT Report 1200). The locations of these watching briefs are plotted on Fig 2, the results of which can be found in CAT Report 1000.

See Fig 2 for locations on the development site of previous archaeological investigations, Sheepen Dyke and the Roman trackway.

Planning background

A pre-planning application (CC/COL/04/18/PRE) was made to Essex County Council in February 2018 proposing the removal of three temporary classrooms located to the west of the main building, replacing them with a two-storey stand-alone teaching building.

As the site lies within a scheduled monument and therefore an area highlighted by the having a high potential for archaeological remains, a full archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states:

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

Requirement for work

The required work is for a trenched archaeological evaluation. This will be carried out in advance of any groundworks to determine the presence or absence, the extent, date, character and significance of any archaeological remains that may be present, and to ensure their preservation by record prior to damage or destruction. Details are given in a Project Brief written by the Essex County County Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) (ECCPS 2018).

Two trial-trenches will be excavated within the proposed footprint of the new building. The first trench, 20m long by 1.8m wide, is located to the south of the demountable buildings running in a west-east direction. The second, 15m long by 1.8m wide, is located to the east of the southern demountable running north-south (Fig 1).

Specific aims are to identify any remains associated with:

- the Iron Age oppidum
- Roman settlement

If unexpected or unusual remains are encountered the ECCHEA will be informed immediately. Further archaeological investigation may be required by the ECCHEA, which may be the subject of an additional brief and wsi.

No archaeological work will take place until Scheduled Monument Consent has been secured.

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, b)
- 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 ECCHEA (ECCPS 2018)

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 ECCHEA and the Historic England Inspector (HEI) one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

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

Staffing

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

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner/Ben Holloway

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

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

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

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

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine trenches, contexts and 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.

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. Any significant features, ie burials, will be planned by hand.

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: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

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 / Laura Ratcliffe (L R Conservation)

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 ECCHEA.

Results

Notification will be given to ECCHEA and HEI 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, a single PDF, will be submitted within 1 month of the end of fieldwork, with a copies supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor, Colchester Borough Council and Historic England.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- A copy of the wsi and completed OASIS form attached as appendices to the report

An OASIS summary sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the ECCHEA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects (paul.gilman@me.com).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. 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

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

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

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 2 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to ECCHEA.

Monitoring

ECCHEA and HEI 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 ECCHEA and HEI one week in advance of its commencement.

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

ECCHEA and HEI will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

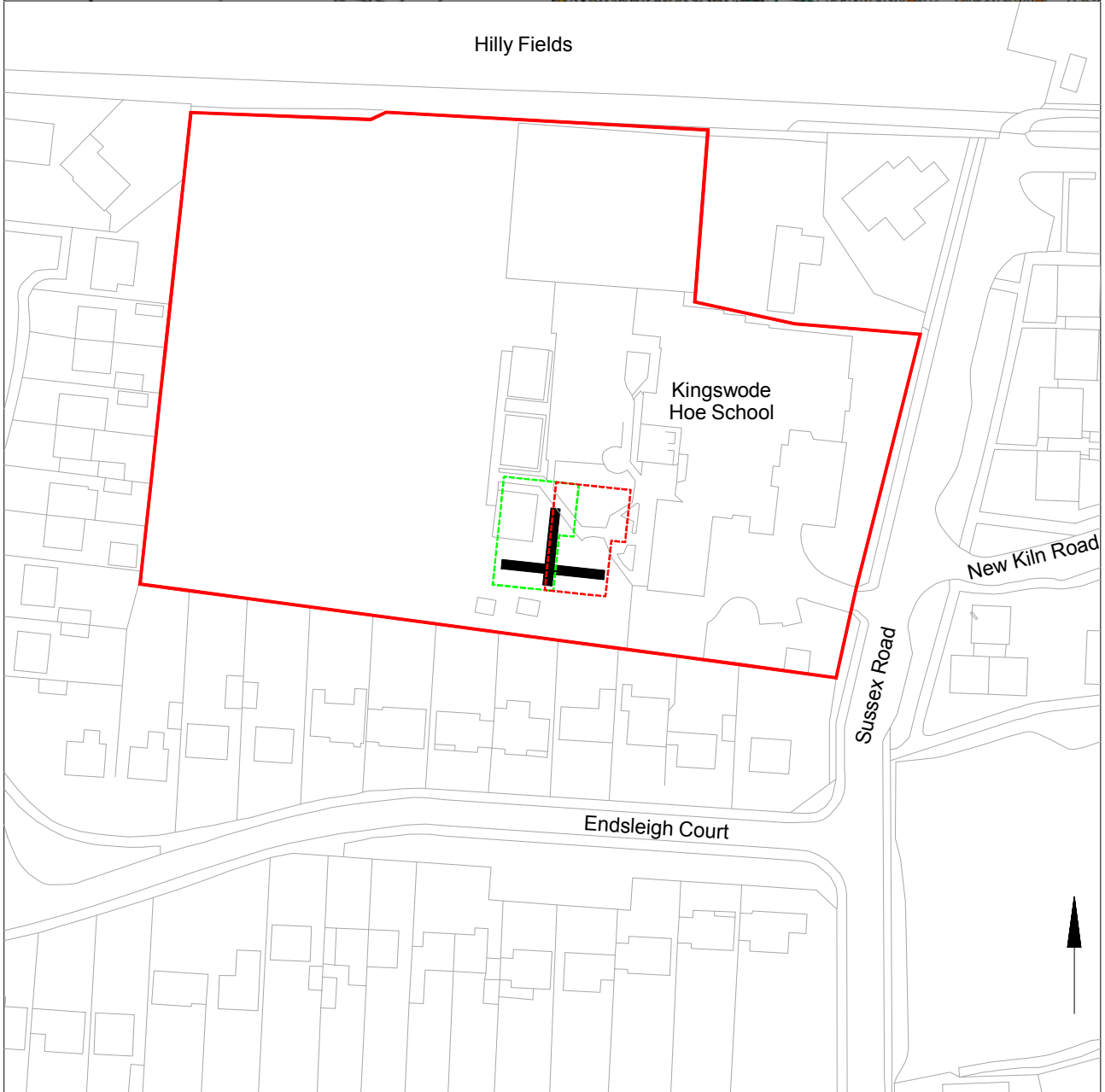
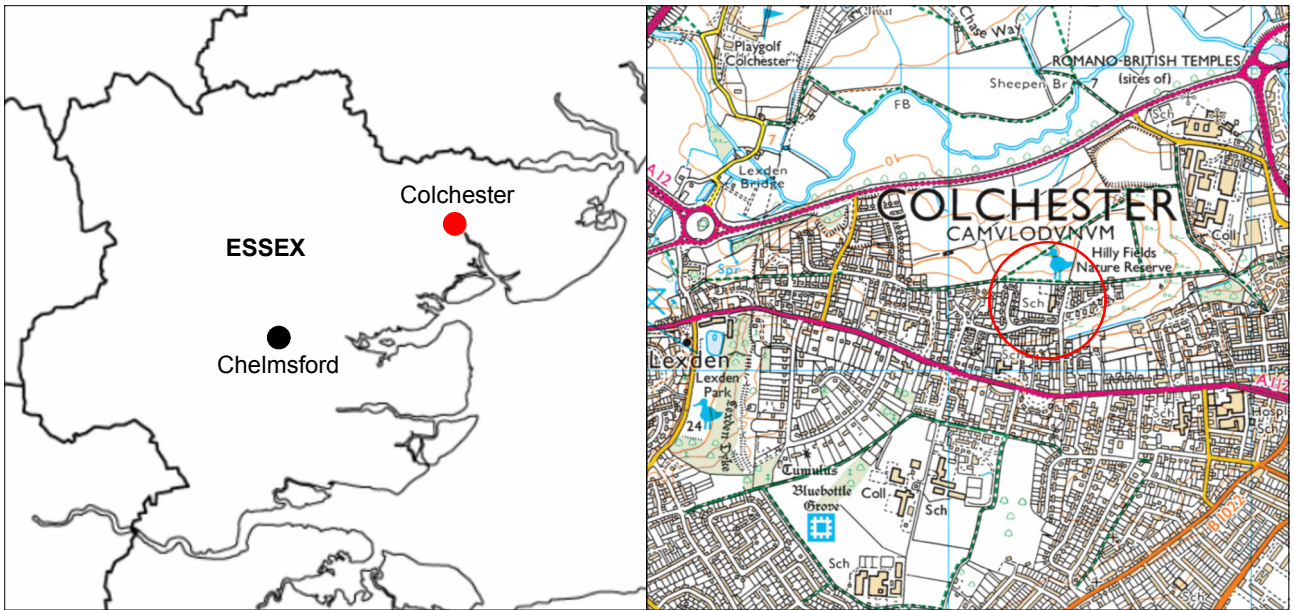
- | | | |
|--------------|-------|---|
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report | 2010 | <i>Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex: December 2010.</i> |
| 578 | | |
| CAT Report | 2012 | <i>Archaeological investigations at Kingswode Hoe School, Sussex Road,</i> |
| 623 | | <i>Colchester, Essex: February 2012.</i> |
| CAT Report | 2017 | <i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</i> |
| 1000 | | |
| CAT Report | 2017 | <i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological and historical sites on and</i> |
| 1200 | | <i>around Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, CO3 3QJ:</i> |
| | | <i>November 2017</i> |
| CifA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CifA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition</i> |
| | | <i>of archaeological archives</i> |
| CifA | 2014c | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and</i> |
| | | <i>research of archaeological materials</i> |
| DCLG | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> |
| ECCPS | 2018 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Kingswode Hoe School, Colchester</i> |
| English | 2006 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Heritage | | |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian</i> |
| | | <i>Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i> |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of</i> |
| | | <i>England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i> |

L Pooley





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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

-  proposed footprint 1
-  proposed footprint 2

0 50 m



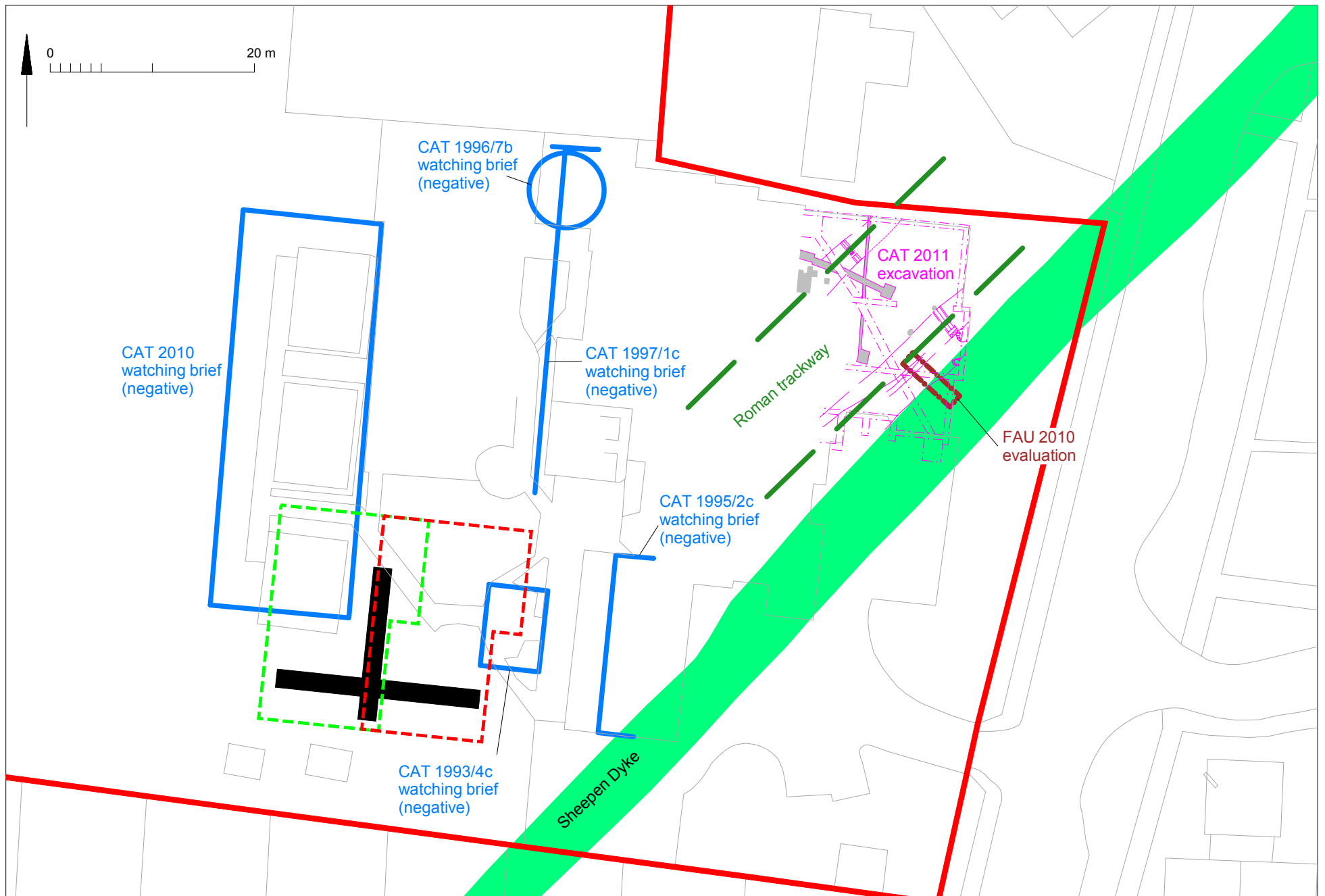


Fig 2 Archaeological work at Kingswode Hoe School 1993-2011, including the location of the Sheepen Dyke and Roman trackway.

- proposed footprint 1
- proposed footprint 2

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OASIS ID: colchest3-311138

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QJ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (one T-shaped trial-trench) was undertaken at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex as part of a pre-planning application to construct a new school building. Kingwode Hoe School is located on the southwestern edge of the scheduled monument of Sheepen (no. 1002173), forming one of the major centres of the Late Iron Age and early Roman oppidum of Camulodunum. Previous archaeological work at the school identified the remains of the Sheepen Dyke with a parallel Roman trackway alongside. Archaeological evaluation revealed 11 features of prehistoric, Late Iron Age/early Roman, Roman and modern date, and five undated features. Significant features included a ditch and pit probably associated with Late Iron Age/early Roman activity at Sheepen, and a large Roman quarry pit and two possible Roman inhumation burials.
Project dates	Start: 29-05-2018 End: 31-05-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	18/03c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CC/COL/04/18/PRE - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4151 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.21 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	PITS Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	?INHUMATION BURIALS Roman
Monument type	POND Modern
Significant Finds	FLINT Mesolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Roman
Significant Finds	IRON NAILS Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road
Postcode	CO3 3QJ
Study area	1.25 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98324 25206 51.889548620233 0.882377830296 51 53 22 N 000 52 56 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 31.89m Max: 32.45m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief	HEM Team Officer, ECC

originator
Project design originator Laura Pooley
Project director/manager Chris Lister
Project supervisor Adam Wightman
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2018.21
Physical Contents "Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Physical Archive notes Significant finds only kept with finds from excavation phase
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2018.21
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2018.21
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type
Title Archaeological evaluation at Kingswode Hoe School, 18 Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QJ: May 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1278
Date 2018
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on 8 June 2018

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