

Archaeological excavation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US

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CAT wsi
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1 Summary

An archaeological excavation (following an evaluation) was carried out at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new school building. Previous excavations in the area have uncovered a palisade trench of probable Roman date, a Roman wattle-and-daub structure and scattered pits and ditches, some of which were dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries. These excavations uncovered a cluster of ditches and pits which yielded a considerable quantity of pottery indicating the 3rd and 4th centuries as the primary phase of activity at the site, and suggesting that the remains of a mid to late Roman villa or farmstead lie nearby.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological excavation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Colchester, Essex which was carried out during 2nd to 9th December 2019. The work was commissioned by Lyndon Hopkins on behalf of Colchester County High School for Girls in advance of the construction of a new school building and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological excavation and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

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

3 Archaeological background

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

The development site is located within the grounds of Colchester County High School for Girls, a purpose-built complex of buildings opened in 1957 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 site was located within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the west of the Roman walled town and within an area of Roman cemeteries which was dubbed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but which is more generally referred to as the Lexden cemetery (MCC7525-9 and MCC7647). This is an area of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds located 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 upon in this area (see Hull 1958 and CAR 11). Of particular note in this

respect is a Roman amphora burial which was found to the west of Altancealgach House (MCC7676). A trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road, conducted in 2006, defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (MCC3091; ECC FAU report 1711). The school also lies some 425m east of Lexden Tumulus (MCC1356 & MCC7523), an Iron Age barrow which, when excavated in 1924, was found to contain a rich Belgic burial with the remains of funerary bronze, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. The burial mound has variously been thought to be the resting place 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 (ECC851 and MCC2173). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, which were thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull 1958, 273). It was later shown, however, that these form a continuation of Heath Farm Dyke North (CAR 11, 32). In February 1996, CAT monitored an area on the corner of Norman Way and Park Road for a car park. 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 (CAT Report 1000, 96/2b).

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 (ECC714, MCC2177, CAR 11, 127). Additionally, on the south edge of the school, postholes and a ditch indicated the possible presence of a building surrounded by a diagonal ditch dated to the 2nd-century and a large pit, also dated to the 2nd-century. Further excavations undertaken by John Wacher to the east of the High School for Girls the following year revealed palisade trenches, an irregular wattle-and-daub structure, gullies and pits (ECC970, MCC8175 and MCC2064-5, 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 2001 on an extension to the school revealed no trace of the ditches of the dyke seen in 1955 (CAT Report 155). A further watching brief in 2005 for a new music and careers block recorded four undatable pits or ditches (CAT Report 348). At least two of the ditches of the 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 does not in fact 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 late 1st century AD (CAT Report 762). The ditch was aligned parallel to the ditches seen in the 1939 excavations (i.e. 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. Another evaluation was carried out in January 2018 in advance of the construction of a multi-functional hall and two additional car parks. Three undated pits, two post-Roman pits and two natural features were recorded (CAT Report 1211).

CAT carried out an evaluation in the pre-planning stage of the present development (CAT Report 1449). Four features – three pits and a ditch – were recorded. They originated from the period from the mid 2nd to the 4th century, and one was undatable. Finds recovered included a small collection of Roman pottery of both fine and coarse wares, Roman tile included tegula with cut-aways and box flue tile fragments. Of

particular note was a small piece of decorated ceramic building material thought to be a fragment of Roman antefix.

4 Aim

The aim of this investigation was to excavate and record all archaeological horizons due to be destroyed during the proposed development.

5 Results (Figs 3-5)

All feature, layer and finds numbers used during the current excavation follow on from numbers assigned during the evaluation stage of this investigation (CAT Report 1449).

An area measuring 448.1m² was reduced through modern topsoil (L1, 0.2-0.21m thick), a layer of hoggin (L2, c 0.37m thick), a modern build-up layer (L3, 0.07-0.1m thick,) and a post-medieval accumulation layer (L4, 0.39-0.42m thick) onto natural sands and silts (L5, encountered at a depth of 1.1m below current ground level).

Prehistoric

Five sherds of handmade flint-tempered pottery were recovered during the excavation: one from pit F14, three from pit / tree throw F15 and one from pit F17. All of this material was residual in later contexts.

Roman

The primary phase of activity at the site occurred during the Roman period. Material dating from the early 2nd to the early 5th centuries was recovered, but it appears that the Roman activity at the site can be dated to the period from the mid 3rd to the 4th century.

The predominating features representing this phase of activity at the site were a series of ditches which passed through the excavation area. Early 4th-century ditch F8 extended through the southern half of the area on a NW-SE alignment before terminating just short of the eastern limit of excavation (LOE). It was 0.43-1.14m wide and 0.29-0.45m deep. The terminus of F8 was cut by early 4th-century ditch F7, which lay on a curved E-W alignment and was 0.62-0.79m wide and 0.35-0.39m deep. Another ditch of early 4th-century date, F11, ran northwards through the southern half of the excavation area on a NNE-SSW alignment before terminating around the centre of the site. It was 0.46-0.85m wide and 0.19-0.25m deep. Early 4th-century ditch F21 followed the course of F11, and may represent a partial re-cutting of this feature. It was 0.7-0.99m wide and 0.22m deep.



Photograph 1 F21 sx 1 and F11 sx 4 – looking south

Ditches dating to this period were also uncovered within the northern half of the excavation area. Mid to late 3rd-century ditch F1 extended on a NW-SE alignment from the northwest corner of the excavation area before reorienting to the south southwest and terminating at the centre of the site. The feature was 0.93-1.1m wide and 0.25-0.3m deep. Finally, ditch F13 passed through the northern half of the excavation area on a NNE-SSW alignment before terminating at the centre of the excavation area. It was 1.2-1.54m wide and 0.3-0.5m deep. While no dating evidence was recovered from the feature, it was cut by F1, meaning it was late 3rd-century in date at the latest.



Photograph 2 F1 sx – looking northeast

A number of pits also dating to this period were also uncovered within the southern half of the excavation area. Late 3rd- to early 4th-century pit F12 cut ditches F11 and F21. The feature extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 1.65m wide and 0.34m deep. The remainder of the pits in this part of the excavation area – F4, F6, F9, F10 and F14 – were largely clustered within the centre and were 0.58-0.97m wide and 0.12-0.33m deep. Two Roman pits – F19 and F22 – were located in the northern half of the excavation area, and were 0.79m wide and 0.23m deep and 1.01m wide and 0.27m wide respectively.



Photograph 3 F12 sx – looking east southeast



Photograph 4 F6 sx – looking south southeast

Medieval/post-medieval

Two medieval or post-medieval ditches were recorded in the northern half of the excavation area. Ditch F16 extended westwards on an E-W alignment before terminating around the centre of the excavation area, and was 0.54m wide and 0.14m deep. Ditch F20 extended eastwards on an E-W alignment before terminating just short of the centre of the excavation area, and was 1.05m wide and 0.14m deep.

A medieval or post-medieval pit, F17, and pit/treethrow, F15, were also uncovered, and were 1.53m wide and 0.4m deep and 0.95m wide and 0.1m deep respectively.

Undated

Two undatable features were also excavated. Pit F18 lay in the northern half of the excavation area and was 0.93m wide and 0.21m deep. While no dating evidence was recovered from this feature, it was cut by medieval or post-medieval ditch F20, meaning it was post-medieval in date at latest.

Undatable gully F5 was 0.6m wide and 0.23m deep.



Photograph 5 Excavation area – looking north northeast

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

6.1.1 Introduction

The excavation uncovered 540 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of nearly 71 kg (Table 1). There were rim sherds from 7.50 vessels (rim EVE) (Table 1). CBM accounts for just over half of this material by sherd count and 87% by weight with 277 sherds with a weight of just over 61 kg (Table 1).

Ceramic material	no.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
Amphorae	12	2%	3,258	5%	272	0.00
Mortaria	11	2%	1,532	2%	139	1.28
Pottery	240	44%	4535	6%	19	6.22
CBM	277	52%	61,465	87%	222	-
All	540		70790		131	7.5

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

This material was recovered from seventeen features and one layer, although most of the material came from six features: F1, F2, F6, F8, F12, and F21 (Table 2). The largest assemblage with 129 sherds with a weight of 30.6 kg came from pit F6 (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Ditch	75	8,232	110
F2	Pit	36	8,471	235
F6	Pit	129	30,695	238
F7	Ditch	3	82	27
F8	Ditch	54	2,666	49
F9	Pit	2	20	10
F10	Pit	8	854	107
F11	Ditch	20	982	49
F12	Pit	79	5882	74
F14	Pit	12	3,356	280
F15	Pit/treethrow	4	10	3
F16	Ditch	2	40	20
F17	Pit	7	63	9
F19	Natural feature	1	5	5
F20	Ditch	2	53	27
F21	Ditch	78	2,282	29
F22	Pit	1	48	48
L4	Accumulation layer	27	7,049	261

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features and contexts

6.1.2 Pottery

Prehistoric pottery

There were five sherds of handmade flint-tempered prehistoric pottery (HMF) with a weight of 10g. This material came from the pit F14 (no. 1/5 g), pit/treethrow F15 (no. 3/4 g), and pit F17 (no. 1/1 g). The small number of sherds and lack of diagnostic meant that they could not be closely dated, but they are likely to originate from the Late Bronze Age to Early or Middle Iron Age.

Roman pottery

The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (1999) supplemented with fabric groups from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection, henceforth NRFRC (Tomber & Dore 1998) (Table 3). Roman vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR 10*, 468-487). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

There were 257 sherds of Roman pottery with a weight of 9.3 kg (Table 4) and 7.50 vessels according to the rim EVE (Tables 5-6). This material was recovered from twelve features and one layer although most of the Roman pottery came from just four features: F1, F8, F12 and F21 (Table 7). The largest assemblage by sherd count is the 68 sherds from ditch F21 and the largest assemblage by sherd weight is the 2.8 kg from the pit F12 (Table 7).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	2nd century AD
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	Mid 2nd-early 3rd century AD
BAET	Baetican Amphorae (Dressel 20)	1st-3rd century AD
CH	Oxidised Hadham wares	Late 3rd-4th century AD
CL	Central Gaulish and 'Rhenish-type' fine colour-coated wares	2nd-3rd century AD
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	Early 2nd-3rd century AD
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman (primarily mid 1st-2nd century AD)
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	Mid 3rd-4th century AD
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	Early 2nd-4th century AD
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	Early 2nd-3rd century AD
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
HAD RE2	Hadham (Burnished) Reduced ware 2	
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	4th century AD
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	Mid 1st-2nd/3rd century AD
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	Early 2nd-4th century AD
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae	1st-3rd century AD
TZ	Mortaria, Colchester and Continental imports	Mid 1st-3rd century AD
WAM	Western Asia Minor Amphorae (Kapitän II)	3rd-4th century AD

Table 3 Roman pottery fabrics recorded. *NRFRC

Fabric Group	Fabric description	no.	%	weight (g)	%	MSW (g)	Rim	Handle	Base
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	1	0.4	4	0.0	4	0	0	1
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	1	0.4	19	0.2	19	1	0	0
BAET	Baetican amphorae (Dressel 20)	10	3.9	2,929	31.50	293	0	2	0
CH	Oxidised Hadham wares	1	0.4	2	0.0	2	0	0	0
CL	Central Gaulish and 'Rhenish-type' fine colour-coated wares	1	0.4	3	0.0	3	0	0	0
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	12	4.7	103	1.1	9	2	0	1
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	4	1.6	23	0.2	6	0	0	0
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	1	0.4	3	0.0	3	0	0	0
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	32	12.50	869	9.30	27	16	0	0
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	28	10.90	662	7.10	24	13	0	8
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	140	54.50	2,315	24.90	17	13	0	14
HAD RE2	Hadham (Burnished) Reduced ware 2	1	0.4%	12	0.1%	12	1	0	0
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	9	3.5%	88	0.90%	10	5	0	0
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	2	0.4%	410	4.40%	205	1	0	0
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	1	0.4%	6	0.1%	6	0	0	1
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae	1	0.4%	31	0.3%	31	0	0	0
TZ	Mortaria, Colchester and Continental imports	11	4.3%	1,532	16.50 %	139	7	0	7
WAM	Western Asia Minor Amphorae (Kapitän II)	1	0.4%	298	3.2%	298	0	1	0
Total		257		9309		36	59	3	26

Table 4 Details on the Roman pottery

Fabric Group	Fabric description	Rim EVE
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	0.06
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	0.29
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	1.27
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	1.24
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	2.48
HAD RE2	Hadham (Burnished) Reduced ware 2	0.05
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	0.61
TZ	Mortaria, Colchester and Continental imports	1.28
Total		7.5

Table 5 Roman pottery quantification via fabric group

Fabric Group	Form	EVE
BAEG	Drag.33	0.06
CZ	Cam 407	0.29
GA	Cam 39A	0.35
	Cam 305A	0.92
GB	Cam 37A/38A	0.15
	Cam 37B/38B	0.18
	Cam 40A	0.38
	Cam 40B	0.30
	Cam 278	0.25
GX	Cam 37B/38B	0.05
	Cam 268	2.34
	Cam 299	0.09
HAD RE2	Cam 305B	0.05
HD	Type 36	0.61
HZ	Cam 270B with lid seating	0.2
TZ	Cam 195B/C	0.14
	Cam 497	1.00
	Cam 501A/B	0.07

Table 6 Roman pottery quantification via vessel form (excludes unidentified vessel forms)

Cxt	Feature type	no.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim	Handle	Base	EVE
F1	Ditch	51	2,216	43	16	1	2	2.52
F2	Pit	1	20	20	1	0	0	0.12
F6	Pit	7	272	39	2	0	1	0.18
F7	Ditch	3	82	27	2	0	0	0.36
F8	Ditch	47	1,528	33	11	0	5	1.97
F9	Pit	1	3	3	0	0	0	0.00
F11	Ditch	16	340	21	0	0	0	0.00
F12	Pit	55	2976	54	11	0	13	0.92
F14	Pit	2	731	366	1	1	0	0.07
F17	Pit	4	8	2	0	0	0	0.00
F19	Natural feature	1	5	5	0	0	0	0.00
F21	Ditch	68	1,030	15	15	1	4	1.36
L4	Accumulation layer	1	98	98	0	0	1	0.00
Total		255	9,211		59	3	26	7.5

Table 7 Quantities of Roman pottery from specific features and contexts

The assemblage of Roman pottery as a whole shows a strong bias towards coarse ware pottery and a rarity of local and imported fine wares. For example, coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares (fabric GX) account for c 55% of the sherd count and 25% of the assemblage weight. There is also a substantial collection of black-burnished and related wares (fabric GA, GB, and KX). Altogether, these two

pottery groups account for 89% of the assemblage by sherd count and 42% by sherd weight. With an EVE of 4.99 they also account for the majority of the vessels.

The assemblage shows a lack of early material and a bias toward mid and later Roman pottery.

Modified sherds

1. Linear F21 (32): irregular shaped disc, made out of fabric GX (Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares), with a diameter of 49 mm.

Graffiti

1. Pit F12 (18): two sherds of BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 (fabric GB) with a symbol (?)

2. Pit F14 (25): Dressel 20 handle with three linear cut marks.

Assemblages from individual features

Ditch F1

This feature contained 51 sherds of Roman pottery with a weight of just over 2 kg and an EVE of 2.52 (Tables 8-9). This assemblage is dominated by locally-produced grey wares (fabric GX) with the Cam 268 (AD 125/150-280/320) and a copy of the BB2 Cam 37B/38B bowl which dates to AD 180-275. There is also a modest quantity of black-burnished wares in category 1 and 2 (fabrics GA, GB) with examples of the Cam 305A (AD 275-425), Cam 39A (AD 140-400), and Cam 37A/38A (AD 110-180/220). There was also a Colchester and other red colour-coated (fabric CZ) Cam 407 folded beaker dating to AD 225-400 and a possible Hadham (fabric HAD RE2?) copy of a BB flanged bowl (Cam 305B) dating to AD 275-425. There was also a sherd of Oxidised Hadham ware (fabric CH) dating from AD 250/275-425. Finally, there was a peaked amphora handle from a Kapitän II ('Hollow-foot') wine amphorae from western Asia minor and possibly from the region of Ephesus, Turkey (Tyers 1996, 101-2; Williams 2005). Occasional Kapitän II's have been recovered from Colchester (CAR 10, 140 nos. 199-206) as well as from nearby Chelmsford (Going 1987, 35) and Heybridge (Sealey in Atkinson and Preston 2015). Examples are also known from other sites in Britain with a concentration in the southeast including London, Southwark, Chalk, Lullington, etc. (Tyers 1996, 102). The Kapitän II is dated from the late 2nd/start of the 3rd century to AD 400 although the majority of examples from Britain date to the late 3rd-early 4th century and possibly just to the early 4th (Williams 2005; Peacock 1977, 297). Previous examples from Colchester came from the period ending groups Gp14 (c AD 300), Gp15 (c AD 325) and from the Late Roman Gp18 (AD 425+) (CAR 10, 140 nos. 199-206). This assemblage can be dated to the late 3rd to early 4th century AD.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim	Handle	Base	EVE
BAET	Baetican amphorae (Dressel 20)	1	185	185	0	0	0	0.00
CH	Oxidised Hadham wares	1	2	2	0	0	0	0.00
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	1	3	3	1	0	0	0.22
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	1	9	9	0	0	0	0.00
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	9	463	51	7	0	0	0.67
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	3	345	115	3	0	0	0.53
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	33	899	27	4	0	2	1.05
HAD	Hadham (Burnished)	1	12	12	1	0	0	0.05

RE2	Reduced ware 2							
WAM	Western Asia Minor Amphorae (Kapitän II)	1	298	298	0	1	0	0.00
Total		51	2,216	43	16	1	2	2.52

Table 8 Details on the Roman pottery from ditch F1

Fabric Group	Form	EVE
CZ	Cam 407	0.22
GA	Cam 39A	0.12
	Cam 305A	0.55
GB	Cam 37A/38A	0.15
	Cam 40A	0.38
GX	Cam 37B/38B	0.05
	Cam 268	1.00
HAD RE2	Cam 305B	0.05

Table 9 Roman pottery quantification via vessel form for ditch F1 (excludes unidentified vessel forms)

Ditch F8

This ditch produced 47 sherds of Roman pottery with a weight of just over 1.5 kg and 1.97 vessels (rim EVE) (Tables 10-11). This assemblage is dominated by coarse wares and includes most of a local Cam 497 mortarium (fabric TZ) with two herringbone stamps at right angles to the flange on either side of the spout. The Colchester 'Herringbone' mortaria potters were active during the Antonine period (AD 130-170) (CAR 10, 209-210). The interior of this vessel is sparsely gritted and there are traces of burning on the edge of the spout suggesting it may have been reused as a lid (?). Other notable finds include a Cam 268 (AD 125/150-280/320) in fabric GX (Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares) and a Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted (fabric HD) type 36 cooking pot (*ibid*, 461 fig. 6.112 no. 56). The presence of the Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted vessel suggests that this assemblage can be dated to the late Roman period and the period c AD 325/350-425.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim	Handle	Base	EVE
BAET	Baetican amphorae (Dressel 20)	1	66	66	0	0	0	0.00
CL	Central Gaulish and 'Rhenish-type' fine colour-coated wares	1	3	3	0	0	0	0.00
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	28	285	10	2	0	4	0.36
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	9	88	10	5	0	0	0.61
TZ	Mortaria, Colchester and Continental imports	8	1,086	136	4	0	1	1.00
Total		47	1,528	33	11	0	5	1.97

Table 10 Details on the Roman pottery from the ditch F8

Fabric Group	Form	EVE
HD	Type 36	0.61
GX	Cam 268	0.36
TZ	Cam497	1.00

Table 11 Roman pottery quantification via vessel form for ditch F8 (excludes unidentified vessel forms)

Pit F12

This pit contained 55 sherds of Roman pottery with a weight of nearly 3 kg and an EVE of 0.92 (Tables 12-13). This assemblage is also dominated by coarse wares and there were several black-burnished vessels in categories 1 and 2 with examples of the Cam 37B/38B (AD 180-275), Cam 39A (AD 140-400), and Cam 40B (AD 110-275) (Table 13). There was also an imported eastern Gaulish Drag.33 samian cup dating to c AD 150-250 and a Colchester Cam 195B/C mortarium. Finally, there was also a Cam 270B storage vessel (fabric HZ) with lid seating and similar vessels have been recovered from late 3rd century AD contexts at Colchester (*ibid*, 448, 455 fog. 6.107 nos. 69-70). The presence of the Cam 305A suggests that this assemblage dates to the late 3rd century AD.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim	Handle	Base	EVE
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	1	19	19	1	0	0	0.06
BAET	Baetican amphorae (Dressel 20)	5	1,719	344	0	0	0	0.00
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	6	112	19	5	0	0	0.25
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	12	200	17	2	0	8	0.20
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	26	232	9	0	0	5	0.00
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	2	410	205	1	0	0	0.2
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae	1	31	0	0	0	0	0.00
TZ	Mortaria, Colchester and Continental imports	2	253	127	2	0	0	0.21
Total		55	2977	54	11	0	13	0.92

Table 12 Details on the Roman pottery from the pit F12

Fabric Group	Form	EVE
BAEG	Drag.33	0.06
GA	Cam 39A	0.23
GB	Cam 37B/38B	0.08
	Cam 40B	0.12
TZ	Cam 195B/C	0.14

Table 13 Roman pottery quantification via vessel form for the pit F12 (excludes unidentified vessel forms)

Ditch F21

This feature contained 68 sherds of Roman pottery with a weight of just over 1 kg and an EVE of 1.36 (Tables 14-15). This assemblage is dominated by locally-produced grey wares (fabric GX) and black-burnished wares in category 1 and 2 (fabrics GA, GB) with examples of the Cam 268 (fabric GX), Cam 305A (fabric GA), Cam 40B and Cam 278

(both fabric GB). There was also a small quantity of Colchester and other red colour-coated ware (fabric CZ) from a Cam 407 folded beaker. The Cam 40B, Cam 278 and the Cam 268 date from the early 2nd to the mid/late 3rd century AD (CAR 10). The latest pottery from this feature are the Cam 407, which dates from AD 225 onwards, and the Cam 305A from AD 275. The absence of late Roman wares, such as Oxidised Hadham wares (fabric CH), Nene Valley colour-coated wares (fabric EA), and Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares (fabric HD) suggests that this assemblage dates to c AD 250/275-300/325.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim	Handle	Base	EVE
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	1	4	4	0	0	1	0.00
BAET	Baetican amphorae (Dressel 20)	1	212	212	0	1	0	0.00
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	11	100	9	1	0	1	0.07
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	1	6	6	0	0	0	0.00
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	17	294	17	4	0	0	0.35
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	10	88	9	7	0	0	0.43
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	27	326	12	3	0	2	0.51
Total		68	1,030	15	15	1	4	1.36

Table 14 Details on the Roman pottery from ditch F21

Fabric Group	Form	EVE
CZ	Cam 407	0.07
GA	Cam 305A	0.35
GB	Cam 40B	0.18
	Cam 278	0.23
GX	Cam 268	0.51

Table 15 Roman pottery quantification via vessel form for ditch F21 (excludes unidentified vessel forms)

Post-Roman pottery

Post-Roman pottery was limited to one small sherd (6g) of Colchester-type ware (c 1200-1550) which came from the pit/treethrow F15 (26).

6.1.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were 277 sherds of CBM with a weight of just over 61 kg (Table 16). This is nearly all from Roman material except for rare sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile.

CBM code	CBM type	no.	Weight (g)	MSW
<i>Roman</i>				
RT	Roman <i>tegula</i>	176	43,317	246
RI	Roman imbrex	29	4,233	146
RB	Roman brick	30	10,790	360
RFT	Roman flue tile	9	1,123	125

RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	26	1,225	47
Tess	Tesserae	2	70	35
	Baked clay	1	6	6
	Daub bricks	1	630	630
Post-Roman				
PT	Peg-tile	3	71	24
	Total	277	61,465	222

Table 16 Building material by period and type

CBM was recovered from fourteen features and one layer although pit F6 alone contained a large proportion of this material with 122 sherds with a weight of over 30 kg (Table 17). Modest assemblages of CBM were also recovered from pit F2, ditch F1, and pit F12 (Table 17).

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Ditch	24	6,016	251
F2	Pit	35	8,451	241
F6	Pit	122	30,423	249
F8	Ditch	7	1,138	163
F9	Pit	1	17	17
F10	Pit	8	854	107
F11	Ditch	4	642	161
F12	Pit	24	2,906	121
F14	Pit	9	2,620	291
F16	Ditch	2	40	20
F17	Pit	2	54	27
F20	Ditch	2	53	27
F21	Ditch	10	1,252	125
F22	Pit	1	48	48
L4	Accumulation layer	26	6,951	267
	Total	277	61,465	222

Table 17 Quantities of CBM by features and layers

Roman CBM

Roman CBM including brick, tegulae, imbrex, and box flue-tile was recovered from fourteen features and one layer (Table 18). A large proportion of this material came from pit F6, which contained 45% of the Roman CBM by sherd count and nearly 50% by weight. More modest sized assemblages of Roman CBM were recovered from pit F2, ditch F1 and pit F12 (Table 18).

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Ditch	24	6,016	251
F2	Pit	35	8,451	241
F6	Pit	122	30,423	249
F8	Ditch	7	1,138	163

F9	Pit	1	17	17
F10	Pit	8	854	107
F11	Ditch	4	642	161
F12	Pit	24	2,906	121
F14	Pit	9	2,620	291
F16	Ditch	1	25	25
F17	Pit	1	42	42
F20	Ditch	1	9	9
F21	Ditch	10	1,252	125
F22	Pit	1	48	48
L4	Accumulation layer	26	6,951	267
Total		274	61,394	224

Table 18 Quantities of Roman CBM by features and layers

An attempt was made to quantify the Roman CBM by recording the number of corners and the results are presented in Table 19.

CBM code	Type	No. of corners	MNI
RT	Tegula	17	4.25
RI	Imbrex	4	1
RB	Brick	1	0.25
RFT	Box flue-tile	0	0
Total		22	5.5

Table 19 Roman CBM quantification

Some of the Roman CBM (no. 59/6,093 gr.), including tegulae, imbrex, brick and box flue-tile, is found in a distinctive softer, smoother, micaceous beige-coloured fabric. A tegula from ditch F1 is marked with a signature or possibly a pre-firing graffito. One piece of tegula from pit F14 has been cut down into a rough triangular-shaped sherd. One piece of tegula from pit F6 (8) has a shallow ridge on the top of the flange. A final sherd of note is a curved piece of presumably imbrex (?) with a ribbed outer surface which came from pit F22. Alternatively, this sherd could be from a hollow ceramic tube, *tubuli lingulati*, used in the construction of vaulting during the later Roman period (Mason 1990) although the diameter of the piece appears to be too large.

Lower cut-aways (LCAs)

There were 21 tile LCAs mostly of type D15 (14 ex.), dating from AD 240 to AD 380 with occasional examples of types A2 and A26 (AD 160-260), and types C5 and C56 (AD 160-260) (Warry 2006, 63) (Table 20). It is worth noting that the earliest type A LCAs, dating to AD 40-120, are found alongside later LCAs of types C (AD 160-260) and D (AD 240-380) in pit F2 and pit F6. Several of the D15 LCAs the length of the cut-away on the underside (LD) is unusually long, in one example it is 58 mm, and these may represent later regional cutaways (AD 300>).

Context	Feature type	Lower cut away			
		A AD 40-120	B AD 100-180	C AD 160-260	D AD 240-380
F14	Pit	A26	-	-	-
F6	Pit	A2 (2)	-	C56	D15 (10)

		A26 (2)			
F2	Pit	-	-	C5	D15
F1	Ditch	-	-	-	D15
F8	Ditch	-	-	-	D15
F10	Pit	-	-	-	D15

Table 20 Details on the Roman tegulae LCAs

Roman box flue tile

There were nine sherds of box-flue tile with a weight of 1,123g. All of this material was combed and came from just two features: pit F2 and pit F6.

Baked-clay and daub

The pit F6 contained a large fragment (630g) of daub brick with dimensions of ? X 120 mm x 50 mm and with a convex top.

Post-Roman CBM

The post-Roman CBM consists of rare sherds of peg-tile which was recovered from three features: ditch F16, pit F17, and ditch F20.

6.1.4 Stone Building Material (SBM)

Three pieces of slate with a weight of 285g were recovered from pit F6, ditch F8, and pit F12. All of contexts appear to be Roman.

6.1.5 Conclusion

Table 21 provides a brief dating summary for the features which produced datable ceramic finds. Most of the features can be dated to the later Roman period and the 3rd to 4th centuries AD. Pit/treethrow F15 dates to the medieval period while a small number of features (F16, F17, F20) produced sherds of peg-tile dated to the medieval/post-medieval period.

Context	Prehistoric pottery	Roman pottery	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F1	-	CZ (Cam 407) GA (Cam 39A, 305B) GB (Cam 37A/38A, 40A) GX (Cam 37B/38B, 268) HAD RE2 (Cam 305B) WAM (KII)	-	RI RT (LCA D15) RB	AD 250-300
F2	-	GX (Cam 268)	-	RI RT (LCA A2, A26, C56, D15) RFT RB Slate	c AD 240-380
F6	-	GX (Cam 268, 299)	-	-	c AD 150-280/320
F7	-	GB (Cam 37B/38B) GX (Cam 268)	-	-	c AD 125/150-280/320
F8	-	CL GX (Cam 268) HD (Type 36) TZ (Cam 497)	-	RI RT (LCA D15) RB Slate	AD 325/350-425

F9	-	EA	-	RI	AD 225/250-425
F10	-	-	-	RT (LCA D15)	AD 240-380
F11	-	GX	-	RT RB	Roman
F12	-	BAEG (Drag.33) GA (Cam 39A, 305A) GB (Cam 37B/38B, 40B) HZ (Cam 270B) TZ (Cam 195B/C)	-	RI RT RB Slate	c AD 275-300/325
F14	HMF	BAET (DR20) TZ (Cam 501A/501B)	-	RI RT (LCA A26) RB	Roman
F15	HMF	-	F21	-	AD 1200-1550
F16	-	-	-	TESS PT	Medieval / post-medieval
F17	HMF	DJ GB GX	-	RT PT	Medieval / post-medieval
F19	-	GX	-	-	Roman
F20	-	-	-	RBT PT	Medieval / post-medieval
F21	-	CZ (Cam 407) GA (Cam 305A) GB (Cam 40B, 278) GX (Cam 268)	-	RI RT RB	AD 250/275-300/325
F22	-	-	-	RI	Roman
L4	-	GX	-	RI RT RB	Post-medieval

Table 21 Approximate dates for the individual features

6.2 Metal small finds and nails (Fig 5)

by Laura Pooley

Five metal small finds came from accumulation layer L4 (SF1-SF5). The earliest small find from this context was a virtually illegible 4th-century Roman nummus (SF2). A gilt copper-alloy spur buckle (SF1) with loop and integral plate dates from c 1250-1500 and would have been used to secure the spur leathers on the outside of the foot (Whitehead 1996, Chapter 3). The buckle frame is oval and the plate consists of two transverse ridges behind the strap bar, one of which includes a central rivet hole, with the remainder of the plate tapering slightly and terminating in two angled/forked knobs (Fig 5). An incomplete and illegible copper-alloy coin (SF3) is probably post-medieval, dating from the 17th century onwards. The remaining two small finds were a 19th- to 20th-century button (SF4), which was possibly intrusive in this context, and nine fragments of scrap lead (SF5).

An additional four metal small finds were metal-detected from spoil heaps (SF6-SF9). A small domed copper-alloy thimble (SF7) dating from c 1730-1800 was probably made for a child (Read 2018, 67). A flat, plain copper-alloy (possibly tombac) button (SF8) with raised soldered cone for the loop is probably also of 18th-century date (Bailey

2016, 40). A half penny of George VI (SF9) is dated 1950 and an iron fitting (SF6) is also modern.

Eight iron nails and a hobnail were also recovered from four Roman contexts (F1, F11, F12 and F21). Where possible to determine the nails all had square-sectioned shanks and flat, round or slightly oval heads and are of Manning (1985) Type 1b, although the nail from F1 sx3 (20) is much larger than the rest.

A full catalogue can be found in Appendix 4.

6.3 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of septaria (610g) came from F6 (finds no. 8) and a piece of coal/coke (17g) from F20 (finds no. 30). Both have been discarded.

7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction

Four samples were presented for assessment (see table 1 below). Samples <6> and <8> were charcoal grab samples and samples <5> and <7> were flots.

Sample no.	Feature no.	Feature type	Date	Sample volume (L.)
5	F12	Pit (mid to upper fill)	Roman 3rd century	50
6	F1 sx2	Ditch	Roman mid/late 3rd century	40
7	F21 sx2	Ditch	Roman mid 3rd – early 4th century	40
8	F14	pit	Roman	NA

Table 22 Sample details

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the samples, consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

Sampling and processing methods

Samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust (see table 1, Appendix). All samples were processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter.

At this stage, to allow comparison between samples, numbers have also been estimated but where only a very low number of items are present they have been counted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been separate from charred wood flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman, 1988, 178-

179). Charred wood flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

Results

All samples contained charcoal fragments larger than 4mmØ that are suitable for identification. An examination of the transverse section of small sample of these fragments under low-powered magnification revealed some oak (*Quercus* sp.) and some diffuse porous fragments. Taxa with diffuse porous pore distribution tend to be from short-lived trees that are suitable for radiocarbon dating, but all of the features contained closely-dated finds. No other plant macro-remains were in the flots.

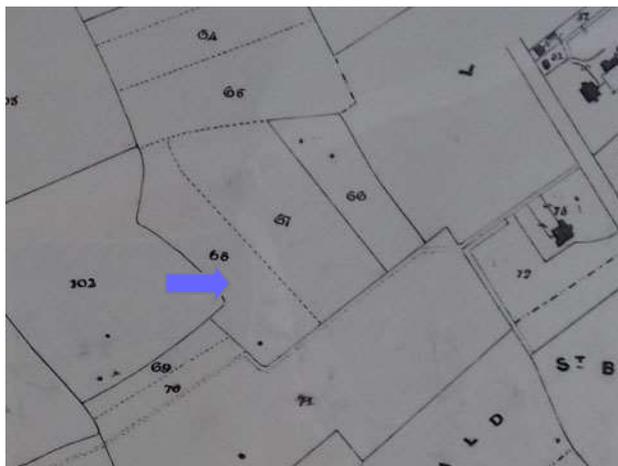
8 Discussion

As previous archaeological investigations have established, Colchester County High School for Girls lies in an area rich in archaeological remains dating to the Roman period. In 1939, approximately 120m northwest of the present site, a curved ditch thought to form part of an early Roman fort was excavated. Further excavations were carried out during the 1950s in advance of the construction of the school. In 1955, R.J. Martin recorded the presence of a 'triple-ditched dyke' within the footprint of the school, and a 2nd-century ditch and pit, as well as a series of postholes, were excavated immediately to the south. The following year, further excavations conducted by John Wachter to the east of the current site revealed an E-W aligned palisaded ditch thought to be Roman in date, to the south of which lay the remains of a wattle-and-daub structure and two gullies, one of which was cut by a pit which contained a substantial amount of mid/late 2nd-century pottery and domestic waste including oyster shell and charcoal. Wachter thus observed that 'The site appears to have been occupied only sparsely for comparatively short times during the Roman period, with what structures there were being entirely of wood. It would probably be related to an agricultural economy and might represent the outbuildings of a villa.' (CAR 11, 126). Archaeological work conducted around the school by CAT in recent years has tended to support this view. During the previous two decades, a number of evaluations and watching briefs have been carried out in areas to the west and south of the present site. Scattered pits and ditches were recorded but a paucity of finds meant that the majority could not be dated. One ditch was identified as having its origins in the 1st century, however, and one ditch was identified as being 2nd-century in date.

Excavations at the current site instead revealed a more concentrated area of Roman features: six ditches and nine pits. These features yielded a large pottery assemblage of 263 sherds weighing 10kg. These included sherds of a wine amphora and a mortarium and, in contrast to previous investigations, instead located the primary period of activity here in the 3rd and 4th centuries. A similarly substantial assemblage of Roman CBM was recovered, amounting to 277 sherds with a weight of 61kg. While the 3rd and 4th centuries were a period during which extra-mural settlement around the town was thought to have declined (Crummy 1997, 118), this cluster of features, pottery and CBM indicates that a Roman farmstead or villa stood in the vicinity of the site during this period. Nearly half of this material was retrieved from pit F6, towards the southeast corner of the site, suggesting that the putative settlement may be located somewhere in this direction. It was noted that the palisade trench uncovered to the east in 1956 faced northwards, and thus it is possible that this feature and the wattle-and-daub structure which was excavated at the same time formed part of this settlement.

These investigations indicate, then, that rather than being sparsely occupied during the Roman period, the area witnessed two distinct phases of activity during these years. The first took place during the 1st and 2nd centuries, when the site appears to have formed part of an agricultural field system, as evidenced by the numerous ditches and gullies, although the large amount of domestic refuse within the 2nd-century pit excavated to the east of the site in 1956 suggests that some form of settlement may

have been located nearby. By the mid to late Roman period, these ditches had been backfilled, indicating that agricultural activity at the site may have ceased for some time. A second phase of activity occurred in the 3rd and 4th centuries. Again, a series of ditches dating to this period indicates that agriculture had resumed here by this point. A cluster of pits, however, and the large quantity of domestic waste and building materials recovered during excavations suggest that by this time a farmstead or villa had been constructed in the vicinity. The arrangement of the ditches uncovered within the excavation area is somewhat puzzling, however, and further work is required here to give a better sense of the organisation of this field system.



Map 1 Extract from tithe map (1842). The approximate location of the current site is indicated by the blue arrow

A small number of features yielded modest amounts of medieval or post-medieval pottery. Recent work around the school has revealed a scatter of post-medieval features which were thought to have been the product of agricultural activity at the site in the 17th and 18th centuries, during which it lay within a field (see Map 1 below). The features uncovered during this investigation may form part of this phase of activity. It is possible, however, that they are earlier in date. One of these, ditch F20, appears to represent a continuation of the ditch recorded during the evaluation carried out to the west of the site in 2016. This feature was originally thought to have been 2nd-century in date, but it now appears that it has its origins in a later period and that the pottery recovered from it in 2016 was residual.

Some sherds of late prehistoric pottery were also recovered during the excavation. While they could not be closely-dated due to their small number and the absence of diagnostic sherds, they likely originated from the period from the Late Bronze Age to the Early or Middle Iron Age, and attest to some level of activity in the vicinity during this period.

9 Acknowledgements

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11 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
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
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
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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
ws	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: Two boxes (ceramics and metalwork)

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1507)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)
Site digital photos and log

13 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 project ref. ECC4406.

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Distribution list:

Lyndon Hopkins
Colchester County High School for Girls
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 15.04.2020

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Soft, dry, medium yellow/grey/brown silty-loam with charcoal flecks and 5% stones	Modern
L2	-	Hoggin	Hard, dry orange sand	Modern
L3	-	Build-up layer	Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 20% stones	Modern
L4	-	Accumulation layer	Firm, most medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Post-medieval
L5	-	Natural	Firm, moist orange/grey sandy-silt	Post-glacial
Evaluation				
F1	1, 2	Ditch	Firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Roman (mid / late 3rd century)
F2	3, 4	Pit	Soft/friable, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks, CBM flecks and 15% CBM fragments	Roman (4th century)
F3	5	?Pit	Soft/friable, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F4	6, 7	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks	Roman (mid 2nd – early 3rd century)
Excavation				
F5	-	Gully	Loose/soft ,moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 25% gravel and 25% stone	Undatable
F6	8, 9	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with daub and CBM flecks and 25% stones	Roman (mid 2nd – early 4th century)
F7	10	Ditch	Loose/soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 50% stones	Roman (early 4th century)
F8	11, 15, 22	Ditch	Soft, moist/wet medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 20% stones	Roman (early 4th century)
F9	12	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 50% stones	Roman / post-Roman (early 3rd – early 5th century)
F10	14	Pit	Soft, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with CBM flecks and 50% gravel	Roman (4th century)
F11	17, 19, 23, 33	Ditch	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silt with 25% stones	Roman (early 4th century)
F12	18	Pit	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks and 25% stones	Roman (late 3rd – early 4th century)
F13	-	Ditch	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Roman (late 3rd century at latest)
F14	25	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 5% stones	Roman
F15	26	Pit / treethrow	Firm, moist medium sandy silty-clay	13th – mid 16th century
F16	27	Ditch	Soft moist medium grey/brown silty-sand	Medieval / post-medieval

F17	29	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-sand with 30% stones	Medieval / post-medieval
F18	-	Pit / natural feature	Soft, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Post-medieval at latest
F19	31	Pit / natural feature	Soft/friable, moist medium grey/brown silty-sand with 30% stones	Roman
F20	30	Ditch	Soft moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Medieval / post-medieval
F21	24, 32	Ditch	Soft, moist/wet medium/dark grey/brown silty-sand with charcoal flecks and 10% stones	Roman (early 4th century)
F22	35	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Roman

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Nr	Wg	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Decoration	STAMP	GRAF Pre-F	GRAF Post-F	Wind Int	Wind Ex	Soot Int	Soot Ex	Burn Int	Burn Ext	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Wear (modif)	Impact/out mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
F01	Linear	21	4	116	29		3	0	0																			GA	Cam 305A	0.12	260		AD 275-425	
F01	Linear	21								AL																		GA	Cam 39A	0.12	230		AD 140-400	
F01	Linear	21	4	54	14																						GX					Roman		
F01	Linear	21	2	61	31		2	0	0																		GB	Cam 37A/38A	0.15	190		AD 110-180/220		
F01	Linear	21	1	29	29		1	0	0									X	X								GX	Cam 37B/38B	0.05	320		AD 180-275		
F01	Linear	21	1	298	298		0	1	0																		WAM	Kapitan II			upper part of peaked handle	AD 200-400		
F01	Linear	34	5	52	10																						GX					Roman		
F01	Linear	34	2	43	22														X								GX					Roman		
F01	Linear	34	1	284	284		1	0	0													X					GB	Cam 40A	0.38	190		AD 110-275		
F01	Linear	34	13	250	19		3	0	0								X										GX	Cam 268	1.00	130		AD 125/150-280/320		
F01	Linear	34	3	25	8																						GX					Roman		
F01	Linear	34	1	20	20														X								GX					Roman		
F01	Linear	34	1	314	314		0	0	1										X								GX					Roman		
F01	Linear	36	1	185	185													X	X								BAET	DR20				Roman		
F01	Linear	36	1	2	2																						GA					AD 110/125-350/400		
F01	Linear	36	2	19	10																						GX					Roman		

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Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Nr	Wg	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Decoration	STAMP	GRAF Pre-F	GRAF Post-F	Wind Int	Wind Ex	Soot Int	Soot Ex	Burn Int	Burn Ext	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Wear (modif)	Impact/cut mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grip	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
F01	Linear	36	1	3	3		1	0	0													X						CZ	Cam 407	0.22	85	Lost most of colour-coating	AD 225-400	
F01	Linear	36	1	2	2																						CH						AD 250/275-425	
F01	Linear	36	1	9	9																						DJ						Roman	
F01	Linear	36	4	345	86		4	0	0									X	X								GA	Cam 305A	0.43	270			AD 275-425	
F01	Linear	36	1	93	93		0	0	1																		GX				complete base	Roman		
F01	Linear	36	1	12	12		1	0	0																		HAD RE2	Cam 305B	0.05	210			AD 275-425	
F02	Pit	16	1	20	20		1	0	0																		GX	Cam 268	0.12	170			AD 125/150-280/320	
F06	Pit	8	1	209	209																						BAET	DR20			Thinner-walled	Roman		
F06	Pit	8	1	16	16		1	0	0																		GX	Cam 268	0.09	160			AD 125/150-280/320	
F06	Pit	8	1	25	25		1	0	0							X											GX	Cam 299	0.09	160			AD 140-400	
F06	Pit	8	2	9	5																						GX						Roman	
F06	Pit	8	1	6	6		0	0	1																		KX						AD 125-300	
F06	Pit	9	1	7	7																						DJ						Roman	
F07	Ditch	10	2	58	29		1	0	0																		GX	Cam 268	0.26	140			AD 125/150-280/320	
F07	Ditch	10	1	24	24		1	0	0																		GB	Cam 37B/38B	0.10	220			AD 125/150-280/320	
F08	Ditch	11	1	3	3					ROUL																	CL						AD 200-300	
F08	Ditch	11	3	15	5																						GX						Roman	
F08	Ditch	11	5	73	15		5	0	0						X	X											HD	Type 36	0.61	130	CAR 10, 461 fig. 6.112.56		AD 325/350-425	
F08	Ditch	11	4	15	4																						HD				voids, soft,		AD 325/350-	

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Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Nr	Wg	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Decoration	STAMP	GRAF Pre-F	GRAF Post-F	Wind Int	Wind Ex	Soot Int	Soot Ex	Burn Int	Burn Ext	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Wear (modif)	Impact/cut mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grip	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
																																smooth surface	425	
F08	Ditch	15	1	66	66																							BAET	DR20				Roman	
F08	Ditch	22	8	108 6	136		4	0	1		X							X										TZ	Cam 497	1.00	250	Herringbone-type stamp x 2	AD 130-170	
F08	Ditch	22	21	206	10		2	0	0						X												GX	Cam 268	0.36	130		AD 125/150-280/320		
F08	Ditch	22	4	64	16		0	0	4																		GX					Roman		
F09	Pit	12	1	3	3																						EA					AD 225/250-425		
F11	Linear	23	1	1	1																						GX					Roman		
F11	Linear	33	15	339	23																						GX					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	2	5	3											X											GX					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	5	82	16		0	0	5			X															GB					AD 110/130-300		
F12	Pit	18	1	27	27		1	0	0																		GB	Cam 40B	0.12	200		AD 110-275		
F12	Pit	18	1	334	334																						HZ					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	2	17	9		0	0	2																		GB					AD 110/130-300		
F12	Pit	18	1	54	54																						BAET	DR20				Roman		
F12	Pit	18	6	19	3																						GX					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	2	55	28		0	0	2									X									GX					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	1	17	17												X	X									GB					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	2	840	420																						BAET	DR20					Roman	
F12	Pit	18	1	31	31																						NARB					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	2	45	23		2	0	0	AL																	GA	Cam 39A	0.10	210		AD 140-400		
F12	Pit	18	1	43	43		1	0	0																		GB	Cam 37B/38B	0.08	300		AD 180-275		
F12	Pit	18	6	72	12		0	0	2																		GX					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	1	4	4											X											GX					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	1	9	9		0	0	1			X															GB				symbol	AD 110/130-		

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Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Nr	Wg	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Decoration	STAMP	GRAF Pre-F	GRAF Post-F	Wind Int	Wind Ex	Soot Int	Soot Ex	Burn Int	Burn Ext	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Wear (modif)	Impact/cut mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grip	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
																																		300
F12	Pit	18	1	19	19		0	0	1									X	X									GX						Roman
F12	Pit	18	1	65	65		1	0	0																			TZ	?	0.07	?		Roman	
F12	Pit	18	2	21	11		1	0	0	AL																	GA	Cam 39A	0.04	210		AD 140-400		
F12	Pit	18	5	29	6																						GX					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	1	19	19		1	0	0													X					BAEG	Drag.33	0.06	150		AD 150-250		
F12	Pit	18	1	593	593																						BAET	DR20				Roman		
F12	Pit	18	1	24	24		1	0	0	AL						X	X										GA	Cam 39A	0.09	190		AD 140-400		
F12	Pit	18	2	24	12												X										GX					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	1	232	232																						BAET	DR20				Roman		
F12	Pit	18	1	188	188		1	0	0																		TZ	Cam 195B/C	0.14	300	Grits int., soft, orange, yellow surf, white, orange & yellow nods	Roman		
F12	Pit	18	1	5	5																						GX					Roman		
F12	Pit	18	1	5	5																						GB					AD 110/130-300		
F12	Pit	?	1	76	76		1	0	0																		HZ	Cam 270B	0.20	155		Roman		
F12	Pit	?	1	22	22		1	0	0																		GB	Cam 305A	2	?		AD 275-425		
F14	Pit	25	1	538	538		0	1	0			X															BAET	DR20			3 linear marks cut on handle	Roman		
F14	Pit	25	1	193	193		1	0	0																		TZ	Cam 501A/501 B	0.07	300		Roman		
F14	Pit	25	1	5	5																						HMF					Prehistoric		
F15	Pit / treethrow	26	3	4	1																						HMF				black core, brown surface	Prehistoric		
F15	Pit / treethrow	26	1	6	6					COP																	F21					1200-1550		
F17	Pit	29	2	5	3																						GB					AD 110/130-300		

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Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Nr	Wg	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Decoration	STAMP	GRAF Pre-F	GRAF Post-F	Wind Int	Wind Ex	Soot Int	Soot Ex	Burn Int	Burn Ext	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Wear (modif)	Impact/cut mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grip	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
F17	Pit	29	1	2	2																							GX					Roman	
F17	Pit	29	1	1	1																							DJ					Roman	
F17	Pit	29	1	1	1																							HMF					Prehistoric	
F19	Natural feature	31	1	5	5																							GX					Roman	
F21	Linear	24	3	39	13																							GX					Roman	
F21	Linear	24	1	4	4			0	0	1																		BACG					Roman	
F21	Linear	32	1	212	212			0	1	0																		BAET	DR20				Roman	
F21	Linear	32	1	3	3								X			X												GX					Roman	
F21	Linear	32	11	100	9			1	0	1	PINF									X								CZ	Cam 407	0.07	80		AD 225-400	
F21	Linear	32	1	6	6																X							DJ					Roman	
F21	Linear	32	8	138	17			2	0	0															X			GX	Cam 268	0.43	105	irregular disc (?) 49 mm diam.	Roman	
F21	Linear	32	17	294	17			4	0	0	ARCS																	GA	Cam 305A	0.35	240		AD 275-425	
F21	Linear	32	2	66	33			0	0	1																		GX					Roman	
F21	Linear	32	1	6	6														X									GX					Roman	
F21	Linear	32	1	8	8			1	0	0						X												GX	Cam 268	0.08	120		AD 125/150-280/320	
F21	Linear	32	4	46	12			4	0	0																		GB	Cam 40B	0.07	210		AD 110-275	
F21	Linear	32																										GB	Cam 40B	0.04	150		AD 110-275	
F21	Linear	32																										GB	Cam 40B	0.03	200		AD 110-275	
F21	Linear	32																										GB	Cam 40B	0.04	180		AD 110-275	
F21	Linear	32	2	30	15			2	0	0						X												GB	Cam 278	0.23	150		AD 117-250/260	
F21	Linear	32	4	28	7			0	0	1																		GX					Roman	
F21	Linear	32	3	8	3																							GB					AD 110/130-300	
F21	Linear	32	1	4	4			1	0	0						X												GB	Cam 278	0.02	?		AD 117-250/260	

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Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Nr	Wg	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Decoration	STAMP	GRAF Pre-F	GRAF Post-F	Wind Int	Wind Ex	Soot Int	Soot Ex	Burn Int	Burn Ext	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Wear (modif)	Impact/cut mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grip	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date	
F21	Linear	32	7	38	5																														Roman
L04	subsoil	13	1	98	98		0	0	1																										Roman

Appendix 4 Catalogue of metal small finds and nails

SF	Context	Find no.	Object type	Description	Qt.	Wt. g	Length mm	Width mm	Thickness mm	Diameter mm	Date	
1	L4	37	Buckle	Virtually complete, gilt copper-alloy, medieval spur buckle with loop and integral plate, c 1250-1500 (Whitehead 1996, Chapter 3). The buckle frame is oval in shape with approximately half of the pin missing. The plate consists of two transverse ridges behind the strap bar, one of which includes a central rivet hole. The remainder of the plate tapers slightly and terminates in two angled/forked knobs.	1	1.9	33.1	12.5	2.4		Medieval, c 1250-1500	
2	L4	38	Coin	Roman copper-alloy coin, incomplete, probably a 4th century nummus but in very poor condition. Obverse: Bust, possibly facing right. Reverse: Figure standing left with what looks like another figure at its feet. Probably a FEL TEMP REPARATIO ('fallen horseman') type with a man and horse beneath a soldier. Die axis: 9	1	1.3	14	11.4			Roman, 4th century	
3	L4	39	Coin	Incomplete copper-alloy coin, illegible, probably post-medieval (17th century onwards)	1	0.8				15.6	Post-medieval (17th century onwards)	
4	L4	40	Button	Complete copper-alloy button, flat with domed centre through which are two fixing holes	1	1.2				16.2	Modern, 19th-20th century	
5	L4	41	Scrap	Nine fragments of scrap lead	9	73.1					Undated	
6	U/S	28	Fitting	Iron object, oval block with thumb-shaped socketed projection at one end. Both the block (central) and the projection (at the rounded tip) include a perforated holes. X-ray confirms it is of modern manufacture.	1	83.9	53.4	49.5	31.9		Modern, probably 20th century	
7	U/S	42	Thimble	Complete copper-alloy domed thimble, c 1730-1800, probably for a child. Thimble has a basal lateral rim and is decorated with mechanically knurled circular pits over the sides and block die-punched lozenge-shaped pits on the crown. Dutch or English manufacture (Read 2018, 67).	1	1.8	12.7				12.8	Post-medieval, c 1730-1800
8	U/S	42	Button	Almost complete copper-alloy (possibly tombac) button. Button is flat and plain, has a raised soldered cone on the back from which the incomplete loop protrudes.	1	2.0	7.4				17.9	Post-medieval, 18th century
9	U/S	42	Coin	1950 Halfpenny of George V. Obverse: bust left, bare-headed, GEORGIVS VI D G BR OMN REX FIDEI DEF . Reverse: Three-masted ship (Sir Francis Drake's Golden Hind) sailing left, HALF PENNY / 1950	1	5.6					25.4	Modern, 1950
	F1 sx3	20	Nail	Large iron nail, incomplete with lower shank and tip missing, square-sectioned shank, flat round head (c 24.5mm diameter), large Manning Type 1b.	1	49.9	73.8					Roman
	F11 sx3	23	Nail	Incomplete iron nail with tip missing, square-sectioned shank, flat oval head (c 20.0mm by 17.5mm), Manning Type 1b.	1	11.5	34.9					Roman
	F12	18	Nails	1) Complete iron nail, square-sectioned shank clenched at 45° close to the tip, flat oval head (c 15.3mm by 14.3mm), Manning Type 1b. 2) Complete iron nail, square-sectioned shank clenched midway at 45° close to the tip, flat oval head (c 16.5mm by 15.9mm), Manning Type 1b. 3) Incomplete iron nail with most of shank missing, square-sectioned shank, probable round head but largely obscured within corrosion, Manning Type 1b.	1 1 1	10.6 16.5 7.1	53.3 48.3 26.6					Roman

SF	Context	Find no.	Object type	Description	Qt.	Wt. g	Length mm	Width mm	Thickness mm	Diameter mm	Date
	F21 sx1	32	Nail Hobnail	Square-sectioned shank. Complete iron hobnail.	1 1	16.0 4.4	42.9 20.3				Roman
	F21 sx2	24	Nail	1) Square-sectioned shank in two joining pieces. 2) Almost complete iron nail with tip missing, square-sectioned shank clenched midway at 45°, flat round head (c 16.7mm diameter), Manning Type 1b.	1 1	19.6 11.3	63.2 51.7				Roman

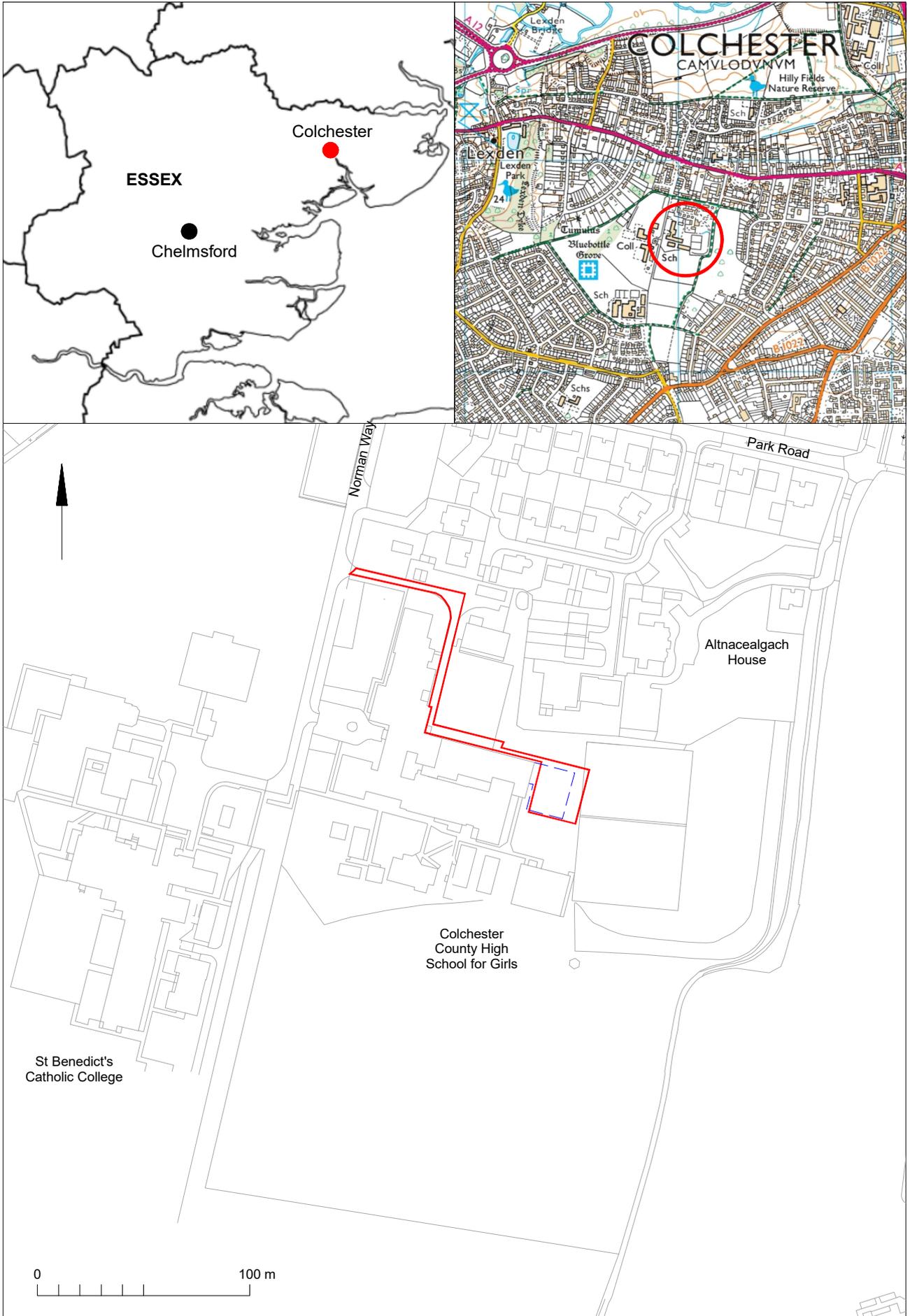


Fig 1 Site location.

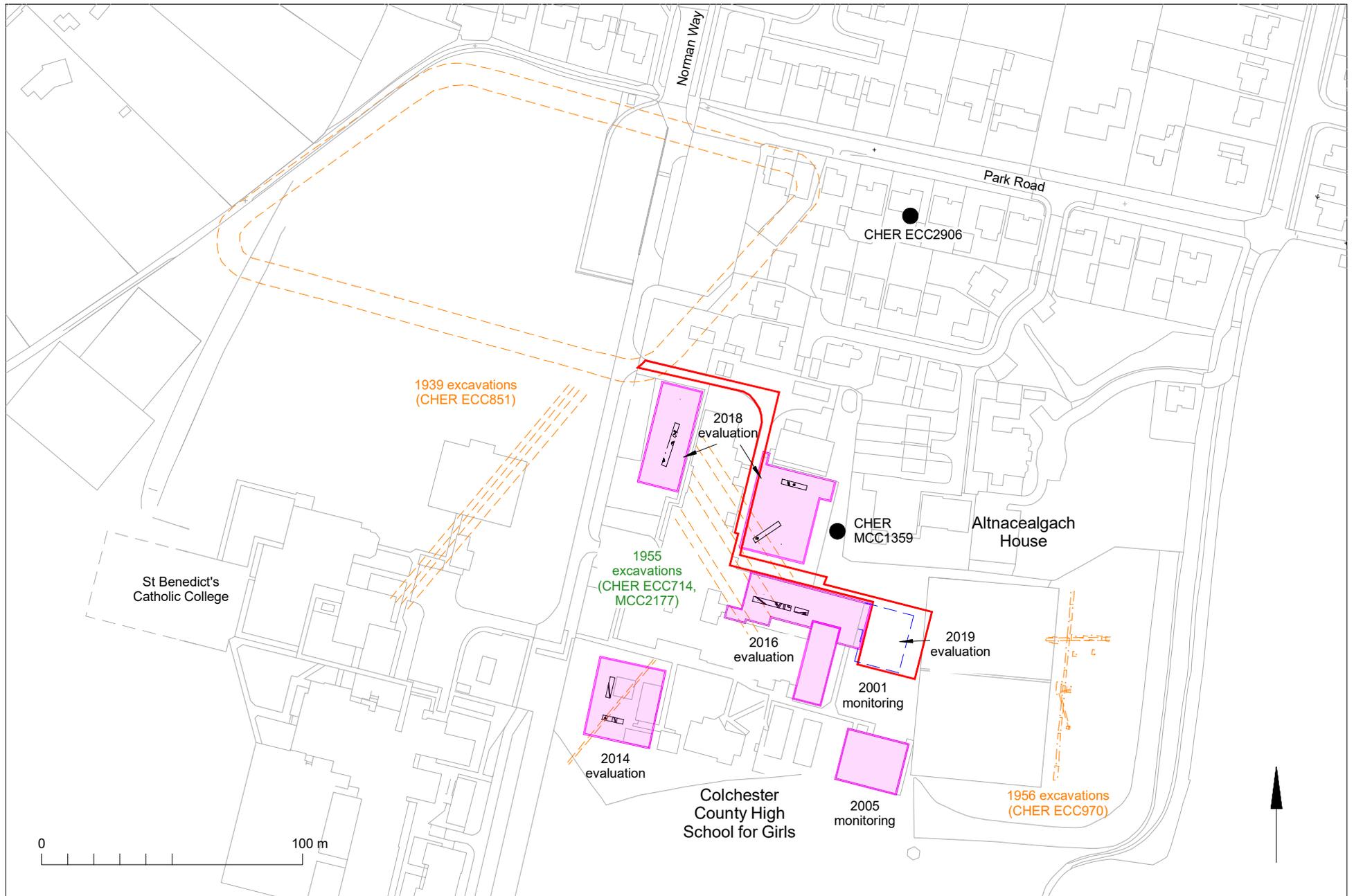


Fig 2 Site location (dashed blue lines) in relation to previous archaeological work.



Fig 3 Phased excavation results (2019 evaluation in grey).

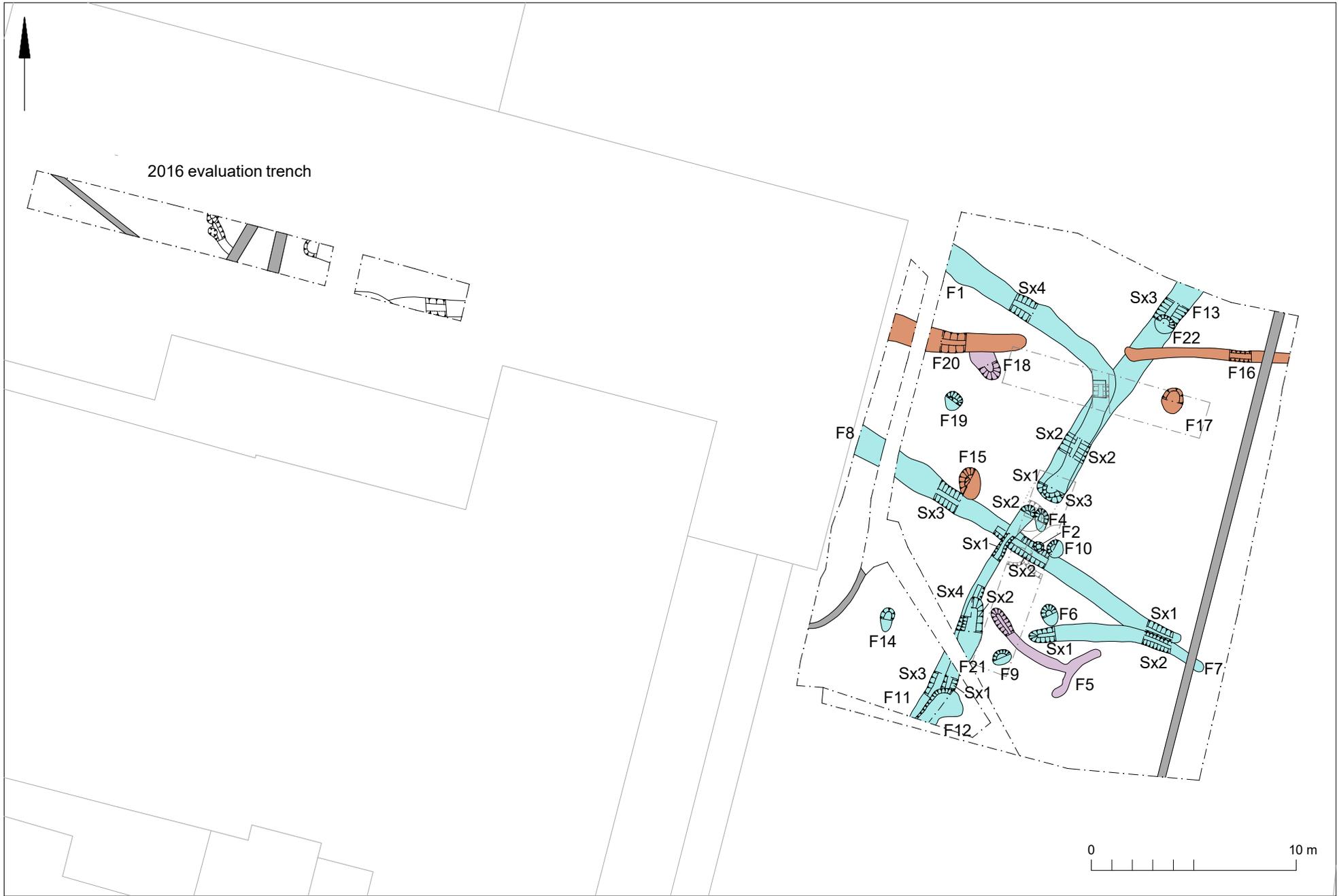


Fig 4 Excavation results in relation to 2016 evaluation results.

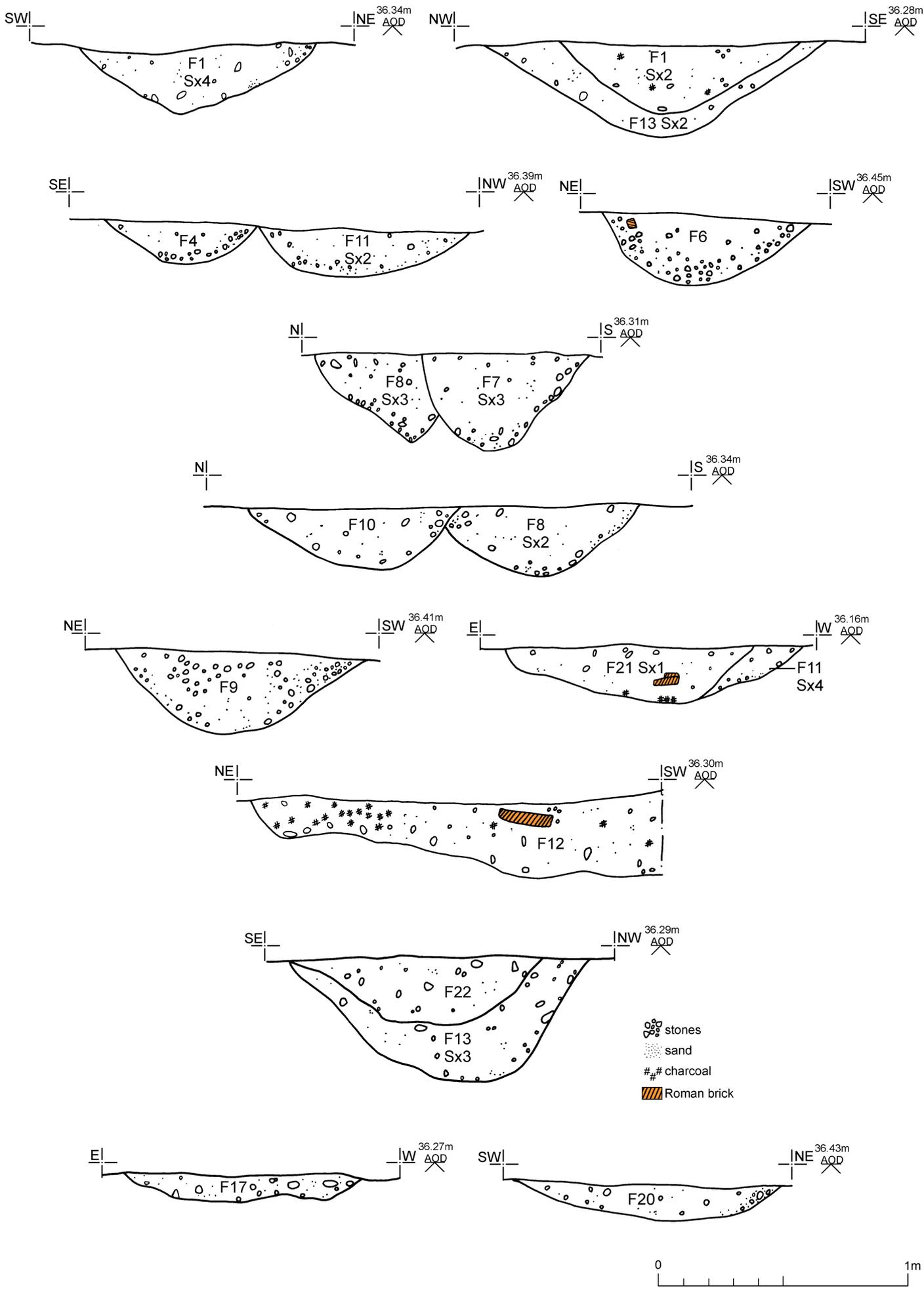


Fig 5 Feature sections.



Fig 6 SF1 medieval buckle.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9803 2462 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 19/10i CHER ref: ECC4406 OASIS ref: colchest3-374474
Type of work: Excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 2nd-9th December 2019	Size of area investigated: 0.11 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC1356, MCC2064, MCC2065, MCC2173, MCC2177, MCC3091, MCC7523, MCC7525, MCC7526, MCC7527, MCC7528, MCC7529, MCC7647, MCC7676, MCC8175; ECC714, ECC851, ECC970
Final report: CAT Report 1507	
Periods represented: Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological excavation (following an evaluation) was carried out at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new school building. Previous excavations in the area have uncovered a palisade trench of probable Roman date, a Roman wattle-and-daub structure and scattered pits and ditches, some of which were dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries. These excavations uncovered a cluster of ditches and pits which yielded a considerable quantity of pottery indicating the 3rd and 4th centuries as the primary phase of activity at the site, and suggesting that the remains of a mid to late Roman villa or farmstead lie nearby.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 1449	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: **
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: April 2020

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for an archaeological excavation at Colchester
County High School for Girls, Norman Way,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US.**

NGR: TL 9803 2462 (centre)

Planning reference: 191369

Commissioned by: Lyndon Hopkins
On behalf of: Colchester County High School for Girls

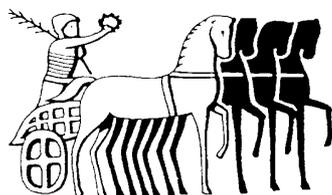
Curating museum: Colchester
CHER project code: ECC4406

CAT project code: 2019/10i
Oasis project ID: colchest3-374474

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 21/11/2019 (revised)



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.7km east of Colchester town centre (Fig 1). It lies within the grounds of the Colchester County High School for Girls and is currently in use as a grassed area. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9803 2462.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a new school building and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background (Fig 1)

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

The development site is located within the grounds of Colchester County High School for Girls, a purpose-built complex of buildings opened in 1957 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 (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 (MCC7676) and a trial-trench evaluation on a site south of Park Road in 2006 defined Roman occupation remains, including two cremation burials (MCC3091, ECC FAU report 1711). The school lies some 425m east of Lexden Tumulus (MCC1356 & MCC7523) an Iron Age barrow excavated in 1924 which produced a rich Belgic burial with the remains of funerary bronze, gold and silver objects and a coin with the head of Augustus mounted as a medallion. 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 (ECC851 and MCC2173). The same excavations revealed two parallel ditches, thought by Hull to represent an annexe lying to the south of this fort (Hull 1958, 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 (CAT Report 1000, 96/2b). 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 (ECC714, 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 (ECC970, MCC8175 and MCC2064-5, 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 2001 on an extension to the school revealed no trace of the ditches of the triple dyke seen in 1955 (CAT Report 155). A further watching brief in 2005 for

a new music and careers block recorded four undatable 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 late 1st century AD (CAT Report 762). The ditch was aligned parallel to the ditches seen in the 1939 excavations (i.e. 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 north-east to south-west (CAT Report 975). This was recorded along with five modern and two natural features. Another evaluation in January 2018 in advance of the construction of a multi-functional hall and two additional car parks (CAT Report 1211). Three undated pits, two post-Roman pits and two natural features were recorded.

CAT carried out an evaluation in the pre-planning development stage of the currently proposed building (CAT Report 1449). Four features – three pits and a ditch – were recorded. They originated from the period from the mid 2nd to the 4th century, and one was undatable. Finds recovered included a small collection of Roman pottery of both fine and coarse wares, Roman tile included tegula with cut-aways alongside box flue tile fragments. Of particular note was a small piece of decorated ceramic building material thought to be a fragment of Roman antefix.

Planning background

Pre-planning consultation with the CBCAA resulted in the initial recommendation of a trial-trenched evaluation within the area of the proposed new school building, which CAT completed in July 2019. A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 2019 (191369) proposing a *two storey building to accommodate art classrooms, library and staff offices along with amenities. Proposed building adjacent to existing two storey class base area and connected at first floor to provide through route to library.* Pending the results of the evaluation a new brief was issued requiring an excavation phase.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological evaluation was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological work is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work (Fig 1-2)

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological excavation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Specifically,

The archaeological work will comprise the full excavation of the area of the new building covering an area of 414m².

If unusual, significant or unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. Amendments to the brief, and this WSI, may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

General methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its

- Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a, 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 2019).

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 unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor for one day followed by one supervisor and three archaeologists for seven days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Mark Baister

Excavation 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 by archaeologists.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. 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, and only then after discussion with the CBCAA, will it be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be

used on complex stratigraphy.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all areas of the strip and map both before and during excavation. All features and spoil heaps will be scanned and finds recovered. CAT senior site staff Mark Baister and Ben Holloway who have both been trained in the use of metal-detectors and used them for more than five years. CAT also works in partnership with Geoff Lunn as a metal-detecting advisor. Geoff has over four years experience detecting and has worked with CAT to recover finds from recent excavations including the Mercury Theatre site in Colchester, and who has also worked with the Colchester Archaeological Group, Suffolk Archaeology, Access Cambridge Archaeology, The Citizen Project (MOLA) and others.

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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. A representative section will be drawn to include ground level and the depth of machining. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

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 excavation area 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 micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

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. CAT staff will process samples (unless of a complex nature) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for reporting.

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

Provision will be included (where necessary) for column or core samples to be taken, for the assessment and/or full analysis of those samples, and for absolute dating of the sequence.

Provision will also be made (where necessary) for the identification and absolute dating of suitable deposits of charred remains. Should VF/LG make a recommendation that suitable samples not datable by other means (ie associated finds) be submitted for absolute dating, then these samples will be sent to the SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory at Glasgow University for analysis.

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

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the excavation.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the excavation, 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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be supplied as both a jpeg and in raw uncompressed format (TIFF), with metadata will be embedded into the raw file as per HE guidelines (HE 2015a).

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

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
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
flints: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Robin Mathieson

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
project osteologist (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 (MOLA)
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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis. This can include soil micromorphological assessment, absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice on this.

Post-excavation assessment

Once fieldwork has finished the need for a post-excavation assessment will be discussed and agreed with CBCAA. This may include discussion as to whether there is a need for and extent of radiocarbon dating of appropriate contexts and/or further detailed scientific analysis of other aspects of the project.

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA. It will be a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological value and significance of the results, and will identify the research potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework. It will include an Updated Project Design, with a timetable, for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition. This will include an inventory of the archive and any statement of retention and discard strategy based on specialist advice. CAT has a non-site specific finds retention strategy approved by Colchester Museum (CAT 2016).

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

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 (HE 2015b).

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 inventory of the archive and any statement of retention and discard strategy based on specialist advice. CAT has a non-site specific finds retention strategy approved by Colchester Museum (CAT 2016).

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 or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

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.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) is updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. Staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works alongside the Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club. CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785. Where possible, if there are positive results CAT will liaise with the school to allow for site visit(s) and/or talks from staff.

References

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

Brown, D	2011 (2 nd Ed.)	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II, by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Colchester Archaeological Trust Finds Retention Policy.</i> By S Benfield
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>miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997).</i> By H Brooks
CAT Report 1211	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex – January 2018</i>
CAT Report 1449	2019	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex – July 2019.</i> By E Hicks
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Excavation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, CO3 3US.</i> By J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<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
Foster, J	1986	<i>The Lexden Tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex, BAR, British Series, 156</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hull, MR	1957	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East</i>

MHCLG

2019

of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway



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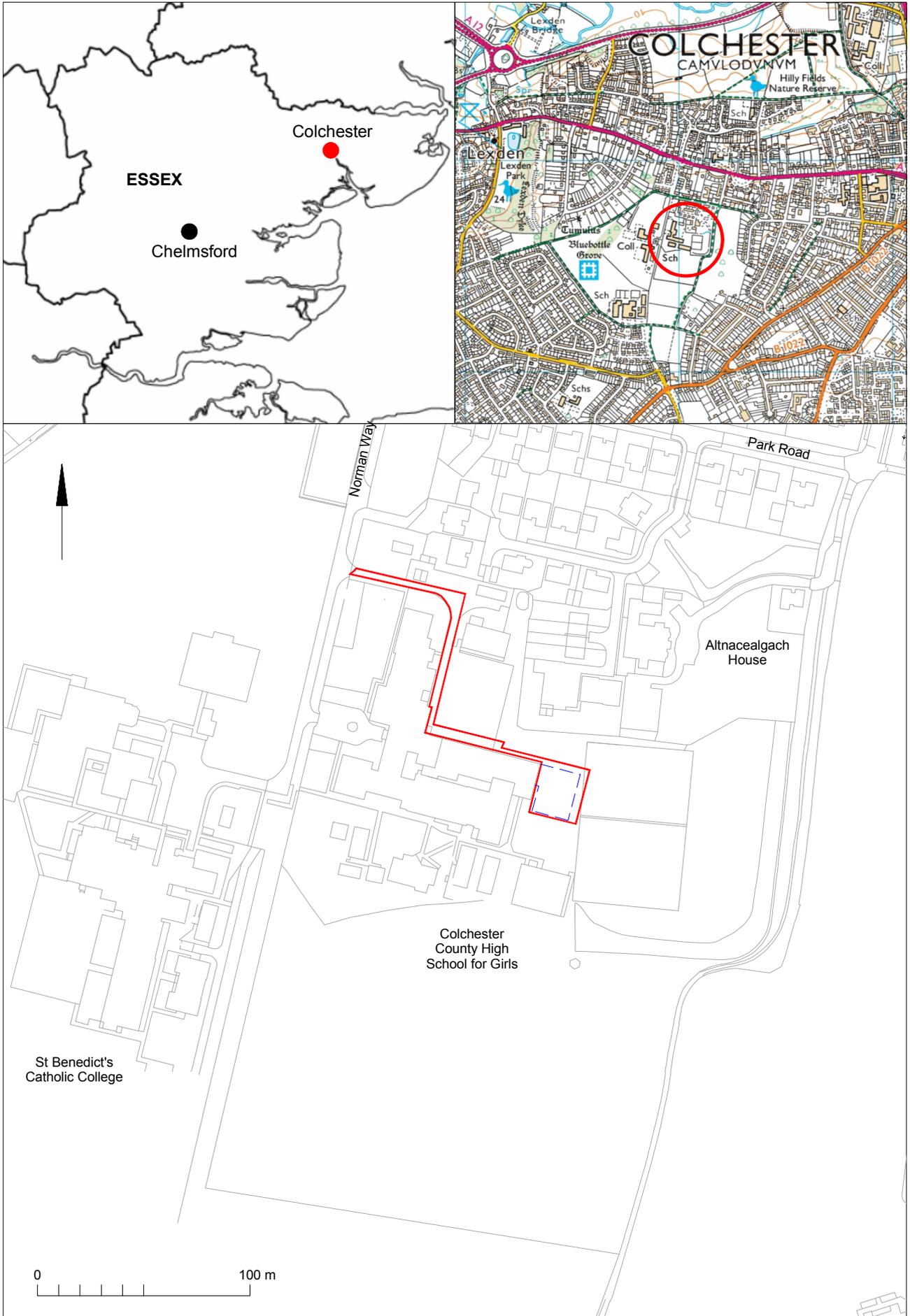
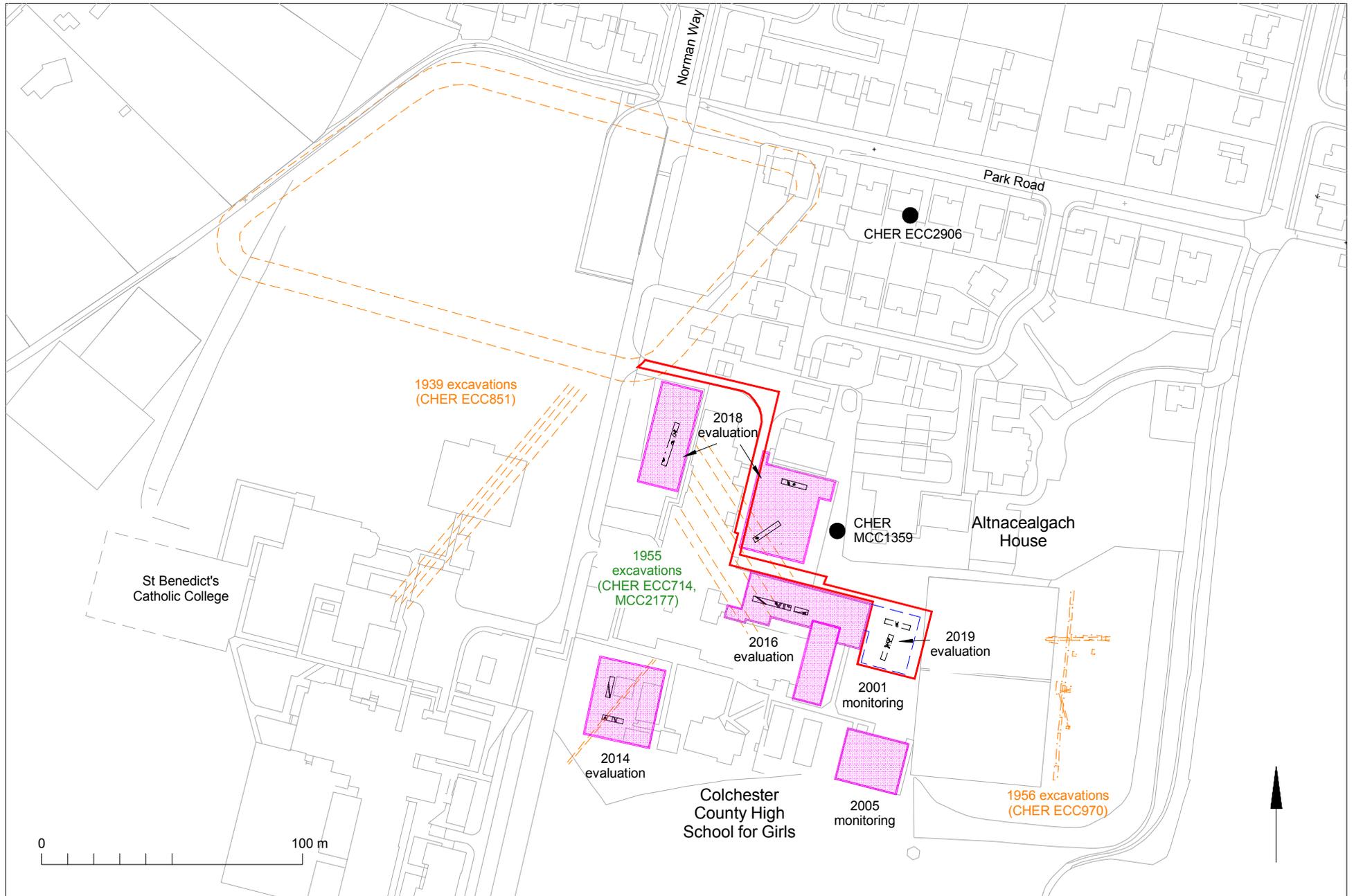


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Site location (dashed blue lines) in relation to previous archaeological work.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-374474

Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US.
Short description of the project	An archaeological excavation (following an evaluation) was carried out at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new school building. Previous excavations in the area have uncovered a palisade trench of probable Roman date, a Roman wattle-and-daub structure and scattered pits and ditches, some of which were dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries. These excavations uncovered a cluster of ditches and pits which yielded a considerable quantity of pottery indicating the 3rd and 4th centuries as the primary phase of activity at the site, and suggesting that the remains of a mid to late Roman villa or farmstead lie nearby.
Project dates	Start: 02-12-2019 End: 09-12-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	191369 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/10i - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4406 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-374474 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Medieval

Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	BAKED CLAY Uncertain
Significant Finds	DAUB Uncertain
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SLATE Uncertain
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	SPUR BUCKLE Medieval
Significant Finds	SPUR BUCKLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BUTTON Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BUTTON Modern
Significant Finds	LEAD FRAGMENTS Uncertain
Significant Finds	THIMBLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Modern
Significant Finds	IRON OBJECT Modern
Significant Finds	NAIL Roman
Significant Finds	SEPTARIA Roman
Significant Finds	COAL/COKE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Full excavation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO3 3US
Study area	0.11 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9803 2462 51.884391069941 0.877774356543 51 53 03 N 000 52 39 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 36.1m Max: 36.37m

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 supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	School
Name of sponsor/funding body	Colchester County High School for Girls

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	ECC4406
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4406
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4406
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological excavation at Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3US: December 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1507
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