

Archaeological monitoring at A Ground Cricket Pitch, Abbey Field, Colchester, Essex

September 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway

**commissioned by Rob Masefield, CgMs, part of RPS
on behalf of Sodexo & RMPA Services**

NGR: TL 99816 2440 (centre)

CAT project ref.: 19/09k

CHER ref: ECC4383

OASIS reference: colchest3-368054



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CAT Report 1481
September 2019

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Fig 1 Site location

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at A Ground Cricket Pitch, Colchester during groundworks for a new artificial cricket wicket. Extensive archaeological investigations conducted in the area around the site over the past two decades have revealed nationally-significant archaeological remains, most notably the only known Roman circus in Britain. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no significant archaeological remains were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate beyond modern layers.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at A Ground Cricket Pitch, Abbey Field, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out on 23rd September 2019. The work was commissioned by Rob Masefield of CgMs, part of RPS, on behalf of Sodexo and RMPA Services, during groundworks for a new artificial cricket wicket, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area identified by the Colchester Historical Environment Record (CHER) as possessing a high potential for archaeological deposits, following consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Heritage (part of the RPS Group) and agreed with CBCPS (CgMs 2019).

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, and the Colchester Historic Environment Record accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer.

Drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravel formed up to around 3 million years ago. This is occasionally in a clay matrix, and is sometimes capped by about 300mm of 'cover loam'.

The Colchester Garrison cricket ground is located to the south of Napier Road, east of Circular Road east, west of Mersea Road and north of the recently built St John's Green Primary School. The pitch is level at c 34m AOD.

The archaeological context of A-ground (cricket pitch) is well understood following a series of evaluations and excavations conducted in adjacent areas since 2000.

Neolithic and Bronze Age features (mainly pits) have been identified during the Alienated Land project within Areas C1, C2 either side of Circular Road North/Napier Road, approximately 100m northeast of the hockey pitch, with a further example within Flagstaff Road (CAT Report 412). There are currently no Neolithic or Bronze Age finds

known from the B Ground locations or the sewer replacement zone. The Area C1 pits contained both Mildenhall Ware and Peterborough Ware may have been transitional between to the middle/late Neolithic traditions (*ibid*). A pit within Alienated Land Area C2 to the immediate east of the Arena contained Beaker pottery typical of the late 3rd millennium to early 2nd millennium BC. The stage 1a trenching found no features of this date whilst a single worked flint with retouch typical of the later prehistoric period was found residually within a later feature (CAT Report 843).

A Deverel-Rimbury-type burial with calcined (cremated) bone is reported from the west side of the Abbey Field, 500m west of the proposed foul sewer replacement (EHER 11876).

Late Bronze Age occupation pits were identified in 2004/5 and 2013 to the west of Abbey Field, in Alienated Land Areas J1 and H (CAT Report 412). Late Bronze Age pits were also found in the northern zone of St John's Abbey (UAD event no. 3019) and within Alienated Land Trench WBT4 (CAT Report 412) at Flagstaff Road, whilst a Bronze Age burial urn was found in the southern area of Abbey Field (UAD event no. 1237). A pit/posthole containing probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sherds was also found during the Circular Road North works to the west side of Abbey Field (CAT Report 412).

Pre-*oppidum* phase Iron Age activity is relatively sparse within Abbey Field and its environs but two parallel driveway ditches contained probable Middle or Late Iron Age sherds and several other Iron Age features were excavated immediately west of B-Ground during the relaying of Circular Road North (*ibid*). The other principal discovery from the wider area of the New Garrison is the remains of a late Middle Iron Age round-house within a ditched enclosure, south of the former Ypres Road and about 600m to the south of Circular Road South (drain replacement).

The watching brief sites fall within the eastern area of the pre-Roman (Late Iron Age) *oppidum* of Camulodunum (CAT Report 97). The only above-ground traces of this *oppidum* are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system that surrounded it but the closest of these is located in the south-east corner of the current residential development area of the former Hyderabad and Meeanee Barracks well to the east of Mersea Road (*ibid*). The *oppidum* has only two main confirmed centres of activity: at Gosbecks Farm (2km south-west of the Garrison), which was a Late Iron Age and Roman rural farmstead (and possibly the home of the Catuvelluani tribe's king, Cunobelin); and Sheepen (2km north-west of the Garrison), an industrial and trading centre. Apart from these two large centres it is likely that there were a number of smaller domestic and farming sites in the *oppidum*. One of these farms was identified by the field boundaries, paddocks and other features recorded at Kirkee and McMunn Barracks in 1994 (CAT Report 16) and another farmstead with origins in the Late Iron Age was investigated in 2010 at the former Goojerat Barracks (CAT Report 412). Late Iron Age cremation urns were also found within mitigation Area 6 for the New Garrison in 2003 to the east of Kirkee McMunn Barracks (CAT Report 292) and in the southern and southeastern areas of Abbey Field in 1904 and 1905 (west of the TA Centre) respectively (UAD event nos. 1246 and 1248).

The most significant contribution of the Alienated Land project to the understanding of the Iron Age *oppidum* was the discovery of 'new' section of the Berechurch Dyke at Hyderabad Barracks to the east side of Mersea Road and east of the northern zone of Abbey Field in 2011 (CAT Report 628). The c 7m wide and 2m deep ditch contained Late Iron Age ceramics at its base in sufficient quantity to suggest adjacent settlement. The settlement must have been to the south of the barracks in the area of modern housing as there were no few traces of occupation within the barracks itself. A further Late Iron Age to early Roman settlement was located during the same investigation within the former Goojerat Barracks to the west side of the south-west corner of Abbey Field in 2010 (CAT Report 588).

Two isolated cremation burials are recorded in the eastern area of Abbey Field to the southeast of the cricket ground. One of these was found in 1905 and was described as a 'Celtic' cinerary urn so is probably a Late Iron Age burial (EHER 11878). The second is a group of two Late Iron Age vessels (probably a burial), recorded from a location south of Circular Road South (EHER 11877).

Roman Colchester is particularly significant for the study of cemeteries and funerary practices in Britain, because the town started off as a coming together of two different populations, ie. the indigenous, largely Romanised British community and an immigrant 'Roman' one, each of which had their own beliefs and funerary practices.

The archaeological remains in and around Abbey Field are increasingly well understood. At least twenty-eight Roman burials were found during construction of the athletics track and sports pitch between the hockey pitch and the car park of B Ground, in 1925 (Hull 1958; UAD event no. 1099). Trial-trenching and excavation for the all-weather hockey pitch itself by CAT in 2000 recovered 73 more cremation burials, some only 0.3m below existing ground level (CAT Reports 97 and 54). A north-south aligned ditch-defined track was also plotted extending approximately through the middle of this distribution of burials.

An evaluation and subsequent excavation were conducted ahead of construction for the B-Ground car park in 2006 and 2007 (CAT Reports 361 and 424). The investigations confirmed the north-south aligned projection southwards of a partially-metalled ditch defined Roman trackway, with a scatter of six Roman burials to its east side.

Further concentrations of Roman burials (a mixture of inhumations and cremations) were excavated in 2004 and 2005 in GUV Area J1 North (360 burials) and significantly for the present works, at Area C2 to the immediate northwest side of the cricket ground, where 66 burials were excavated in 2004 (CAT Report 412). An extension of the burial ground was identified during Napier Road roadworks in 2006 to the immediate north of the cricket pitch, with further burials excavated within the adjacent Napier Road car park areas either side of the road (*ibid*).

A Roman circus was identified during the archaeological investigations of 2004-6 in Alienated Land Areas C1, C2 and J1 (*ibid*). In addition, the work has confirmed the remains of the southern wall line of the circus extending across the northern part of the Abbey Field (CAT Report forthcoming). The approximately 450m-long circus was orientated east-west and extended from the area now occupied by the garden of the Sergeants' Mess north of Le Cateau Road to terminate in the area of the grounds of the former Flagstaff House to the east. The double-walled form (of the ground-fast elements of the stand) is now reasonably well understood. The starting gates were located at the western end of the structure, with the semi-circular end at the east end. The circus is unique in Britain and as such is of national importance.

A 2006 cable trench crossed the spina and southern wall (both of which appear to have been robbed out in the Abbey Field (CAT Report 393), although it is possible that parts of the lower courses of foundation survive locally). The closest point of the circus to the current watching brief sites is some 60m to the north, and therefore the works do not lie within the circus Scheduled Monument (which includes a 10m buffer to its south side). The circus is unique in Britain and as such is of national importance.

The closest area of the circus to the cricket ground is approximately 30m to the north where the beginning of the curve of the foundations for the southern cavea was found partially intact during the Napier Road investigation of 2006.

Archaeological works were also undertaken ahead of development of the St John's Green Primary School to the immediate south of the cricket ground in 2013 (CAT Report 778). The excavation identified further settlement and burial-related Roman

archaeology. In particular a 1st- to 3rd-century Roman cemetery area included a high-status 1st-century bustum burial, whilst other features included ditched enclosures and a large later Roman quarry. To the east a timber-framed Roman villa had previously been identified within the school playing field area, fronting onto Mersea Road, via CAT trenching in 2004 and 2011. Mersea Road is almost certainly aligned on a former Roman road leading from the south to the south-east gate of the Roman town. This may be supported by a linear distribution of east-west aligned probable late Roman inhumation burials found in 2011 opposite the cricket ground, along the east side of the road at the former Hyderabad Barracks.

The identification of Roman burials to the north, south and east of the cricket ground therefore suggests the possibility that Roman burials extend across the cricket ground, although burials may have been in clusters rather than as a continuous 'cemetery area'.

The earliest Saxon finds from the area include 5th- to 7th-century early Saxon burials found in the late 19th century to the east of Mersea Road and north of the former Hyderabad Barracks c 65m to the northeast of A Ground cricket pitch. A Saxon cremation was also uncovered within Hyderabad Barracks itself in 1926. This burial ground extended south into the north-west corner of the former Hyderabad Barracks, from only 50m northeast of the cricket ground, where about seventy inhumation graves, probably mainly of 6th-7th century Anglo-Saxon date, were investigated in 2010 (CAT Report 628). Three graves contained Anglo-Saxon weapons (spear heads and iron shield bosses) and were associated with at least four ring-ditches of probable barrows, similar in form to late 3rd-century Roman examples at Area C2/Napier Road/ Circular Road North. Later Saxon evidence for the period was identified in 1972 when the remains of the small Anglo-Saxon church of St John were excavated before the construction of St Botolph's roundabout.

The remains of St John's Abbey are the dominant standing archaeological feature in the vicinity of A Ground (to the north side of Napier Road). The Benedictine Abbey of St John was founded by Eudo close to the site of the Anglo-Saxon church of St John in 1095. It was completed in 1115, burnt down in 1133, and then rebuilt in the early 13th century. A wall surrounding the ecclesiastical precinct had been built by the 13th century and further additions were made in the 14th and 15th centuries. The Abbey was dissolved in 1538, although historic maps indicate that many of its buildings remained standing well into the 17th century. The main gatehouse was built in the 15th century and still stands in the centre of the north side of the precinct wall, although much of it was rebuilt following the siege of Colchester of 1648 (CAT Report 97). The Abbey gatehouse is a Grade I listed building and it and much of the area within and including the precinct wall is a Scheduled Monument.

The Roman circus greensand foundations were evidently systematically robbed during the medieval period, with material used for the construction/repair of the abbey and its precinct wall (circus-derived greensand is still evident in the fabric of the abbey precinct wall flanking Flagstaff Road). Both C1 foundations and the C2 northern cavea and parts of the southern cavea footing were robbed in the medieval period, as was most of a monument base of the spina found beneath the cross roads of Flagstaff/Circular Road East and Napier Road/Circular Road North (see below). Spreads of mortar and demolition layers appear to have been associated with this activity.

The Abbey Field has traditionally been used for Army training purposes, with the Cavalry Barracks and Le Cateau Barracks to the west of Circular Road North and Hyderabad Barracks to the east of Mersea Road operative since the 19th century. The watching brief site falls within the north-eastern corner of the Abbey Field. Maps pre-dating the garrison suggest that this area was farmland in the 17th century. The historic maps from 1876 to the present day show no structures in the vicinity of the watching brief site.

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

A CAT archaeologist monitored the reduction of an area measuring 30m by 2.7m (81m²) by 0.12-0.15m. The ground reduction occurred through modern topsoil (L1, grey/brown sandy-silt)



Photograph 1 Stripped area – looking north northwest

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological remains were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate beyond modern layers.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Rob Masefield of CgMs, part of RPS and Sodexo and RMPA Services for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway. Figures were prepared by C Lister and S Carter. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

9 References

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

CAT Report 16	1998	<i>A Preliminary Appraisal of the Archaeological Remains in and around Colchester Garrison</i>
CAT Report 97	2000	<i>An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site</i>
CAT Report 292	2005	<i>Colchester Garrison PFI project, Colchester, Essex: a report on the 2003 excavation of Areas 2, 6, 10, August-November 2003</i>
CAT Report 393	2006	<i>An archaeological watching brief on a new cable trench at the Abbey Field sports pitches, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex: October 2006</i>
CAT Report 412	2011	<i>Archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex: May 2004 – October 2007</i>
CAT Report 588	2012	<i>Stage 2 archaeological excavation, Alienated Land Area L/N (Goojerat Barracks), Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex: June-July 2010</i>
CAT Report 628	2016	<i>A Late Iron Age dyke, Roman and Anglo-Saxon burials, a Roman coin hoard, and a Civil War fort: Stage 1b archaeological evaluation and Stage 2 excavation at Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area A1 (former Meeanee & Hyderabad Barracks) Colchester, Essex: October-December 2010, January-March and July-September 2011</i>
CAT Report 778	2015	<i>Roman burials, buildings, and enclosures west of Mersea Road, Colchester: Stage 3 archaeological excavation at Colchester Garrison Alienated Land Area E (GAL E): January 2013</i>
CAT Report 843	2015	<i>Archaeological trial trenching at the Arena Leisure Centre, Circular Road East, Colchester, Essex, Phase 1a: pre-determination trenching, April-May 2015</i>
CgMs	2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological watching brief: New artificial wicket at A ground cricket pitch, Colchester Garrison</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching briefs</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
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

Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation 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 1481)

CgMs written scheme of investigation

Original site record (layer sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1481)

CgMs written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos and log

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.

Distribution list

Sodexo

RMPA Services

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



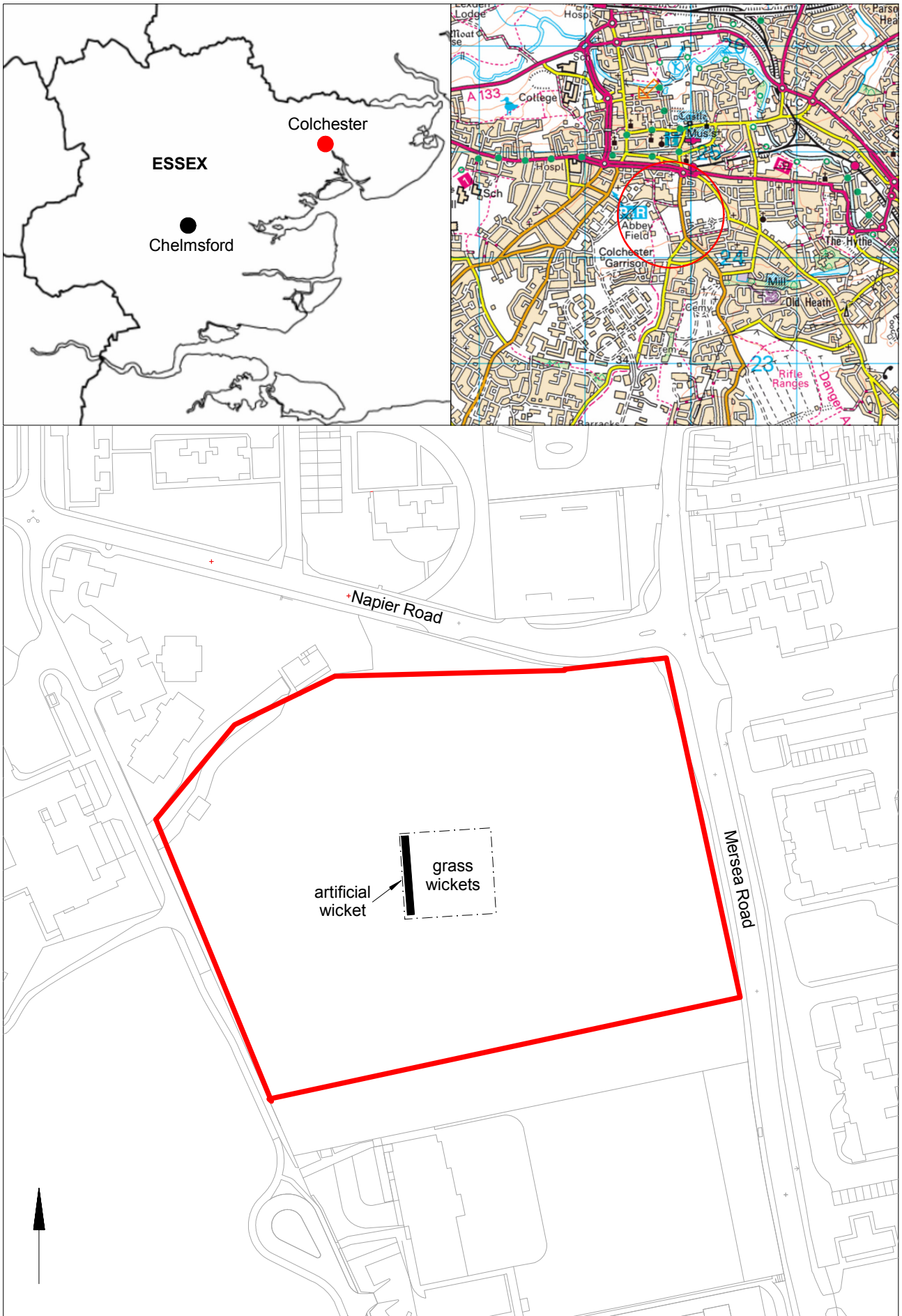
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 26.09.2019



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Fig 1 Site location.



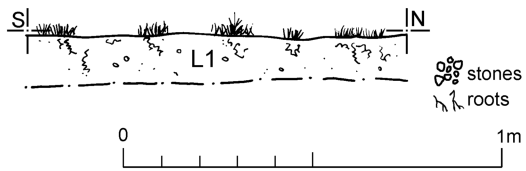


Fig 2 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Archaeological monitoring at A Ground Cricket Pitch, Abbey Field, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9981 2440 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 19/09k CHER ref: ECC4383 OASIS ref: colchest3-368054
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd September 2019	Size of area investigated: 2.76ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related CHER/SMR number: EHER 11876, EHER 11877, EHER 11878
Final report: CAT Report 1481	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Archaeological monitoring was carried out at A Ground Cricket Pitch, Colchester during groundworks for a new artificial cricket wicket. Extensive archaeological investigations conducted in the area around the site over the past two decades have revealed nationally-significant archaeological remains, most notably the only known Roman circus in Britain. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no significant archaeological remains were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate beyond modern layers.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: September 2019



**WRITTEN SCHEME OF
INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

**NEW ARTIFICIAL WICKET
AT A GROUND CRICKET
PITCH, COLCHESTER
GARRISON**

March 2019

**Local Planning Authority:
Essex County Council**

**Site centred at:
TL 99816 2440**

**Author:
Robert Masefield
BSc (Hons.) MA FSA MCIfA**

**Approved by:
Simon Blatherwick
BA, MA, MCIfA**

**Report Status:
Final**

**Issue Date:
March 2019**

**CgMs Ref:
RM/25419**

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FIGURE 1

Location of Colchester Garrison Cricket Pitch

FIGURE 2

Archaeological Context Plan

Appendix 1

Team Structure

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is for an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Sodexo for an artificial cricket wicket installation at Colchester Garrison Cricket Ground, Abbey Field, Colchester. The WSI has been prepared by CgMs Heritage - part of RPS, in association with the archaeological contractor – (Colchester Archaeological Trust).
- 1.2 The proposed development is located at TL 99816 2440 and comprises:
- Machine excavation to c.120mm to remove topsoil/subsoil to a level gradient and lay a minimum 120mm depth of porous aggregate base.
 - Installation of 30m x 2.7m pitching area shock pad
 - Installation of Wilton Woven carpet above.
- 1.3 The location of the cricket pitch square is shown on Figure 1, whilst Figure 2 illustrates the archaeological context.
- 1.4 A review of archaeological work undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) under RPS management within the vicinity of these works and a consultation with Jess Tipper, the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO), has established that there is a very slight potential for encountering Roman period archaeology, and in particular burials during the grading of the existing wicket and its replacement with an artificial surface.
- 1.5 Due to the possibility of shallow, potentially previously truncated burials, a watching brief will be undertaken by CAT during wicket ground reduction as a precaution. This WSI sets out the investigation, recording, reporting and archiving processes for a precautionary watching brief during the associated groundworks.
- 1.6 The WSI sets out proposals for the archaeological work including treatment of finds, production of a report, and deposition of the archive. The WSI mirrors standards and practices contained in Guidelines on Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester (Colchester Borough Council 1996. revised 1999). The Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) requires this document in order to formally approve the scope of the watching brief and the aims and methods for archaeological recording and reporting.
- 1.7 The WSI is prepared by CgMs Heritage - part of RPS in association with CAT and will be adhered to by CAT.
- 1.8 All archaeological monitoring works will be conducted by CAT and will be managed by CgMs - part of RPS. The CBCAO will be kept informed of the progress of the works and will be given the opportunity to inspect.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravel formed up to around 3 million years ago. This is occasionally in a clay matrix and is sometimes capped by about 300mm of 'cover loam'.
- 2.2 The Colchester Garrison cricket ground is located to the south of Napier Road, east of Circular Road East, west of Mersea Road and north of the recently built the St John's Green Primary School (Fig. 1). The pitch is level at c. 34m OD.
- 2.3 The archaeological context of A-ground (cricket pitch) is well understood following a series of evaluations and excavations conducted in adjacent areas since 2000 (See Fig. 2).
- 2.4 Neolithic and Bronze Age features (mainly pits) have been identified during the Colchester Garrison Alienated Land project within Areas C1, C2 either side of Circular Road North/Napier Road, from immediately to the north-west of the cricket ground, with a further example within Flagstaff Road (CAT Report 412, 2011) (Fig. 2). There are currently no Neolithic or Bronze Age finds known from A Ground. The Area C1 pits contained both Mildenhall Ware and Peterborough Ware may have been transitional between to the middle/late Neolithic traditions (CAT Report 412, 2011). A pit within Alienated Land Area C2 contained Beaker pottery typical of the late 3rd millennium to early 2nd millennium BC (RPS 2015). The trenching there found no features of this date whilst a single worked flint with retouch typical of the later prehistoric period was found residually within a later feature (CAT 2015, 13).
- 2.5 A Deverel-Rimbury-type burial with calcined (cremated) bone is also reported from the west side of the Abbey Field (Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER no 11876).
- 2.6 Late Bronze Age occupation pits were identified in 2004/5 and 2013 to the west of Abbey Field, in Alienated Land Areas J1 and H (CAT 2011). Late Bronze Age pits were also found in the northern zone of St John's Abbey (UAD event 3019) and within Alienated Land Trench WBT4 (CAT 2011) at Flagstaff Road, whilst a Bronze Age burial urn was found in the southern area of Abbey Field (UAD event no. 1237). A pit/posthole (CRNF50) containing probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age sherds was also found during the Circular Road North works to the west side of Abbey Field in 2007 (CAT 2011).
- 2.7 Pre-oppidum phase Iron Age activity is relatively sparse within Abbey Field and its surrounds but two parallel droveway ditches (CRNF41 & CRNF42) contained probable Middle-Late Iron Age sherds and several other Iron Age features were excavated immediately west of B-Ground during the relaying of Circular Road North (CAT 2011). The other principal discovery from the wider area of the New Garrison is the remains of a late Middle Iron Age round-house within a ditched enclosure, south of the former Ypres Road and about 600m to the south of Circular Road South.
- 2.8 Iron Age and the Oppidum: The watching brief sites fall within the eastern area of the pre-Roman (late Iron Age) oppidum of Camulodunum (CAT Report 97, CAT 2000). The only above-ground traces of this oppidum are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dyke system that surrounded it but the closest of these is located in the south-east corner the former Hyderabad and Meeanee Barracks well to the east of Mersea Road (ibid). The oppidum has only two main

confirmed centres of activity: at modern Gosbecks Farm (2km south-west of the Garrison), which was a Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman rural farmstead (and possibly the home of the Catuvellani tribe's king, Cunobelin); and Sheepen (2km north-west of the Garrison), which was the industrial and trading centre. Apart from these two large centres it is likely that there were a number of smaller domestic and farming sites in the oppidum. One of these farms was identified by the field boundaries paddocks and other features recorded at Kirkee & McMunn Barracks in 1994 (Shimmin 1998: figs 8, 11) and another farmstead with origins in the latest Iron Age was investigated in 2010 at the former Goojerat Barracks to the west side of the south-west corner of Abbey Field in 2010 (CAT Report 588, CAT 2012). Late Iron Age cremation urns were also found within mitigation Area 6 for the New Garrison in 2003 to the east of the former Kirkee McMunn Barracks (CAT in association with RPS 2005) and in the southern and south-eastern areas of Abbey Field in 1904 and 1905 (west of the TA Centre) respectively (UAD event nos. 1246 & 1248).

- 2.9 The most significant contribution of the Alienated Land project to the understanding of the Iron Age oppidum was the discovery of 'new' section of the Berechurch Dyke at Hyderabad Barracks to the east side of Mersea Road and the cricket ground in 2011 (CAT 2016 – CAT Report 628). The c. 7m wide and 2m+ deep ditch contained Late Iron Age ceramics at its base in sufficient quantity to suggest adjacent settlement. The settlement must have been to the south of the barracks in the area of modern housing as there were no few traces of occupation within the barracks itself.
- 2.10 Two isolated cremation burials are recorded in the eastern area of Abbey Field to the south-east of the cricket ground. One of these was found in 1905 and was described as a 'Celtic' cinerary urn so is probably a Late Iron Age burial (EHER no 11878). The second is a group of two Late Iron Age vessels (probably a burial), recorded from a location south of Circular Road South (EHER no 11877).
- 2.11 Roman Colchester is particularly significant for the study of cemeteries and funerary practices in Britain, because the town started off as a coming together of two different populations, i.e. the indigenous, largely Romanised British community and an immigrant 'Roman' one, each of which had their own beliefs and funerary practices.
- 2.12 The archaeological remains in and around Abbey Field are increasingly well understood, largely due to the work undertaken for the Colchester Garrison Alienated Land project. At least 28 Roman burials were found during construction of the athletics track and sports pitch between the hockey pitch and the car park of B Ground, in 1925 (Hull 1958; UAD event no 1099; TL 9940 2430). Trial-trenching and excavation for the all-weather hockey pitch itself by CAT in 2000 recovered 73 more cremation burials, some only 300mm below existing ground-level (CAT Report 97; CAT Report 54; TL 9954 2441) (see yellow area labelled 'Abbey Field 2000' on Fig. 2). A north-south ditch-defined track was also plotted extending approximately through the middle of this distribution of burials.
- 2.13 An evaluation and subsequent excavation were conducted ahead of construction for the B-Ground car park in 2006 and 2007 (CAT March 2006 & Oct 2007). The investigations confirmed the north-south aligned projection southwards of a partially metalled ditch defined Roman trackway, with a scatter of six Roman burials to its east side.
- 2.14 Further concentrations of Roman burials (a mixture of inhumations and cremations) were excavated in 2004 and 2005 in GUV Area J1 North (360 burials) and significantly for the present works, at Area C2 to the immediate north-west side of the cricket ground, where 66 burials were

excavated in 2004 (CAT Report 412). An extension of this burial ground was identified during Napier Road roadworks in 2006 to the immediate north of the cricket pitch, with further burials excavated within the adjacent Napier Road car park areas either side of the road (ibid).

- 2.15 Most significantly for Colchester a Roman circus was identified during the archaeological investigations of 2004-6 in Alienated Land Areas C1, C2 and J1 (CAT Report 412, 2011). In addition, the work by CAT which was managed by RPS and funded by the Time Team has confirmed the remains of the southern wall line of the circus extending across the northern part of the Abbey Field (CAT report in prep; Fig 2, TTT3-TTT7). The approximately 450m-long circus was orientated east-west and extended from the area now occupied by the garden of the Sergeants' Mess north of Le Cateau Road to terminate in the area of the grounds of the former Flagstaff House to the east. The double-walled form (of the ground-fast elements of the stand) is now reasonably well understood. The starting gates were located at the western end of the structure, with the semi-circular end at the east end. The circus is unique in Britain and as such is of national importance.
- 2.16 The closest area of the circus to the cricket ground is approximately 30m to the north where the beginning of the curve of the foundations for the southern cavea was found partially intact during the Napier Road investigation of 2006.
- 2.17 Archaeological works were also undertaken ahead of development of the St John's Green Primary School to the immediate south of the cricket ground in 2013 (Fig. 2) (CAT Report 778, March 2015). The excavation identified further settlement and burial-related Roman archaeology. In particular a 1st to 3rd century Roman cemetery area included a high status 1st century bustum burial, whilst other features included ditched enclosures and a large later Roman quarry. To the east a timber-framed Roman villa had previously been identified within the school playing field area, fronting onto Mersea Road, via CAT trenching in 2004 and 2011. Mersea Road is almost certainly aligned on a former Roman road leading from the south to the south-east gate of the Roman town. This may be supported by a linear distribution of east-west aligned probable late Roman inhumation burials found in 2011 opposite the cricket ground, along the east side of the road at the former Hyderabad Barracks (Fig. 2).
- 2.18 The identification of Roman burials to the north, south and east of the cricket ground therefore suggests the possibility that Roman burials extend across the cricket ground, although burials may have been in clusters rather than as a continuous 'cemetery area'.
- 2.19 The earliest Saxon finds from the area include 5th to 7th century early Saxon burials were found in the late 19th century to east of Mersea Road and north of the former Hyderabad Barracks c.65m to the north-east of the A Ground cricket pitch. A Saxon cremation was also recovered from Hyderabad Barracks itself in 1926. This burial ground extended south into the north-west corner of the former Hyderabad Barracks, from only 50m north-east of the cricket ground, where about 70 inhumation graves investigated in 2010-2011 were probably mainly of 6th-7th century Anglo-Saxon date (CAT Report 628, 2016) (Fig. 2). Three graves contained Anglo-Saxon weapons (spear heads with iron shield bosses) and were associated with at least four ring-ditches of probable barrows, similar in form to late 3rd century Roman examples at Area C2/Napier Road/ Circular Road North. Later Saxon evidence for the period was identified in 1972 when the remains of the small Anglo-Saxon church of St John were excavated before the construction of St Botolph's roundabout.

- 2.20 The remains of St John's Abbey are the dominant standing archaeological feature in the vicinity of A Ground (to the north side of Napier Road). The Benedictine Abbey of St John was founded by Eudo close to the site of the Anglo-Saxon church of St John in 1095. It was completed in 1115, burnt down in 1133, and then rebuilt in the early 13th century. A wall surrounding the ecclesiastical precinct had been built by the 13th century and further additions were made in the 14th and 15th centuries. The Abbey was dissolved in 1538, although historic maps indicate that many of its buildings remained standing well into the 17th century. The main gatehouse was built in the 15th century and still stands in the centre of the north side of the precinct wall, although much of it was rebuilt following the siege of Colchester of 1648 (CAT Report 97, CAT 2000). The magnificent Abbey gatehouse is a Grade I listed building and it and much of the area within and including the precinct wall is a Scheduled Monument.
- 2.21 The Roman circus greensand foundations were evidently systematically robbed during the medieval period, with material used for the construction/repair of the abbey and its precinct wall (circus derived greensand is still evident in the fabric of the abbey precinct wall flanking Flagstaff Road). Both C1 foundations and the C2 northern cavea and parts of the southern cavea footing were robbed in the medieval period, as was most of a monument base of the spina found beneath the cross roads of Flagstaff/Circular Road East and Napier Road/Circular Road North (see below). Spreads of mortar and demolition layer appear to have been associated with this activity.
- 2.22 The Abbey Field has traditionally been used for Army training purposes, with the Cavalry Barracks and Le Cateau Barracks to the west of Circular Road North and Hyderabad Barracks to the east of Mersea Road operative since the 19th century. The watching brief site falls within the north-eastern corner of the Abbey Field. Maps pre-dating the garrison suggest that this area was farmland in the 17th century. The historic maps from 1876 to the present day show no structures in the vicinity of the watching brief site.

a) Strategy and aims

- 2.23 The aim of this exercise is to work with the Main Contractor to ensure that any archaeology located within the line of the works is identified, excavated and recorded. The Main Contractor will therefore use a machine equipped with a toothless bucket to the formation level under constant archaeological supervision.
- 2.24 Where archaeology is encountered the Main Contractor will allow for the rapid hand investigation and full recording of the archaeology to take place. Should significant archaeology such as burials or structures be encountered a cessation of works may be required. The CBC Archaeological Officer will be informed and given the opportunity to inspect the works at this point.
- 2.25 Once the full length of the pitch has been reviewed for archaeology and recorded the monitoring CAT archaeologist will confirm that the site work is complete and RPS will inform the CBCAO.

Aims

- 2.26 The general aims of the watching brief is to:
- To identify whether archaeology is present above or at construction formation level, and to

-
- recover sufficient evidence to characterise the nature, date, function and importance of the archaeological features within the affected area

2.27 The specific aims are to:

- Elucidate the presence/absence and density of Roman burials or other features within the watching brief area;
- To establish, via a small hand dug test pit, whether the subsoil horizon is intact or whether the cricket pitch was previously levelled, potentially affecting archaeological levels.

2.28 A final aim is to hold discussions with the CBC Archaeological Officer in the event of significant findings that may require a further level of investigation and reporting works.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 This method statement is in accordance with the research design developed in consultation with CBC and complies with the guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (NPPF) and with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologist's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (ClfA 2017). The archaeological contractor (CAT) will liaise closely with CgMs Heritage - part of RPS (the Archaeological Project Managers and advisors to Sodexo) with respect to all important matters concerning the co-ordination and management of the project. The CBC archaeological officer (CBCAO) will be kept fully informed of all archaeological developments.

b) Machining

3.2 The Main Contractor is to be instructed by Sodexo and CAT will be required to provide a RAMS for their approval prior to the instigation.

3.3 The Client/ Main Contractor is required to provide any evidence of contamination and services in the areas of work that might require the use of particular PPE (in addition to hard hat, safety boots and vis-jacket as the minimum).

3.4 The c. 120mm reduction of the existing pitch will take place using a toothless bucket under the supervision of the archaeological contractor.

3.5 The archaeological contractor will then observe the further machine reduction to archaeological levels (if present). Significant archaeological deposits will not be removed by machine unless sanctioned by the CBC Archaeological Officer. In circumstances where vertical stratigraphy is found or where archaeology is vulnerable, the machining will be monitored by a senior member of staff.

3.6 Care will be taken to ensure that machines used do not rut, compact or otherwise damage buried or exposed archaeological features and deposits ahead of recording. No potentially significant archaeological deposits will be removed prior to recording and sampling (if necessary) to provide an adequate understanding of their character.

3.7 The archaeological contractor will then undertake their investigation and recording work as set out in section c below.

3.8 CAT will observe machining and will confirm if any archaeology is present within the impact area. If deposits are present the CAT archaeologist will pre-clear the deposits to the full depth of the cut prior to any further reduction.

3.9 Surveying: Following the overburden stripping temporary bench marks will be surveyed with respect to an Ordnance Survey datum and all features and deposits will be recorded relative to their OD height. The TBM's will be shown on the site location plans.

- 3.10 The exposed surface will be hand cleaned sufficiently to define any archaeological features present. This process will facilitate accurate planning and allow for metal detected finds to be correctly assigned following an initial scan of the site.
- 3.11 Complex areas (areas of intercutting features, surviving layers, where features are complex in form or where surface finds may be plotted) will be planned by hand, usually at a scale 1:20. These plans will be located via total station, scanned, vectorised and imported via CAT's CAD programme on the OS grid-based plan. Less complex areas of the site (where features are absent or rare and of simple form) will be planned using a total station with the data input directly onto CAD and the OS tiles. There will be no site grid on the ground. All site plans will show OS grid points and spot levels and will be fully indexed and related to adjacent plans. It is not anticipated that single context recording will be appropriate. However, should particularly complex sequences of deposits or features be encountered, then single context recording will be undertaken. A uniform site plan will be produced showing all site features.

c) Sampling Strategy

- 3.12 If, as expected, the c.120mm reduction remains within topsoil levels and no subsoil or gravel natural is exposed, the CAT archaeologist will hand dig a small test pit (no more than 300mm x 300mm) within the pitch area to establish whether the 'cover loam' subsoil is intact or has been previously truncated for pitch levelling purposes. The soil profile will be recorded.
- 3.13 Should archaeology be exposed within the machine strip pitch area archaeological investigation will be required. Archaeological investigation will be by hand and will respect the stratigraphy of archaeological layers, features, deposits and structures. Each context will be excavated in sequence. Occasionally further use of the mechanical excavator may be required. Such techniques are only appropriate for the removal of homogenous low-grade deposits that may give a "window" into underlying levels. They will not be used on complex stratigraphy and the deposits to be removed must have been properly recorded first. If encountered horizontal deposits (e.g. layers) should be hand excavated or sample excavated in 1m grid squares and should not be removed by machine.
- 3.14 The following sampling strategy will be adopted to ascertain the nature, depth, date and state of preservation of archaeological features as well as the stratigraphical relationships of these deposits and features to one another.
- (i) Normally 50% of the fills of all pits and other discrete archaeological features will be excavated. However, in the event that complex areas of pitting are encountered a representative sample will be excavated (although all will be planned). Tree throw holes will not normally be investigated.
 - (ii) At least 20% of the exposed lengths of ditches will be excavated (although in practice within the narrow trenches 50% or the full exposed length may need to be excavated). The segments will be placed to provide adequate coverage of the ditches and will include excavation of all terminals and intersections. A flexible approach will be adopted to the location of excavation samples such that areas of exposed ditch fill with higher artefact or ecofact content may be targeted. A lower excavation sample ratio of ditches will only be acceptable in the event that

the research aims will not be further advanced. Any such reduction in sample ratio will be agreed with CBC and RPS.

- (iii) At least 50% excavation of ring gullies will include excavation of the terminals and sections at each side to the rear of the gully. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphical relationships and concentrations of artefactual material.
- (iv) In the event that stone structures, hearth or kilns are encountered, these will be cleaned in sufficiently to establish their basic plan within the trench, function and date with stratigraphic associations recorded where clear in plan. Should floor levels be encountered, these will be fully exposed within the trench confines.
- (v) Human remains will only be excavated after obtaining the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, as required by the Burials Act of 1857 (amended 1981). The discovery of human remains will be reported to the local coroner. Other structured or placed deposits will be recorded and retained as "small finds". Should sufficient human bone be exposed to warrant specialist examination *in situ*, a human bone specialist may be required to attend to examine the remains (subject to CBCAO requirements). It is expected that archaeological human remains encountered will be excavated in accordance with the processes set out in 'The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project, (Historic England 2018).
- (vi) Metal detectors will be used to scan for metallic finds on spoil heaps, vacated areas, areas of modern disturbance and during the excavation of key archaeological features or deposits.
- (vii) Any 'dark earth' deposits will be subject to and excavation and environmental sampling.

d) Recording

3.15 The following procedures will always be initiated:

- (i) All features will be planned either by means of a total station or hand drawn plans where appropriate.
- (ii) Sections: all sectioned and excavated archaeological features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10, or at a smaller scale (if appropriate). All sections will be levelled to ordnance datum.
- (iii) All archaeological features, layers or deposits will be allocated unique context numbers prior to any hand excavation including contexts for which there is no archaeological interpretation or definition. All archaeological features, layers or deposits will be recorded on pro-forma context sheets detailing: character, contextual relationships, a detailed description, associated finds, interpretation and cross referencing to the drawn, photographic and finds records. On-site matrices will be compiled during the excavation such that the results of the written stratigraphical records may be fully analysed and phased.
- (iv) An adequate photographic record of the investigation will be made of all archaeological features and deposits. Standard record shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. The record will include working and promotional shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operations. All photographic records will include information detailing:

site code; date; context(s); section number; a north arrow and a scale. All photographs will be listed and indexed on context record sheets.

(v) A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological features, deposits or layers encountered will be produced. The detailed hand drawn plans will be related to the site, and O.S. national grid and be drawn at an appropriate scale, generally 1:20. Where necessary e.g. when recording an inhumation, additional plans at 1:10 scale, or where appropriate 1:20 will be drawn. The O.D. height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

(vi) A record or index will be maintained of all site drawings and these will form part of the project archive. All site drawings will contain the following information: site name; site number and code; scale; plan or section number; orientation, date and compiler.

e) Treatment of Samples

3.16 Industrial residues will be recorded and sampled in accordance with the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA, 1993) guidelines. The presence of such residues will always be recorded and quantified fully, even where comprehensive retention is considered to be inappropriate. Large technological residues will be collected by hand. Separate samples (c.10ml) will be collected where appropriate for identification of hammer scale and spherical droplets. The advice provided in the Historic England/ Metallurgy Society document Archaeometallurgy in archaeological projects, will be referred to. Structural remains will be similarly recorded in accord with the SMA guidelines.

3.17 The environmental sampling policy is as follows. CAT is advised by the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science. In consultation with Val Fryer, CAT will bulk sample any potentially rich environmental layers or features in addition to all reliably dated deposits. These will be assessed by VF, and future sampling policy on other excavations areas will follow her advice. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, then the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science and/or VF will be asked onto site to advise. Pollen is not expected to survive within these soils, but should deep deposits with pollen preservation potential be encountered column samples will be retrieved for laboratory analysis.

3.18 In addition to retrieving environmental evidence (above), bulk sampling will be used to collect charcoal for potential C14 dating.

3.19 The procedures set in 'A guide to sampling deposits for environmental analysis' (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) and 'Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)' (English Heritage 2011) will be consulted. The following procedures will be followed unless otherwise amended following consultations between RPS, the Historic England Advisor in Archaeological Science, the bioarchaeologist and the Site Director:

(i) 40 litre bulk samples (or 100% of smaller contexts) of anthropogenic concentrations will be taken and of selected deposits where remains are not visible (but may nevertheless occur). These shall include well sealed deposits, floors, hearths etc.

- (ii) Monoliths for pollen analysis will be taken as appropriate to answer specific research questions.
- (iii) 40 litre bulk samples will be taken (if possible) from a selected sample of closely dated pits and from undated features. These deposits will be sampled regardless of whether or not there are visible macrofossils or molluscs.
- (iv) Whole fill samples from a selection of post-holes of definable structures will taken for assessment.
- (v) Cremations and other “special deposits” will be 100% sampled and sieved for the retrieval of remains.
- (viii) 100% recovery of animal bones will be undertaken from the soil samples. It is possible that 100 litre samples for bone may also be necessary in some circumstances.

f) General Methodology

- 3.20 All works will be undertaken by a team of professional archaeologists. The proposed team structure is given in the appendix (end of document).
- 3.21 All work will be according to CAT Policies and Procedures (2000), and will be informed by Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991), the MoRPHE Project Managers Guide (English Heritage, 2006) and Guidelines on Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester (Colchester Borough Council 1996, revised 1999).
- 3.22 Animal and human burials, including cremations, will only be excavated should they have been damaged by their exposure. A Ministry of Justice (MOJ) licence is required for the excavation of human remains. Where a licence for their excavation is issued by the MOJ, the requirements of that licence will be followed.
- 3.23 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.
- 3.24 For purposes of deposition of the archive, a museum accession code will be obtained through Colchester Museum. This will be used this as the site code.
- 3.25 The Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA) will be followed.
- 3.26 Following completion of the manual excavation and recording the trenches will be backfilled flush with ground level. There are no proposals to reinstate the surfaces with simple backfilling of trenches the agreed method.
- 3.27 Industrial residues will be recorded and sampled in accordance with the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA, 1993) guidelines. The presence of such residues will always be recorded and quantified fully, even where comprehensive retention is considered to be inappropriate. Large technological residues will be collected by hand. Separate samples (c.10ml) will be collected where appropriate for identification of hammer scale and spherical droplets. The advice provided in the

English Heritage/ Metallurgy Society document Archaeometallurgy in archaeological projects, will be referred to. Structural remains will be similarly recorded in accord with the SMA guidelines.

- 3.28 The environmental sampling policy is as follows. CAT is advised by the East of England Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (Zoe Outram). In consultation with Val Fryer, CAT will bulk sample any potentially rich environmental layers or features in addition to all reliably dated deposits. These will be assessed by Val Fryer, and future sampling policy on other excavations areas will follow her advice. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, then the of England Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science and/or Val Fryer will be asked onto site to advise. Pollen is not expected to survive within these soils, but should deep deposits with pollen preservation potential be encountered column samples will be retrieved for laboratory analysis.
- 3.29 In addition to retrieving environmental evidence (above), bulk sampling will be used to collect charcoal for potential C14 dating. A contingency for absolute dating is allowed for (should it be required). A contingency for archaeomagnetic dating is also allowed for, should appropriate in situ burnt remains be encountered.
- 3.30 The procedures set in '*A guide to sampling deposits for environmental analysis*' (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) and '*Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*' (English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 2002) will be consulted. The following procedures will be followed unless otherwise amended following consultations between RPS, the Historic England Advisor in Archaeological Science, the bioarchaeologist and the Site Director.
- (i) 40 litre bulk samples (or 100% of smaller contexts) of anthropogenic concentrations will be taken and of selected deposits where remains are not visible (but may nevertheless occur). These shall include well sealed deposits, floors, hearths etc. A representative range of features should be sampled and environmental sampling should include undated, as well as dated, archaeological contexts.
 - (ii) Monoliths for pollen analysis will be taken as appropriate to answer specific research questions.
 - (iii) 40 litre bulk samples will be taken (if possible) from a selected sample of closely dated pits. These deposits will be sampled regardless of whether or not there are visible macrofossils or molluscs.
 - (iv) Whole fill samples from a selection of post-holes of definable structures will taken for assessment.
 - (v) Any excavated cremations and other "special deposits" will be 100% sampled and sieved for the retrieval of remains.
 - (vi) 100% recovery of animal bones will be undertaken from the soil samples. It is possible that 100 litre samples for bone may also be necessary in some circumstances.

4 PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

- 4.1 Public access will not normally be provided to the trenches although the archaeological works will be visible from adjacent public areas.

5 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 5.1 The archaeological contractor (nominally CAT) will provide a Risk Assessment for the project for the agreement of Sodexo and the Main Contractor prior to the commencement of the works.
- 5.2 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard safety policy (CAT 2017), which will be adhered to.
- 5.3 No personnel will work in deep or unsupported excavations. The sides of all excavations or trenches deeper than 1.2 metres will be stepped or battered. Due to the difficulty of working in shored trenches, shoring will be avoided wherever possible. Safety helmets will worn by personnel in deep trenches or other potentially unsafe positions. All deep trenches shall be fenced off and will be clearly indicated by “deep excavation” signs.
- 5.4 The archaeologist(s) will not enter an area under machine excavation without alerting the machine driver to his/her intention.
- 5.5 The archaeologist(s) shall remain alert and take due care not to impede the progress of moving machinery. He/she shall stand well back from the turning circle of an excavator’ buckets and cabs.
- 5.6 Spoil will be stored at a safe distance away from trench edges.
- 5.7 Suitable accommodation will be provided for staff to shelter from inclement weather and during breaks. Hand washing facilities will be provided.
- 5.8 CAT will provide any necessary protective footwear, high-visibility jackets, and safety helmets. All staff and visitors to the site will be expected to wear full PPE at all times.
- 5.9 The CgMs Heritage - part of RPS project manager will be provided with a list of all personnel working on site each day by the CAT Supervisor.
- 5.10 CAT scanning will be undertaken prior to and during machine excavation.

6 FINDS

- 6.1 Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the research aims or are of intrinsic interest. All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed according to the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No.2, the Council for British Archaeology's First Aid for Finds (Third Edition, 1998) and the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Guidelines for Finds Work (1992). Iron finds may require X-rays prior to conservation and similarly residues on pottery may require study ahead of any conservation which may be appropriate.
- 6.2 All finds and bones will be recorded, collected and labelled according to their individual stratigraphical context. Finds from each archaeological context will be allocated an individual finds tray and waterproof labels will be used for each tray to identify unique individual contexts. Each label will be marked with the appropriate context number in waterproof ink and will be securely attached to each tray.
- 6.3 A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Colchester Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.
- 6.4 All lifting, conservation or other on-site treatment of delicate finds will be done by Colchester Museums' staff. It is anticipated that robust items such as intact cremations will be lifted by site staff.
- 6.5 The site archive will be presented to Colchester Museums in accordance with the requirements for conservation and storage as outlined in Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester Museums (Colchester Borough Council 1996).
- 6.6 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. Any other finds remain for the landowner to assess and dispose of.
- 6.7 Finds work will be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' published booklet Guidelines for Finds Work.
- 6.8 Agreement with the landowner will be sought for deposition of the finds and paper archive. Arrangements for the finds to be viewed by the landowner will be made if he/she wishes.
- 6.9 The following specialists have been approached for artefact and environmental analysis:
- Francesca Boghi – Human Bone
 - Adam Wightman - animal bone;
 - Stephen Benfield – prehistoric pottery
 - Stephen Benfield late Iron Age and Roman pottery;
 - Joanna Bird - Samian
 - Laura Pooley/Ernest Black – Roman Brick/tile
 - Dr Hilary Cool – Roman glass

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- Dr John A Davies – Roman coins
 - Nina Crummy – Small finds
 - Sue Tyler- Saxon Pottery
 - Helen Walker – Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery
 - Hazel Martingell - Lithics
 - Lynn Keys – Metalworking residues;
 - Pat Wiltshire- pollen analysis
 - Peter Murphy - Environmental
 - Val Fryer- Archaeo-botanist
 - Jackie Makinley- Cremations.

7 REPORTING

- 7.1 At the start of work an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded to the OASIS website. A copy of the OASIS online form should be included as an appendix to the report. A copy of the WSI should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 7.2 A Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) Event number must be obtained the CBCAO; this will be the unique reference number for the work in the CHER.
- 7.3 Following completion of fieldwork an evaluation report will be completed within 4 weeks and submitted to CgMs part of RPS for distribution to the CBCAO for his approval. The report will be marked DRAFT until agreed. Following acceptance, a single digital and hard copy of the report should be presented to both the CHER and Essex HER. A hard copy of the report should be deposited with the archive at Colchester and Ipswich Museum.
- 7.4 Copies of the final report will also be issued to the CgMs part of RPS and Sodexo.
- 7.5 Expert advice and reporting (in relation to cultural artefacts and ecofacts) will be provided by individual Specialists appointed as appropriate.
- 7.6 All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the Historic England procedural document, Management of Archaeological Projects (1991).
- 7.7 The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide (EH 2006) will be adhered to with regard to post-excavation management in relation to this and any subsequent mitigation that may be required.
- 7.8 The report should include relevant background context information.

At the end of the project, a copy of the digital vector plan, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, will be sent by CAT to CBC for integration in the CHER. AutoCAD files should be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).

b) Publication

- 7.9 Minimum publication will consist of a note in the Colchester Archaeologist. The evaluation stage reporting will be summarised in an overall publication for the Site should mitigation result.

8 ARCHIVE AND FINDS DEPOSITION

- 8.1 All retained artefacts will be cleaned, conserved and packaged in accordance with the requirements and guidelines of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's' Conservation Guidelines No. 2, the Council for British Archaeology's First Aid for Finds (Second Edition, 1987), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Guidelines Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives Published December 2014. Small finds will be boxed separately from the bulk finds. Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Colchester Museum storage systems. A full archive will be prepared to standards outlined in Management of Archaeological Projects: 2 (English Heritage 1991).
- 8.2 The full archive will be deposited at Colchester Museums, subject to RMPA Services Plc consent and subject to the guidelines and requirements of MAP 2, as soon as is practicable, and within six months of completion of publication text on the project. All requirements for archive storage as given in Colchester Borough Council's Guidelines for the standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester, will be followed.
- 8.3 Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Colchester Museums.
- 8.4 Photographic archive is to be presented as follows: original digital data on CD Roms, hard copies of digital photos on high quality paper, or as otherwise requested by Colchester Museums.
- 8.5 CD Roms of material held on computers will be presented to Colchester Museums, along with bound copies of printouts.
- 8.6 Deposition of the archive will be confirmed in writing to CBCAO, and a summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to CBCAO.
- 8.7 The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service, or similar digital archive repository (<http://ads.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 8.8 All artefacts recovered from the archaeological excavation shall be deposited at the Colchester Museums. All recovered artefacts shall be fully catalogued, shall constitute one single deposit and shall be deposited within two years of the completion of the archaeological evaluation.

9 STAFFING, TIMETABLE AND INSURANCE

- 9.1 The overall archaeological project will be managed by Robert Masefield CMI(A) (CgMs Heritage part of RPS). The archaeological contractor CAT will be managed by Chris Lister. The experience of the project team is included in the Appendix of this method statement.
- 9.2 The timing of the works is yet to be confirmed but will be provided to the CBCAO, with an associated programme, in due course.
- 9.3 Insurance: The archaeological contractor (CAT) shall hold Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details will be supplied on request.

10 MONITORING

- 10.1 The CBCAO will be given the opportunity to inspect the works, and in particular if archaeology is encountered.
- 10.2 Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed between CgMs Heritage part of RPS, Sodexo, CBCAO and CAT prior to their being carried out.
- 10.3 The involvement of CBCAO shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

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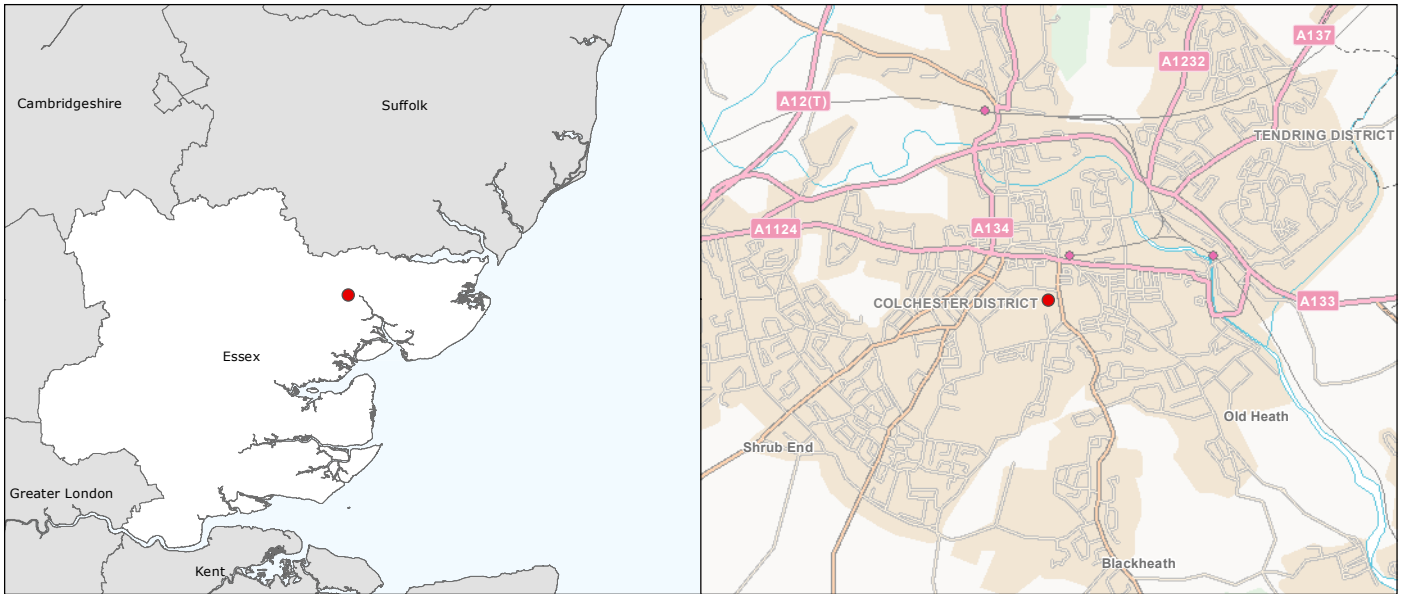
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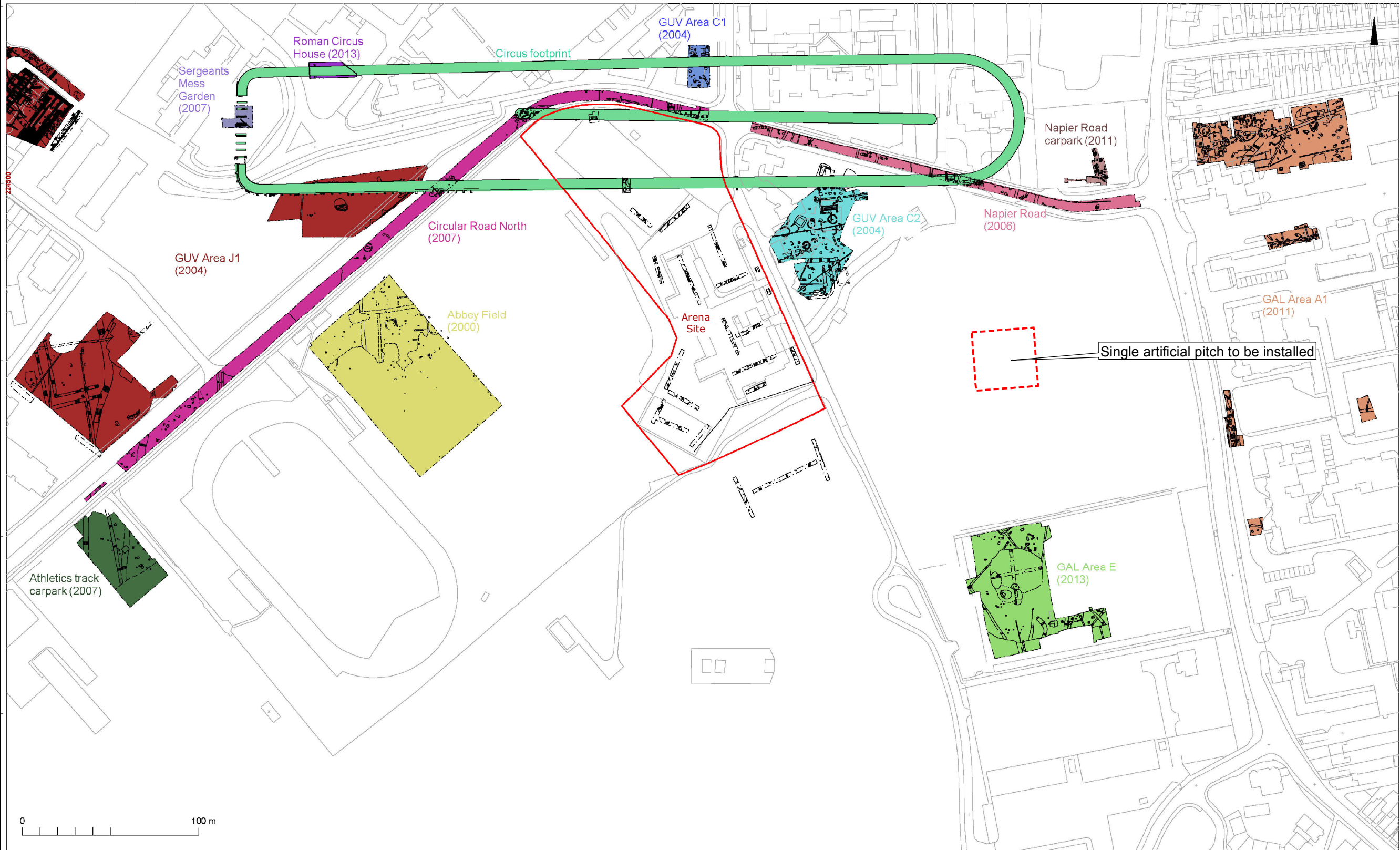
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<p> Location of cricket pitch square</p> 		<p>Scale at A4: 1:2,000</p>  <p>0 45m</p> <p>Figure 1: Site Location</p>
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 Location of cricket pitch square

Single artificial pitch to be installed



Scale at A4: 1:2,250
0 50m

Figure 2:
Archaeological Context Plan

APPENDIX 1

Team Structure

RPS PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

CgMs RPS Archaeological Project Manager

Rob Masefield

LIST OF CAT TEAM MEMBERS

Project Management

Chris Lister

Site Manager

Chris Lister

Site staff

Ben Holloway, Adam Wightman, E Holloway and three Others.

Finds

E Holloway

Metal detecting

Brian Hurrell

Finds Consultants

Stephen Benfield (CAT) LIA/Roman pottery

Joanna Bird (Guildford) Samian ware

Ernest Black (Colchester) Roman brick/tile

Paul Sealey Prehistoric Pottery/ amphora

Hilary Cool (Nottingham) Roman glass

Nina Crummy (Colchester): Small finds

Julie Curle (Sylvanus: Archaeological, Natural History and Illustration Services) Human and Animal bone.

John Davis (Norwich Museum) Roman coins

Val Fryer (Loddon) Environmental processing

Nick Lavender (ECC) Prehistoric pottery

Hazel Martingell (Braintree) Lithics

Rachel Ballantyne (EH) Environmental policy

Valerie Rigby (British Museum) LIA ceramics

Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums) Roman Amphoras

Susan Tyler (ECC) Saxon Pottery

Helen Walker (ECC) post-Roman pottery.

Graphics

C Lister, E Spurgeon, J Chittenden, H Brooks

Report writing

B, Holloway, H Brooks,

RPS EXPERIENCE

Robert Masefield

Office: Cottons Centre, London Bridge

Position in Company: Director

Qualifications / Memberships: FSA, CMIFA, MA, BSc

Date of Birth: 15 October 1969

Key Clients: Taylor Wimpey, RMPA Services, Southern Water, Cemex UK, Countryside Properties, Gatwick Airport Limited

Robert has over 23 years experience in British archaeology and has been with RPS for 22 years. Experienced in the production of Environmental Impact Assessments and Statements, the design and management complex archaeological projects and the preparation of proofs of evidence, he also has extensive experience of undertaking negotiations on behalf of clients.

Experience Includes:

- Delivery of compliance with NPPF, Town and Country Planning, Ancient Monuments, Conservation Area and Listed Building legislation, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Construction Design Management (CDM) regulations; and the Highways Agency Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB vol 10 & 11)
- Provision of Environmental Statement chapters including Great Western Park (George Wimpey & Taylor Woodrow), Colchester New Garrison (RMPA/ MoD) Didcot, Radcot Farm Mineral Extraction (Oxfordshire), Priors Green, Takeley (Countryside Properties), The Wixams, Elstow, Bedfordshire (National Power/JJ Gallagher), Barrington Quarry, Cambridgeshire (Cemex), Sheerness WTM (Peel Ports), Marston Gate Bedfordshire & Apex Park, daventry, Northamptonshire (both Prologis), Enterprise House Bexhill (SeaChange Sussex) plus several ES's on behalf of Southern Water (Bognor–Littlehampton, Bexhill & Hastings and Brighton & Hove).
- Project Design and Management on watching briefs evaluation and excavation projects including production of written schemes of investigation and Research Agendas.

Management and design of the 160ha Colchester New Garrison and linked Urban Village projects including identification and successful retention within the scheme of Britain's first Roman circus, excavation of major cemetery site and excavation of prehistoric and Roman sites within Camulodunum.

DETAILS OF CAT TEAM MEMBERS (SUBJECT TO COMMISSION)

SENIOR SITE STAFF

Philip Crummy MA, FSA, MIFA

Philip is a very experienced field archaeologist, and the longest-serving director of excavations at any major archaeological organisation in Britain. Since joining CAT (or Colchester Excavation Committee as it was then, and Colchester Archaeological Unit soon after) as Site Director in the early 1970s, he has supervised or directed large urban projects including Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane, Butt Road, and Culver Street, as well as numerous small projects. Philip's publication record is outstanding, and includes sole or joint authorship of eight of the Colchester Archaeological Report series, principally volumes 1, 3, 6, 9, and 11. He also produces major parts of the CAT annual magazine *The Colchester Archaeologist*. He has also contributed to *Britannia*, *Post-medieval Archaeology*, and several of the *BAR* series. His most recent work *City of Victory* is one of the local bestsellers in bookshops in Colchester. He lectures widely.

Stephen Benfield BA, Cert Archaeol (Oxon) (CAT)

After working in farming Banking, Estate Agency, and in a Jobcentre, Stephen discovered archaeology. His first involvement with Colchester archaeology was in 1985, working on a Manpower Services Commission sponsored project, assisting in processing the enormous collection of Roman pottery from excavations in the town. After that he studied for his post-graduate Certificate in Archaeology at Oxford. Returning to CAT, he has since worked on many CAT projects at various supervisory and directorial positions, including the major projects at Stanway Iron Age burial site and Gosbecks Roman temple/theatre complex. Stephen has also, through much hands-on experience, built up a considerable working knowledge of LIA and Roman ceramics. He now completes ceramic assessments and full reports for CAT, drawing on the unrivalled catalogues provided by the standard Colchester works *Camulodunum* (Hawkes & Hull 1947), *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958) and now *CAR 10*, and by examining the fabric series held at CAT headquarters.

Ben Holloway BSc AIFA

Ben joined CAT staff in June 2000, a graduate in Archaeology from Bournemouth University. Ben has conducted fieldwork in Scotland and the Isle of Man. Since joining the Trust Ben has carried out extensive work in Colchester at various supervisory and project positions including evaluations and excavations at Colchester Garrison PFI (including the circus), St Marys Hospital and Colchester 6th Form College. His work in Essex includes the Sandon Park and Ride Site, Skyline 120 Business Park at Great Notley, Dry Street, Basildon and the Stanhope industrial park Stanford-le-hope.

FINDS SPECIALISTS

Joanna Bird FSA (Guildford) Samian

Joanna is one of the country's top Samian specialists. Among her large corpus of work is a contribution to the blockbuster Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-86.

Ernest Black (Colchester) Roman brick/tile

Ernie is a Colchester schoolteacher with a wide interest in archaeology and the classical world. In this sense, he is following in the footsteps of A.F. Hall and Mike Corbishley who were also local schoolmasters. He has developed his specialism by large scale hands-on experience with Roman brick and tile, and has contributed to the Archaeological Journal Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85.

Dr Hilary Cool FSA MIFA (Nottingham) Roman glass

Yet another graduate of the University of Wales, Hilary is now a freelance glass and finds specialist, and has written many reports on glass from Colchester sites, including contributions to Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85, and Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993). Among her major works is the internationally selling Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester 1971-85.

Nina Crummy (Colchester) Small finds

Nina first worked in the early 1970s as finds assistant on the major urban excavations in Colchester for the Colchester Excavation Committee (later the Trust). Over the next twenty years she built up an unrivalled working knowledge of small finds of all types. She has collaborated in most of the Colchester Archaeological Reports, and was principal author of the best-selling Colchester Archaeological Reports 2 (Roman small finds), 4 (The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9) and 5 (The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85). She recently worked for the Museum of London, and was instrumental in the recent transfer of and the massive improvement in accessibility to archaeological archives in London. She now works freelance on small finds reports for CAT, HBAS, and other bodies including Winchester Excavation Committee.

Julie Curle Sylvanus: Archaeological, Natural History and Illustration Services) Human and Animal Bone

Julie has over 16 years of experience in archaeology and in particular finds for the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Norfolk Museums Service. Currently working as a freelance specialist in both human and animal bone and Illustration. She has been producing faunal and Human remains reports for many years and produces assessment and analysis reports for clients across the East Anglian region. She has her own extensive bone reference collection built up over many years. Her particular interests in faunal remains are animal husbandry and pathologies. She has also worked as a conservator, particularly on Pleistocene vertebrates and a wide variety of archaeology and natural

history projects at the Norwich Castle Museum. Julie is also an extra-mural lecturer with the University of East Anglia, teaching Animal bones in Archaeology.

Dr John A Davies (Norwich Museum) Roman coins

John has, for some years, written reports on Roman coins from Colchester excavations. He specialises in barbarous radiates, and has contributed to British Numismatic Journal on that topic. Among his other publications is a contribution to Colchester Archaeological Report 4: The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9, and Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993).

Nick Lavender (to follow)

Hazel Martingell BA, FAAIS (Braintree): Lithics

Hazel has for many years worked as a lithics illustrator and specialist, undertaking work for The British Museum, ECC Field Archaeology Unit and for London and Cambridge Universities, to name but a few. Since 1987 she has been self-employed and has excavated at a Middle Stone Age site at Gorham's Cave, Gibraltar as well as writing and illustrating worked flint reports for CAT, ECC FAU, and the British Museum. Her impressive publication record includes reports on sites from around the globe. Closer to home she has published work in *Essex History and Archaeology*, The *East Anglian Archaeology* Monograph series, *Antiquity* and *British Museum Occasional Papers*. Hazel is a fellow of the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors and a founder member of the Lithics Study Group, London.

Rachel Ballantyne (EH) Environmental (to follow)

Valerie Rigby (British Museum) LIA ceramics

Val is one of the country's leading authorities on later prehistoric ceramics in general, and traded wares in particular. She has published widely. Her major work include Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968-72 (Britannia Monograph Series 7, with Ian Stead). On a more local level, she has contributed to the magisterial Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-88, and to Ros Niblett's Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum (Council for British Archaeology Research Report 57, 1985).

Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums) Amphoras/prehistoric pottery

Paul has worked at Colchester Museum since the late 1970s. His PhD specialism was Roman amphoras, a topic on which he writes specialist reports for Colchester sites. His main areas of interest are prehistory and the Roman period, and he has developed a familiarity with those periods and their ceramics. He has published widely. His major works include Amphoras from the 1970 excavations at Colchester Sheepen (British Archaeological Report 142, 1985), contributions to Ros Niblett's Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum (Council for British Archaeology Research Report 57, 1985). He regularly contributes to *Essex Archaeology & History*.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-368054

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at A Ground Cricket Pitch, Abbey Field, Colchester, Essex: September 2019
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at A Ground Cricket Pitch, Colchester during groundworks for a new artificial cricket wicket. Extensive archaeological investigations conducted in the area around the site over the past two decades have revealed nationally-significant archaeological remains, most notably the only known Roman circus in Britain. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no significant archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 23-09-2019 End: 23-09-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	19/09k - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4383 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-368054 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER A Ground Cricket Pitch, Abbey Field, Colchester, Essex
Study area	2.74 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9981 2440 51.88177734413 0.903478272604 51 52 54 N 000 54 12 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer

Project design originator	Elliott Hicks
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4383
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4383
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at A Ground Cricket Pitch, Abbey Field, Colchester, Essex: September 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1481
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	27 September 2019

OASIS:

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