

Archaeological evaluation at St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US

December 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions from Dr Matthew Loughton
figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

**commissioned by Chris Brown (St. Benedict's School)
on behalf of St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School**

NGR: TL 97868 24515 (centre)
Planning refs.: 181187 and 182488
CHER project: ECC4282
CAT project ref.: 18/11g
Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2018.117
OASIS ref.: colchest3-333726



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CAT Report 1362
January 2019

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was undertaken at St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new classroom, ancillary accommodation and associated groundworks. Five pits, one of Roman date, another of post-medieval date, and the rest undatable, were revealed during the evaluation.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, which was carried out on 20th December 2018. The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Brown, in advance of the construction of a new classroom, ancillary accommodation and associated groundworks, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an archaeological trial trench evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

The development site is located within the grounds of St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School which opened in 1963. Like the adjacent Colchester County High School for Girls, it was constructed on land that was formerly part of the estate of Altnacealgach House (locally listed), a Victorian mansion designed by acclaimed local architect Horace Darken, built in 1888 to be the home of Arthur Thomas Osborne, heir to a successful brewing business. The school lies to the southwest of the house.

The Altnacealgach estate was located within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), more generally considered the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds to either side of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town to London). Many Roman burials and cremations have been found and reported on in this area (see Hull and CAR 11). In particular, a Roman amphora burial was found to the west of Altnacealgach House (CHER MCC7676) and a trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road in 2006 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (CHER MCC3091, ECC Field Archaeology Unit Report). The

proposed building is only 420m southwest of Lexden Tumulus (CHER MCC1356 and 7523) an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (a cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound has variously been thought to be that of Addedomarus (CAR 11, 85-94, Foster 1986) or Tasciovanus (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

Excavations in 1939 revealed an early Roman curving ditch, possibly the corner of a fort, to the north of the school (MCC2173). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull, 273). It was later shown that these form a continuation of Heath Farm Dyke North (CAR 11, 32). CAT monitored an area on the corner of Norman Way and Park Road for a car park in February 1996 (96/2b, CAT Report 1000). A ditch was recorded running east-west parallel to the footpath but was thought to be medieval or later and not associated with Hull's ditch.

In 1955, prior to the construction Colchester County High School for Girls, a 'triple-ditched dyke' was excavated by R.J. Martin beneath what was to become the main school building. The ditches were 4m wide, although their depths are unknown (CHER MCC2177, CAR 11, 127). In addition to this, on the southern edge of the school, postholes and a ditch indicated the possible presence of a building with wooden posts surrounded by a diagonal ditch dated to the 2nd century and a large 4.3m deep pit, also dated to the 2nd century. In 1956 excavations undertaken by John Wachter to the east of the High School for Girls revealed palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (CHER MCC8175, CAR 11, 124-126).

CAT have carried out a number of watching briefs and evaluations in this area. A watching brief undertaken by CAT in 1996 for a new hall to the north of the school revealed two interruptions of the trenches seen. However, they had vertical edges and deemed unlikely to be ditch edges (96/8b, CAT Report 1000). A watching brief in 2001 on an extension to the County High School for Girls revealed no trace of the ditches of the triple dyke seen in 1955 (CAT Report 155). Another watching brief at the County High School for Girls in 2005 for a new music and careers block recorded four undated pits or ditches (CAT Report 348). At least two of the ditches of the 'triple-ditched dyke' should have been visible within the footprint of the new building and one of its soakaways, but were not observed. A substantial ditch recorded in a second soakaway was not in alignment with those seen in 1955 and it was concluded that the 'triple-ditched dyke' either turns a corner or in fact does not actually exist.

An evaluation at the County High School for Girls in 2014 in the area of the proposed rear or southern car park revealed a Roman ditch dating to the later 1st century AD (CAT Report 762). The ditch was aligned parallel to the ditches seen in the 1939 excavations (ie. Heath Farm Dyke North). What is unclear is whether the 2014 ditch is merely an agricultural field ditch, or whether it is part of a wider defensive scheme including the Heath Farm Dyke and the 'triple-ditched dyke' on the school site. An evaluation undertaken by CAT in 2016 towards the centre of the County High School for Girls identified a Roman ditch aligned northeast to southwest (CAT Report 975). This was recorded along with five modern and two natural features. An evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls in January 2018 in advance of the construction of a multi-functional hall and two additional car parks (CAT Report 1211) uncovered three undated pits, two post-Roman pits and two natural features. As during previous investigations at this site, no trace of the triple-ditch dyke was found, suggesting that it is not located on its projected alignment or that it no longer exists.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

One trial-trench, 15m long by 1.8m wide, was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, 0.23-0.25m thick) and subsoil (L2, 0.23-0.26m thick) into natural sands (L3).

Five pits, F1-5, 0.49-1.45m wide and 0.12-0.3m deep, were uncovered. Pit F3 was of post-medieval date, while pit F4 was Roman in date. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the other features, but pit F5 cut F4, implying a post-Roman date. The trench was cut in two places by modern services.



Photograph 1 Trench shot, looking northeast

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic and Pottery finds

by Dr. Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced three sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 118 g. Layer L2 (5) produced one piece of medieval/post-medieval CBM from a peg-tile and a sherd of 19th/20th-century Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48d). Finally, pit F4 (4) produced one small worn sherd of Roman grey-ware pottery (fabric GX).

6.2 Other finds

by Laura Pooley

A single piece of a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem, with a weight of 3.7g, was recovered from the feature F3 (1).

7 Conclusion

Despite the high concentration of archaeological remains known to exist within the vicinity of the site, only five pits were uncovered. Of these, only two yielded datable material: one a single sherd of Roman pottery, another a fragment of a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe. The results of this investigation, it might be noted, mirrored those yielded by the evaluation undertaken in January 2018 near to the present site at Colchester County High School for Girls, where a similar concentration of undatable pits were uncovered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Chris Brown and St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and S Carter. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council 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 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 and S Wade |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy |
| CAT | 2018 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 155 | 2001 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at the County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: September 2001</i> |
| CAT Report 348 | 2005 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at the Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: May-November 2005</i> |
| CAT Report 762 | 2014 | <i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex: March 2014</i> |
| CAT Report 975 | 2016 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US: June 2016</i> |
| CAT report 1000 | forthcoming | <i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</i>
(sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997) by H Brooks |
| CAT report 1211 | 2018 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex – January 2018</i> |
| CBCAA | 2018 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at AT Benedicts Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, CO3 3US.</i>
By J Tipper |
| CIfA | 2014 | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CIfA | 2014 | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| ECC FAU report 1711 | 2007 | <i>Archaeological trial trenching at Essex County Council Offices, Park Road, Colchester, Essex.</i> By T Ennis |
| English Heritage | 2006 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |

Foster, J	1986	<i>The Lexden Tumulus: a re-appraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex</i> , BAR, British Series, 156
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, 2
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)
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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
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	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1362)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sketch sheets, feature and layer sheets, sections)

Digital photographic thumbnails and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1362)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Digital photographic thumbnails and log

Graphics

Survey data

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: 2018.117.

Distribution list:

Chris Brown, St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

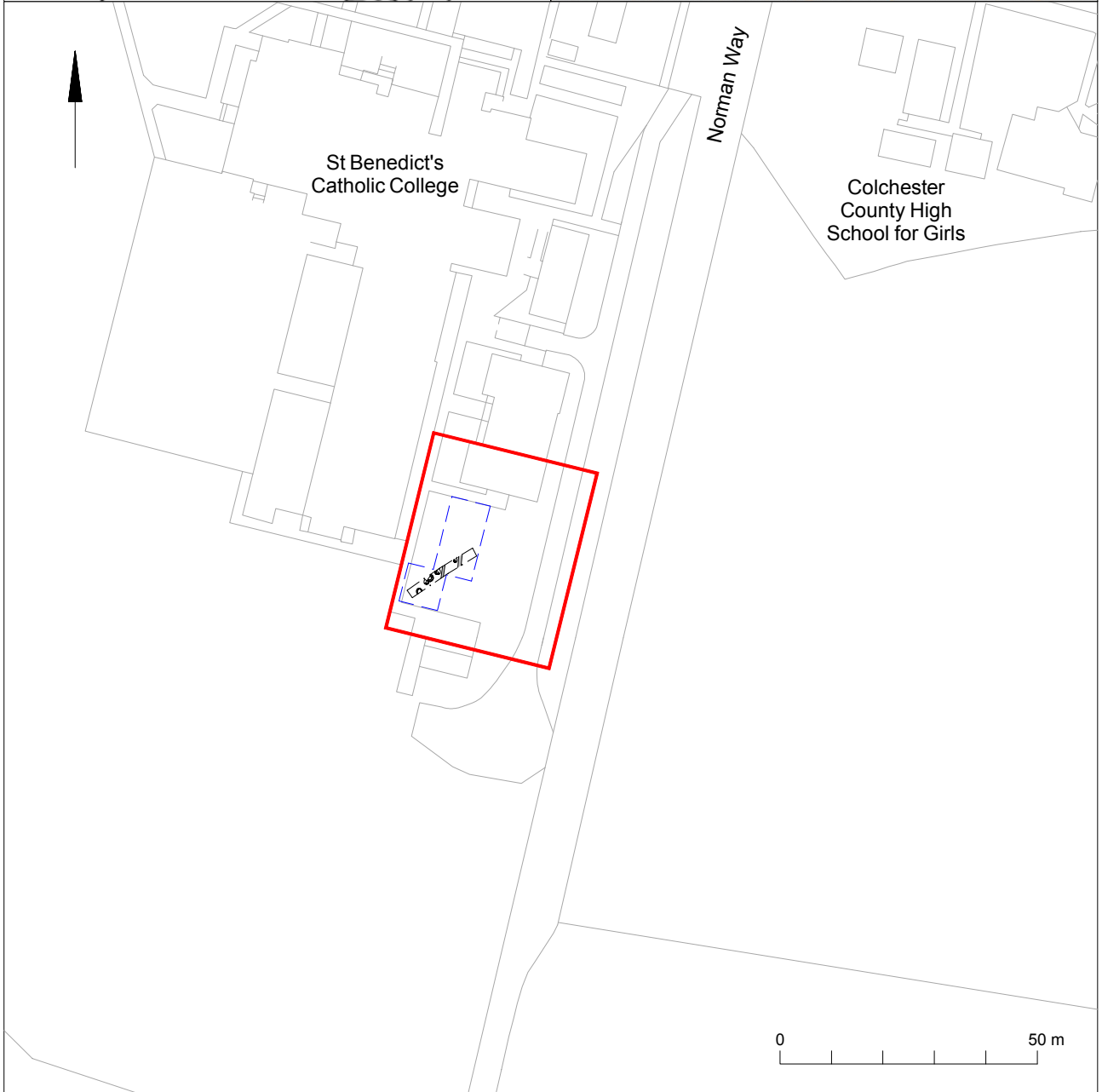
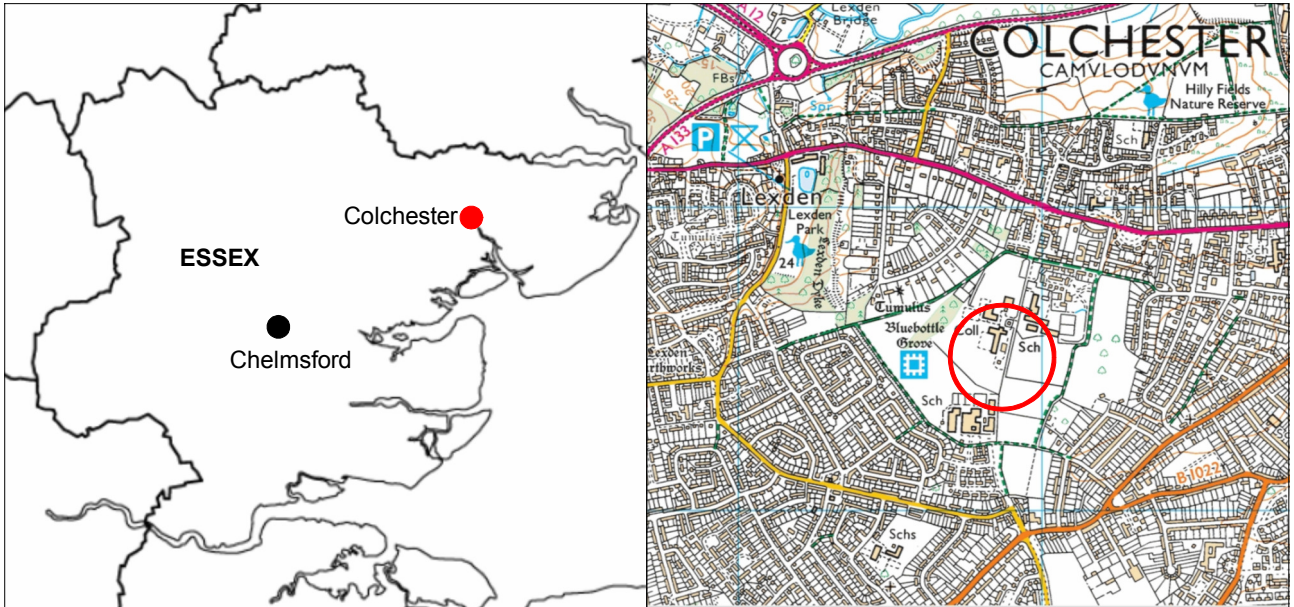
tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 16.01.2019

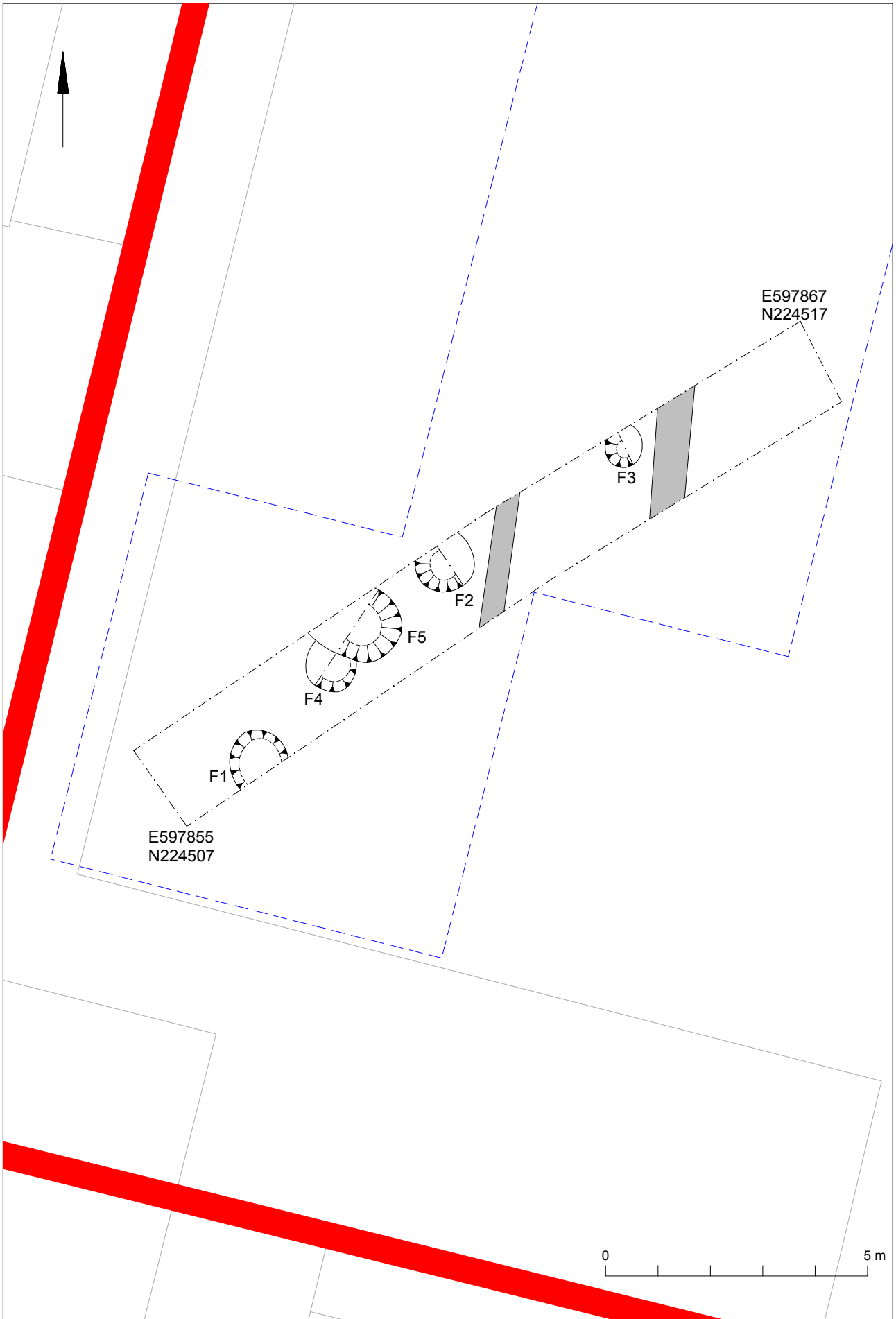
Appendix 1 Context list

Context number	Finds number	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silt	Modern
L2	5	Subsoil	Soft, moist medium orange/grey/brown silty-loam	-
L3	-	Natural	Soft, moist medium yellow/orange sand	Post-glacial
F1	-	?Pit	Soft, moist light grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F2	2	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F3	1	Pit	Firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Post-medieval
F4	3, 4	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Roman
F5	-	Pit	Firm, moist light grey/brown	Undatable



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Fig 1 Site location, proposed development dashed blue



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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

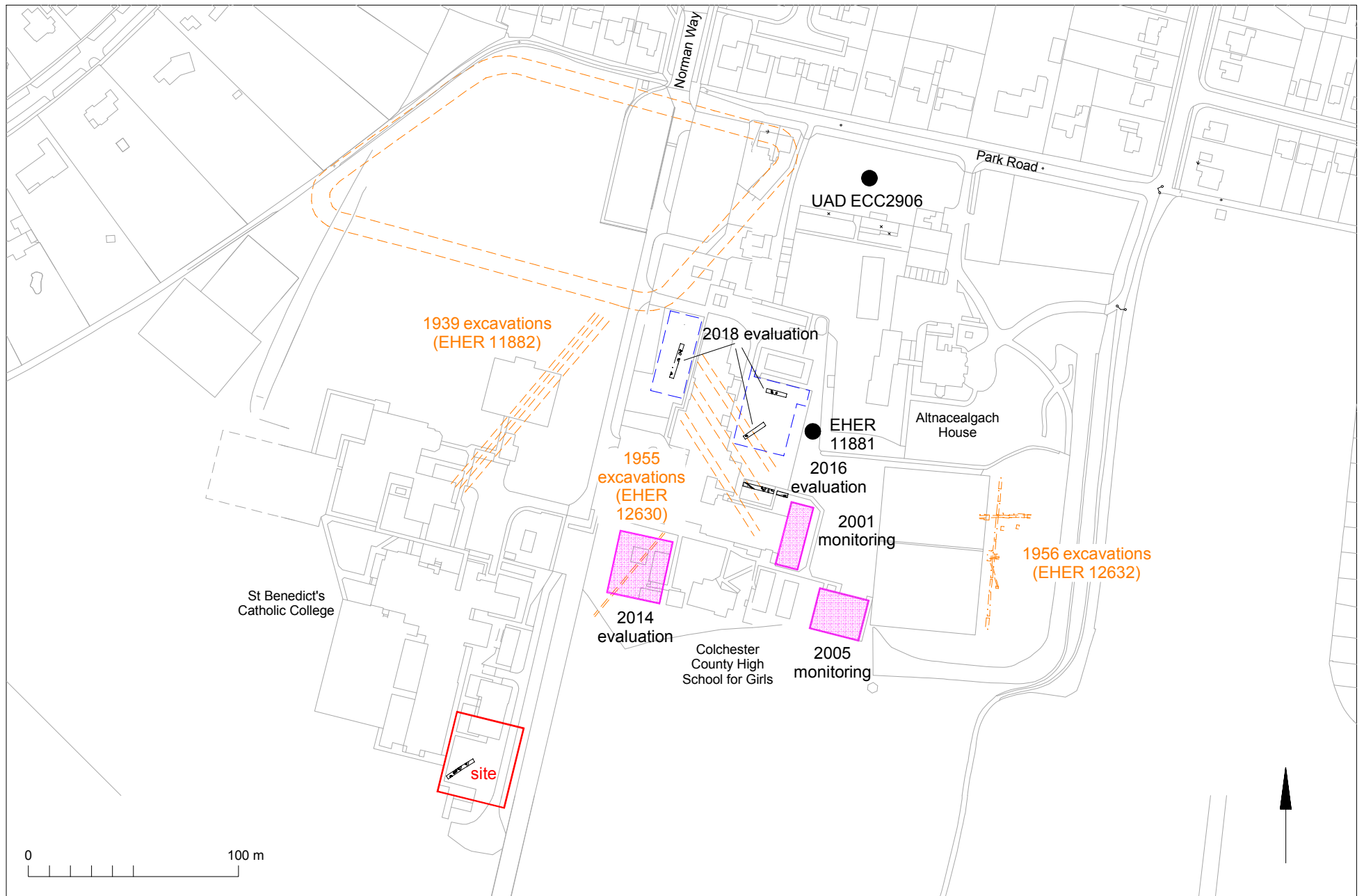


Fig 3 Relevant archaeological interventions within the immediate vicinity of the site.

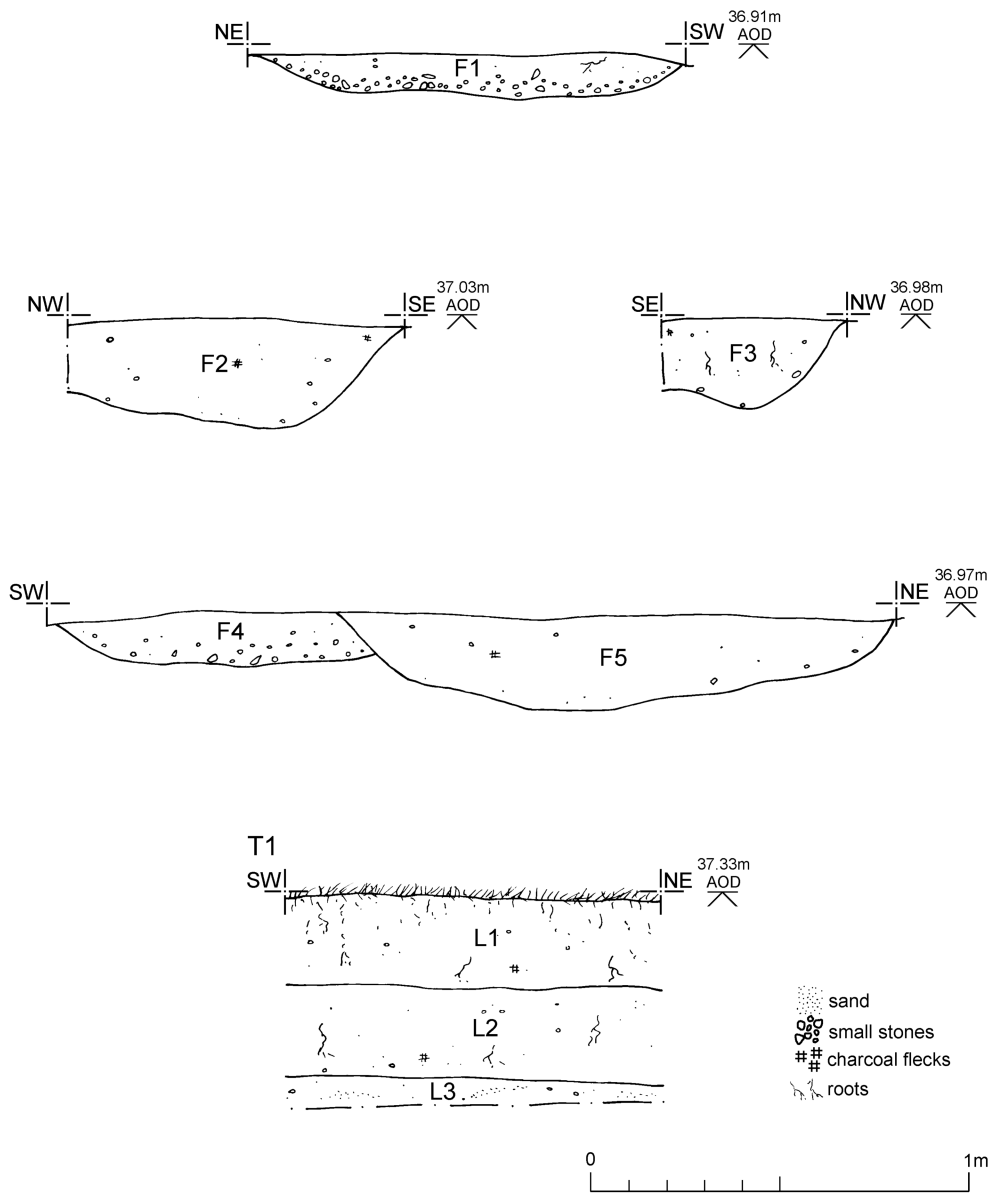


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 97868 24515 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/11g CHER ref: ECC4282 OASIS ref: colchest3-333726
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 20th December 2018	Size of area investigated: 0.128ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.117	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: MCC1356, MCC2173, MCC2177, MCC3091, MCC7523, MCC7525, MCC7526, MCC7527, MCC7528, MCC7529, MCC7647, MCC7676, MCC8175
Final report: CAT Report 1362	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was undertaken at St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new classroom, ancillary accommodation and associated groundworks. Five pits, one of Roman date, another of post-medieval date, and the rest undatable, were revealed during the evaluation.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: January 2019

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US.

NGR: TL 97868 24515 (centre)

Planning reference: 181187 and 182488

Commissioned by: Chris Brown (St Benedict's School)
On behalf of: St Benedict's Catholic Secondary School

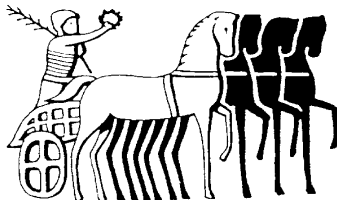
Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc
CHER project code: ECC4282
CAT project code: 2018/11g
Oasis project ID: colchest3-333726

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 15.11.2018
Revised: 14.12.2018



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at the southern end of the main school buildings at St. Benedict's Secondary Catholic School, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 97868 24515.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a new classroom, ancillary accommodation and any other associated groundworks.

Archaeological background (Fig 1)

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):

The development site is located within the grounds of St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School which opened in 1963. As with the adjacent Colchester County High School for Girls, it was constructed on land that was formerly part of the estate of Altnacealgach House (locally listed), a Victorian mansion designed by acclaimed local architect Horace Darken, built in 1888 to be the home of Arthur Thomas Osborne, heir to a successful brewing business. The school lies to the south-west of the house.

The Altnacealgach estate was located within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), more generally considered the Lexden cemetery and the area of Colchester Royal Grammar School (CHER MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds to either side of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town to London). Many Roman burials and cremations have been found and reported on in this area (see Hull and CAR 11). In particular a Roman amphora burial was found to the west of Altnacealgach House (CHER MCC7676) and a trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road in 2006 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (CHER MCC3091, ECC Field Archaeology Unit Report). The proposed building is only 420m south-west of Lexden Tumulus (CHER MCC1356 & 7523) an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of funerary bronzes, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. Various pottery finds date the burial (a cremation) to just before the Roman conquest. The burial mound has variably thought to be that of Addedomarus (CAR 11, 85-94, Foster 1986) or Tasciovanus (Philip Crummy, pers comm).

Excavations in 1939 revealed an early Roman curving ditch, possibly the corner of a fort, to the north of the school (MCC2173). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull, 273). It was later shown that these form a continuation of Heath Farm Dyke North (CAR 11, 32). CAT monitored an area on the corner of Norman Way and Park Road for a car park in February 1996 (96/2b, CAT Report 1000). A ditch was recorded running east-west parallel to the footpath but was thought to be medieval or later and not associated to Hull's ditch.

In 1955, prior to the construction Colchester County High School for Girls, a 'triple-ditched dyke' was excavated by R.J. Martin beneath what was to become the main school building. The ditches were 4m wide, although their depths are unknown (CHER MCC2177, CAR 11, 127). In addition to this, on the south edge of the school, post holes and a ditch indicated the possible presence of a building with wooden posts surrounded by a diagonal ditch dated to the 2nd century and a large 4.3m deep pit, also dated to the 2nd century. In 1956 excavations undertaken by John Wachter to the east of the High School for Girls revealed palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (CHER MCC8175, CAR 11, 124-126).

CAT have carried out a number of watching briefs and evaluations in this area. A watching brief undertaken by CAT in 1996 for a new hall to the north of the school revealed two interruptions of the trenches seen. However, they had vertical edges and deemed unlikely to be ditch edges (96/8b, CAT Report 1000). A watching brief in 2001 on an extension to the County High School for Girls revealed no trace of the ditches of the triple dyke seen in 1955 (CAT Report 155). Another watching brief at the County High School for Girls in 2005 for a new music and careers block recorded four undated pits or ditches (CAT Report 348). At least two of the ditches of the 'triple-ditched dyke' should have been visible within the footprint of the new building and one of its soakaways, but were not observed. A substantial ditch recorded in a second soakaway was not in alignment with those seen in 1955 and it was concluded that the 'triple-ditched dyke' either turns a corner or in fact does not actually exist.

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Planning background

Planning application (181187) was submitted to Colchester Borough Council in May 2018 for a proposed new classrooms & ancillary accommodation. A subsequent application was submitted in October 2018 (182488) with an application to vary condition 2 of their planning permission. This involved an amendment to the layout and location to avoid needing to divert the main sewer main.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER 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* (MHCLG 2018).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for an evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Specifically, a single trench measuring 15m long by 1.8m wide will be located within the footprints of the proposed dwellings. Areas may need to be locally widened if there are deep trenches and/or sections across deep features to ensure they are evaluated.

The purpose of the trenches is to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if further archaeological investigation is required. Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should provide for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating.

- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

General methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 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 CBCAA one week before start of work.

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

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

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

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

In charge of day-to-day site work: 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 proforma 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.

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 process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or 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

During evaluation work 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 the remains from the site during the evaluation phase, 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. If the human remains are not to be lifted at the evaluation stage, the specialist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit)

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.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

prehistoric and Roman pottery: Matthew Loughton

post-Roman pottery: Howard Brooks

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

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Robin Mathieson

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) /

Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

prehistoric and Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Small Finds: Nina Crummy

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 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:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

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

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

Archive deposition

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out. CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

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

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|
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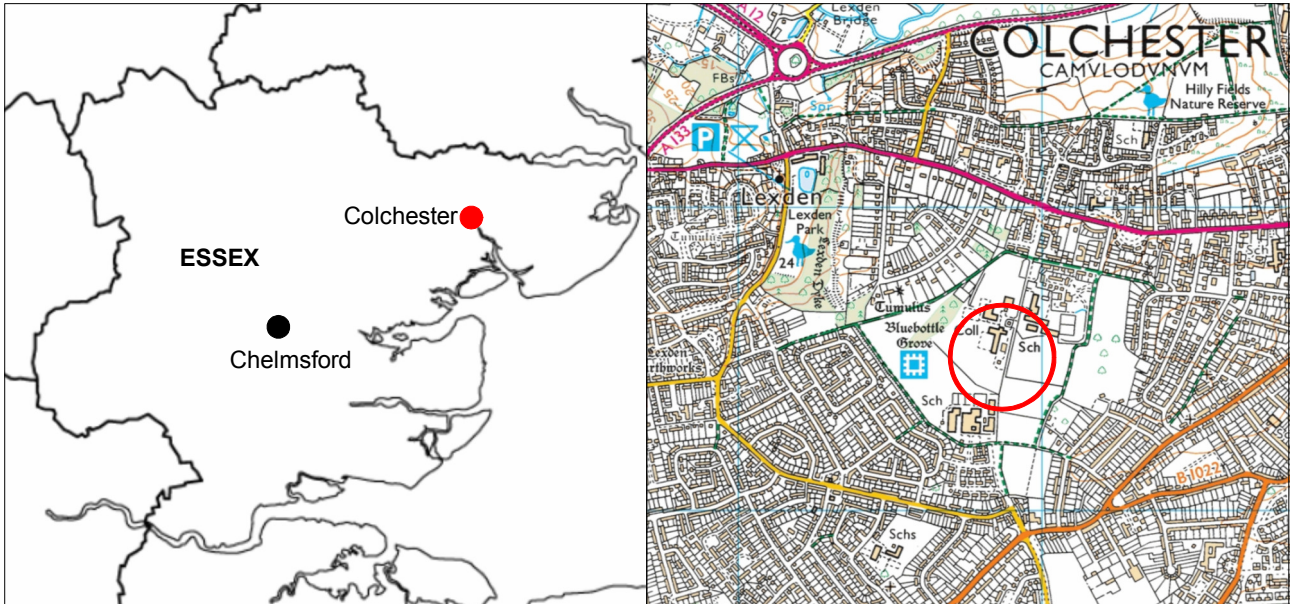
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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines). Site constraints are shown green (2 x trees & live sewer).

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OASIS ID: colchest3-333726

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex,
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was undertaken at St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new classroom, ancillary accommodation and associated groundworks. Five pits, one of Roman date, another of post-medieval date, and the rest undatable, were revealed during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 20-12-2018 End: 20-12-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2018/11g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	181187 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	182488 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.117 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4282 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester
Postcode	CO3 3US
Study area	0.13 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 97868 24515 51.883505902488 0.875363154982 51 53 00 N 000 52 31 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 36.69m Max: 37m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.117
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.117
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Title	Archaeological evaluation at St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US: December 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
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