

Archaeological excavation at Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN

November 2019 – January 2020



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**Commissioned by Mark Wicks
on behalf of Colchester Borough Homes Ltd**

NGR: TL 99847 25267 (centre)

Historic England scheduled monument consent ref.: S00222043

CAT project ref.: 19/11b

CHER ref: ECC4399

OASIS reference: colchest3-373266



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CAT Report 1531

April 2021

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1 Summary

Archaeological excavations took place to the south and east of Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park, Colchester, Essex during groundworks to install new light boxes and power cables. Colchester Castle was built in the late 11th century on the site of the Roman Temple of Claudius and most of the castle park is a Scheduled Monument (SM EX 1, HA 1002217).

Excavations largely occurred through modern turf/topsoil and layers of post-medieval/modern accumulation/make-up/levelling. These layers were probably the result of a combination of: modern gardening activities; excavations at the front of the castle in the 19th century, the 1930s and the 1970s; earth-moving and landscaping after 1892 when the site was sold to Colchester Borough for the creation of a public park; and early 18th-century landscaping of the grounds by Charles Gray of Hollytrees.

Foundations belonging to the castle forebuilding were however identified 0.2m below current ground level, along with a dense patch of demolition material likely dating to Weeley's demolition of the castle in the 1690s.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological excavations to the south and east of Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex which were carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). The work was commissioned by Martin Wicks on behalf of Colchester Borough Homes Ltd during groundworks to install new up-lighting around Colchester Castle. Excavations took place between 18th November 2019 and 31st January 2020.

As the site is located within a scheduled ancient monument (SM EX 1, HA 1002217), Debbie Priddy, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England (HEIAM), advised that a scheme of archaeological investigation should be implemented with groundworks carried out by CAT archaeologists. A *Brief for Archaeological Investigation* was written by Dr Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (2019) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT for approval prior to the work taking place (CAT 2019). Groundworks were monitored by Maria Medlycott (acting HEIAM) and Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA), with the subsequent report monitored by Dr Jess Tipper (HEIAM) and Dr Richard Hoggett (CBCAA).

In addition to the brief and wsi, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015), 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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

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

The surface geology of the Castle Park area is a mix of Kesgrave sands and gravels and London clay. The south-western corner of the park is dominated by the 11th-century Norman castle keep and its associated earthwork defences (CHER MCC1732). The Castle Park grounds were landscaped by Charles Gray of Hollytrees in the early 18th century. This included the creation of a raised terrace on the north side of the castle ending in a wooden summerhouse in the form of a tetrastyle Greek temple (CHER MCC3224). The site was sold to Colchester Borough in 1892 for the creation of a public park, laid out by Backhouse & Co. of York in the late 19th century. The war memorial is located on the northern side of the High Street at the

entrance to the castle (CHER MCC5420). The majority of the park is a Scheduled Monument (SM EX 1, HA 1002217) and the park is a Registered historic park and garden.

Evidence for a number of Roman town houses (including CHER MCC852, MCC854 and MCC856), walls, tessellated pavements, metalled streets, masonry drains and a water works have been recorded within the park, much of this is summarised by Hull (1958), Crummy (CAR 6) and Brooks (1997). Two rooms of one building have been left exposed and a drain near Duncan's Gate (CHER MCC1831) is visible, as are the collapsed remains of the gate itself. The park also contains the site of the Temple of Claudius and its forum (CHER MCC1830). The base of the temple is preserved beneath the Norman Castle. Through the centre of the park the town wall (CHER MCC859) is a dominant feature and a section of the town wall's inner rampart is visible.

Colchester Castle was built late in the 11th century and provided with defensive earthworks resulting in a diversion of the High Street. South of the Norman Castle is the site of a ?Late Anglo-Saxon chapel (CHER MCC2084) which was presumably replaced by a masonry chapel in the 11th or 12th century following its construction. In addition to the chapel, several stone-built buildings have been identified within the Castle's bailey (including CHER MCC2087). Much of the archaeological work immediately south of the castle was undertaken by P.G. Laver in 1931-32 and published in detail by Paul Drury (1982).

Five archaeological investigations have taken place in the same general vicinity as the floodlight trenches since 2001:

1) In 2001-2 CAT excavated 170m of cable trenches for new floodlighting around the castle (CAT Report 1552). The trenches were 0.3m wide by 0.8m deep and were mostly excavated through post-medieval and modern layers. These layers were probably the result of a combination of: modern gardening activities; excavations at the front of the castle in the 19th century, the 1930s and 1970s; earth-moving and landscaping after 1892 when the site was sold to Colchester Borough for the creation of a public park; and early 18th-century landscaping of the Castle grounds by Charles Gray of Hollytrees. Residual ceramic building material and building stone from the cable trenches probably came from the original fabric of the castle, most likely when Weeley started to demolish the monument in the 1690s. Most of the features were also of post-medieval and modern date, with modern services and landscape features dominating. Disarticulated human remains had been redeposited in 19th- to 20th-century layers at three locations. Inhumations and disarticulated remains previously found in the vicinity have been dated from the late 16th to the 17th centuries when the keep was used as a jail. The only contexts of real archaeological significance were three features and three layers excavated to the east of the chapel which dated to the medieval period.

2) In 2002 CAT monitored the excavation of a cable trench in the south-eastern corner of Colchester Castle Park, close to the castle drawbridge (CAT Report 190). The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.3-0.4m below modern ground level through modern concrete/tarmac or topsoil into post-medieval/modern layers of accumulation.

3) In 2006 CAT monitored excavations to extend the floodlight bunker after human bone was found by the contractors (CAT Report 397). Cut through modern topsoil onto post-medieval silt, a post-medieval pit was excavated and a small quantity of disarticulated human bone recovered.

4) In 2019 CAT undertook an archaeological excavation to the south of Colchester Castle as part of the emergency replacement of a lead water main (CAT report 1382). A series of deposits, located close to the castle forebuilding may have been related to the partial demolition of the castle by Weeley in the 1690s and/or the restoration of the castle in the 1760s. The foundation of the forebuilding wall itself was uncovered as well as an additional foundation further south which may have also been a part of the castle defences or perhaps a contemporary outbuilding. It may even be part of a structure which predates the castle.

5) In advance of the current groundworks, in May 2019 CAT excavated four trial-pits (0.4m deep) close to the southern wall of Colchester Castle (CAT Report 1408). The aim of the investigation was to assess the feasibility of installing the new light boxes and power cables. Test pit 1 was excavated through backfill from the 1930s excavations and test-pit 4 through of backfill from 19th-century excavations. Foundations belonging to the castle forebuilding were identified below modern turf/topsoil in test-pits 2 and 3.

4 Methodology

In 2001 CAT hand-excavated a series of cable trenches surrounding the castle for the installation of new floodlights. To limit the impact of current groundworks on the monument and associated archaeology, it was proposed that the backfill of the 2001 service trench would be re-excavated so that it could be reused. This meant that only small sections of new service trenches were excavated. All groundworks were carried out by hand by CAT staff.

5 Aims

The aims of the excavation were to: 1) re-excavate the 2001 service trench so that it could be reused; and 2) to excavate and record all archaeological remains encountered during the hand-excavation of the new light boxes and service trenches.

6 Results (Figs 2-3)

Re-excavation of the 2001-2 service trench

Approximately 60.3m of cable trench was re-excavated through backfill.

New service trench and light boxes

Approximately 46m of new service trench, 0.3m wide by 0.4m deep, was excavated through modern topsoil L1. Part of the barbican foundation (F1 and F3) was exposed at 0.2m below current ground level but left *in situ*. A dense patch of demolition material (F2) was also recorded.



Photograph 1 Barbican foundation F1, looking north



Photograph 2 New cable trench, looking northwest

Fourteen new light boxes were excavated through topsoil and post-medieval/modern layers.

Light boxes 1-5 were located to the east of the castle, all were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.15m thick) into a layer of modern accumulation/make-up/levelling (L3), probably associated with landscaping in the park.

- 1) 0.7m by 0.35m, 0.36m deep.
- 2) 3m by 0.27m, 0.3m deep.
- 3) 0.5m by 0.3m, 0.34m deep.
- 4) 0.46m by 0.3m, 0.35m deep.
- 5) 0.5m by 0.35m, 0.3m deep.

Light boxes 6-14 were located to the south of the castle. They were excavated through modern topsoil (c 0.1-0.33m thick) into various layers of post-medieval/modern accumulation/make-up/levelling.

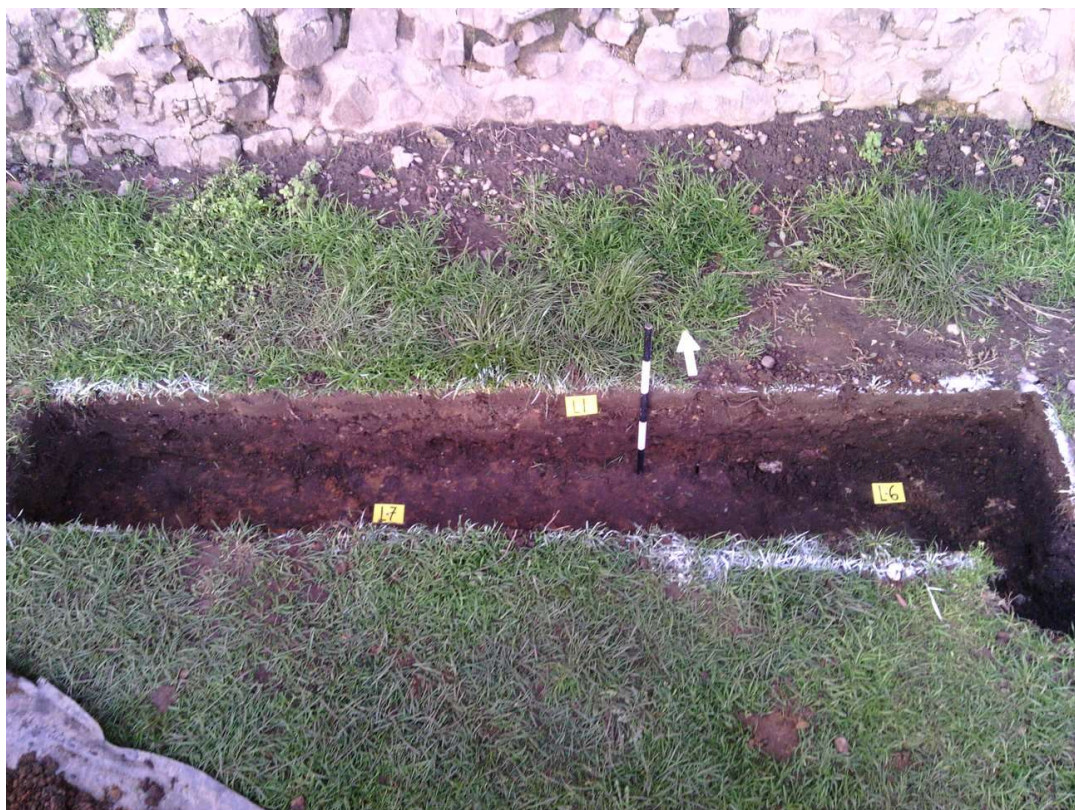
- 6) 0.8m by 0.4m, 0.3m deep, L1 (0.29m thick) sealed L4 above L5.
- 7) 0.7m by 0.36m, 0.3m deep, L1 (0.3m thick).
- 8) 2.4m by 0.3m, 0.35m deep, L1 (0.33m thick) sealed L6.
- 9) 2.2m by 0.34m, 0.3m deep, L1 (0.2m thick) sealed L7 above L6.
- 10) 0.8m by 0.4m, 0.3m deep, L1 (0.2m thick) sealed L8.
- 11) 1.1m by 0.37m, 0.37m deep, L1 (0.25m thick) sealed L8.
- 12) 0.73m by 0.48m, 0.34m deep, L1 (0.12m thick) sealed L9 (0.11m thick) above L10. Trial-pit 1 excavated in advance of this current project showed that light box 12 was probably excavated through a 'shaft' excavated in 1932 (CAT Report 1408).
- 13) 0.8m by 0.4m, 0.3m deep, L1 (0.1m thick) sealed L11.
- 14) 0.85m by 0.3m, 0.3m deep, L1 (0.1m thick) sealed L12 (0.14-0.18m thick) above L13.



Photograph 3 Light box 2, looking southwest



Photograph 4 Light box 6, looking north-northwest



Photograph 5 Light box 9, looking north



Photograph 6 Light box 11, looking north-northwest

7 Finds

There were no significant archaeological finds.

8 Conclusion

Excavations to the south and east of Colchester Castle for new cables and light boxes occurred through modern turf/topsoil and layers of post-medieval/modern accumulation/make-up/levelling. These layers were probably the result of a combination of: modern gardening activities; excavations at the front of the castle in the 19th century, the 1930s and the 1970s; earth-moving and landscaping after 1892 when the site was sold to Colchester Borough for the creation of a public park; and early 18th-century landscaping of the grounds by Charles Gray of Hollytrees (CAT Report 1552).

Foundations belonging to the castle forebuilding were however identified 0.2m below current ground level along with a dense patch of demolition material likely dating to Weeley's demolition of the castle in the 1690s.

During fieldwork for the 2019 trial-pit evaluation (CAT Report 1408), a level survey was undertaken along the route of the proposed cable trench on the south side of the castle and the results compared to the levels at which significant archaeological deposits were encountered during previous archaeological excavations (*ie* Drury 1982). Deposits belonging to the surface of the Roman temple precinct survive at a depth of 0.9m below modern ground level (bmgl) and deposits associated with the construction of the castle keep at 0.4m bmgl. Therefore it is not surprising, given the depth of groundworks for this project, that the only significant archaeological remains exposed were foundations belonging to the castle forebuilding.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Martin Wicks, Colchester Borough Homes for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by M Baister, Z Eksen, E Hicks, C Lister, R Mathieson, M Perou, N Pryke, N Rayner, M Seehra, A Smith, A Wade and A Wightman. The project was monitored for Historic England by Debbie Priddy, Maria Medlycott and Dr Jess Tipper, with the assistance of the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officers Dr Jess Tipper and Dr Richard Hoggett.

10 References

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

Brooks, H	1997	<i>An Historical Survey of Castle Park (Report for Council 1997)</i>
Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by Philip Crummy
CAT	2019	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 190	2002	<i>An archaeological watching brief on the laying of a cable pipeline at Colchester Castle Park, Essex: April 2002</i>
CAT Report 397	2006	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Colchester Castle, Colchester, Essex: October 2006</i>
CAT Report 1382	2019	<i>Archaeological excavation for a water main replacement at the Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN: February 2019</i>
CAT Report 1408	2019	<i>Archaeological excavation of trial-pits in advance of the installation of new lighting around the castle in Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 1UN: May 2019</i>
CAT Report 1552	2021	<i>Archaeological excavations at Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN: 2001-2</i>
CBC	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at Works to illuminate Colchester Castle, Castle, by Jess Tipper</i>

ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Drury, P J	1982	'Aspects of the origins and development of Colchester Castle' <i>Archaeological Journal</i> 139
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London Report XX
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1531)

Historic England scheduled monument consent, CBC brief

Site notes (hand-drawn plans and sections)

Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1531)

Historic England scheduled monument consent, CAT wsi

Graphic files

Site data

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum, reference ECC4399.

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Distribution list

Mark Wicks, Colchester Borough Homes
Dr Jess Tipper, Historic England
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 7.4.2021

Appendix 1 Context list

Context nos.	Context	Description	Date
L1	Turf and topsoil	soft moist dark grey silty clayey loam and inclusions of: stone 1%	Modern
L2	VOID	VOID	VOID
L3	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	soft moist dark grey sandy silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 3% tile/brick 1%	Modern
L4	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	soft moist orange/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Post-medieval/modern
L5	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	loose/soft moist medium orange/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: gravel 50%	Post-medieval/modern
L6	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	firm moist medium/dark sandy silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 2% tile/brick 1%	Post-medieval/modern
L7	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	loose/soft moist medium orange/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: gravel 1% stone 1%	Post-medieval/modern
L8	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	soft moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1%	Post-medieval/modern
L9	Soakaway?	loose moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: gravel 60%	Modern
L10	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	soft moist dark grey sandy silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1%	Modern
L11	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	soft/friable moist medium/dark grey sandy silty clay with oyster flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 3% tile/brick 1%	Post-medieval/modern
L12	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	soft/friable moist medium/dark grey sandy silty clay with oyster flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 2% tile/brick 1%	Post-medieval/modern
L13	Accumulation/make-up/levelling	soft/friable dark grey sandy silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% tile/brick 1%	Post-medieval/modern
F1	Barbican foundation	Foundation of castle barbican, composed of stone and CBM in mortar	Medieval
F2	Demolition material	Deposit of mortar, stone and CBM.	Post-medieval
F3	Barbican foundation	Foundation of castle barbican, composed of stone and CBM in mortar	Medieval

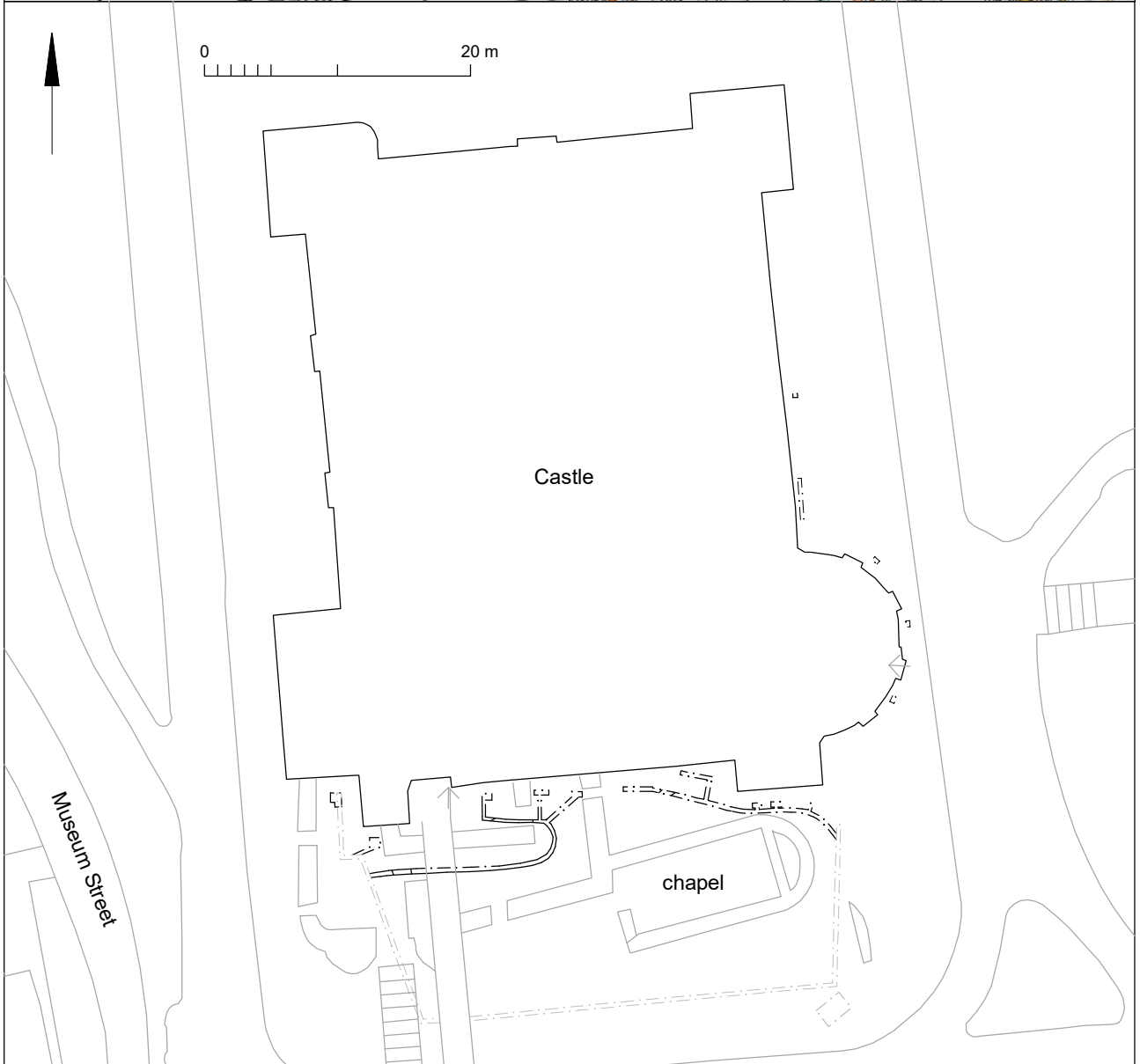
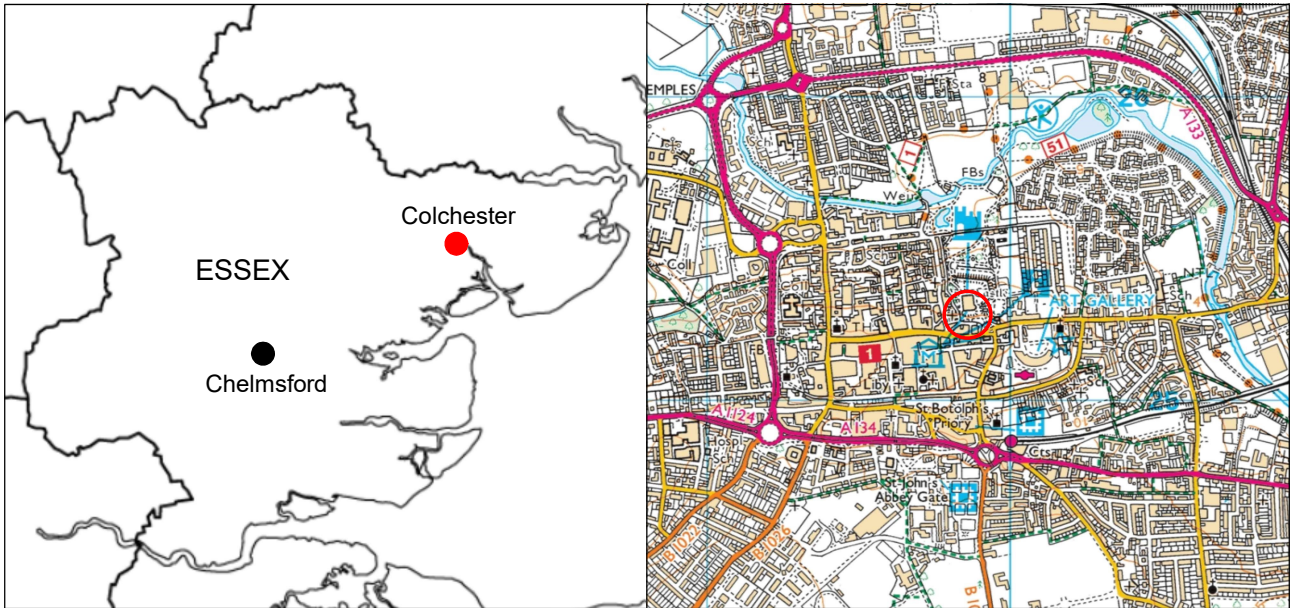


Fig 1 Site location.

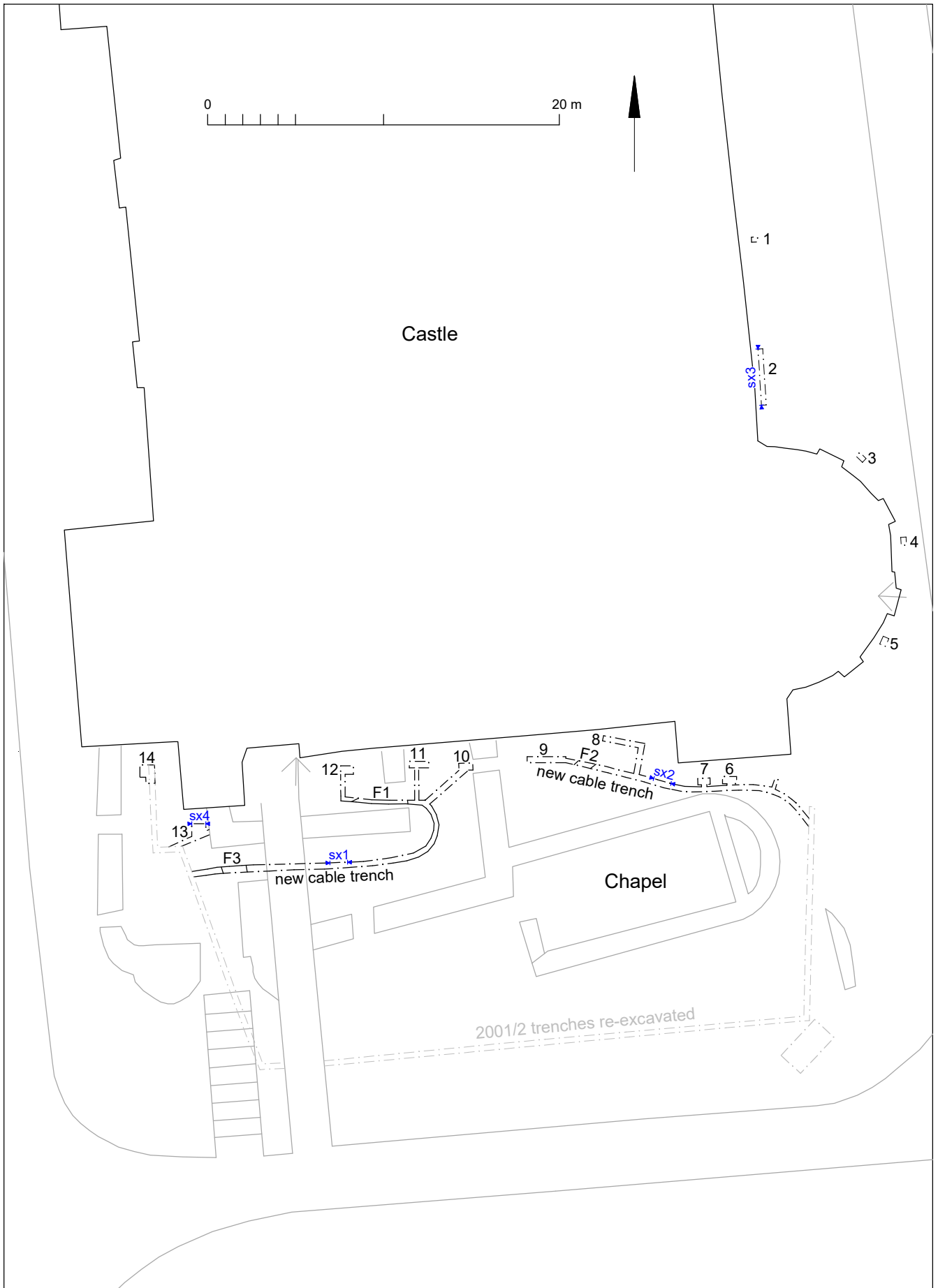


Fig 2 Results showing locations of the new cable trenches and light boxes 1-14.

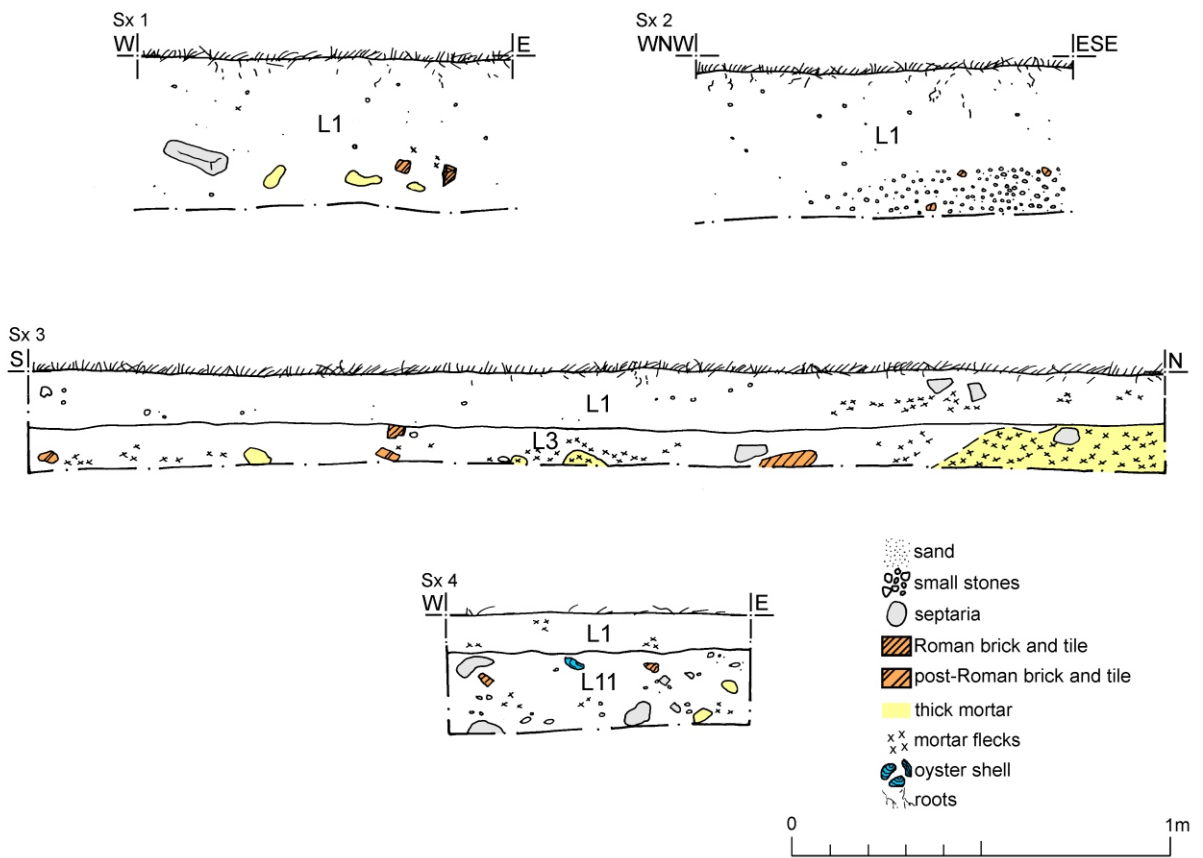


Fig 3 Representative sections Sx 1-Sx 4.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99847 25267 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 19/11b CHER ref.: ECC4399 OASIS ref: colchest3-373266
Type of work: Excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 18th November 2019 – 31st January 2020	Size of area investigated: 0.13h
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER numbers: CHER MCC1732, MCC2084, MCC2087, MCC3224
Final report: CAT Report 1531	
Periods represented: modern, post-medieval, medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological excavations took place to the south and east of Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park, Colchester, Essex during groundworks to install new light boxes and power cables. Colchester Castle was built in the late 11th century on the site of the Roman Temple of Claudius and most of the castle park is a Scheduled Monument (SM EX 1, HA 1002217).</p> <p>Excavations occurred through modern turf/topsoil and layers of post-medieval/modern accumulation/make-up/levelling. These layers were probably the result of a combination of: modern gardening activities; 1930s excavations at the front of the castle; earth-moving and landscaping after 1892 when the site was sold to Colchester Borough for the creation of a public park; and early 18th-century landscaping of the grounds by Charles Gray of Hollytrees. Foundations belonging to the castle forebuilding were identified 0.2m below current ground level along with a dense patch of demolition material likely dating to Weeley's demolition of the castle in the 1690s.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 1552	
Keywords: Castle forebuilding	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: April 2021

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for the archaeological investigation for the
installation of lighting around Colchester Castle,
Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester,
Essex, CO1 1UN.**

NGR: TL 99864 25292 (centre)

District: Colchester

Scheduled Monument consent reference: S00222043

Scheduled Monument number: SM EX 1, HA 10052217

Commissioned by: Mark Wicks (Colchester Borough Homes)

On behalf of: Colchester Borough Homes Ltd

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2019/11b

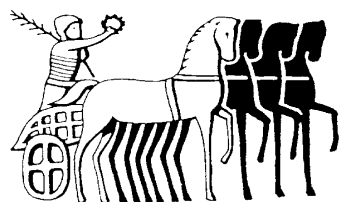
OASIS project number: colchest3-373266

Site manager: Chris Lister

Historic England advisor (HEI): Maria Medlycott, Inspector of Ancient
Monuments

CBC monitor (CBCAA): Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 08/11/2019



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located within the centre of the historic core of the town of Colchester, immediately in front of Colchester Castle in Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN (Fig 1). Castle Park is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM EX 1, HA 1002217) that sits within the town centre conservation zone. Site centre is National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99864 25292.

Proposed work

The proposed work involves the replacement of existing lighting and addition of new uplighting to illuminate Colchester Castle. Three of the elevations to the Castle will have the new luminaires installed at the existing locations and will be powered by the existing cables. New lighting will involve “white” LED luminaires to the sides and rear of the castle, and RGB colour luminaries on the south side. The luminaires on the south side will require two new cable trenches, totalling approximately 37m which will feed from existing cable trenches. The luminaires will operate on 24V DC removing the need for deep burial of cables, the maximum depth required is a 150mm trench to allow for safe burial of the cables and UPVC ducting, with each luminaire buried 300-400mm deep. The existing lighting bunker at the south-east corner of the Castle is to be removed and the void backfilled with earth and landscaped to match the surrounding slope.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive (specifically CAT Reports 190, 850 and 1360) and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

The surface geology of the park area is a mix of Kesgrave sands and gravels and London clay. The zone is dominated by the 11th-century Norman castle keep and its associated earthwork defences (MCC1732). The Castle Park grounds were landscaped by Charles Gray of Hollytrees in the early 18th century. This included the creation of a raised terrace on the north side of the castle ending in a wooden summerhouse in the form of a tetrastyle Greek temple (MCC3224). The site was sold to Colchester Borough in 1892 for the creation of a public park laid out by Backhouse & Co. of York in the late 19th century. The war memorial is located on the northern side of the High Street at the entrance to the castle (MCC5420). The majority of the zone is a Scheduled Monument (SM EX 1, HA 1002217), the park is a Registered historic park and garden and located within the town centre Conservation Area.

Evidence for a number of Roman town houses (including MCC852, MCC854 and MCC856), walls, tessellated pavements, metalled streets, masonry drains and a water works have been recorded within the park, much of this is summarised by Hull (1958), Crummy in *CAR 6* and Brooks (1997). Two rooms of one building have been left exposed and a drain near Duncan's Gate (MCC1831) is visible, as are the collapsed remains of the gate itself. The park also contains the site of the Temple of Claudius and its forum (MCC1830). The base of the temple is preserved beneath the Norman Castle. Through the centre of the park the town wall (MCC859) is a dominant feature and a section of the town wall's inner rampart is visible.

Colchester Castle was built late in the 11th century and provided with defensive earthworks resulting in a diversion of the High Street. South of the Norman Castle is the site of a ?Late Anglo-Saxon chapel (MCC2084) which was presumably replaced by a masonry chapel in the 11th or 12th century following its construction. In addition to the chapel, several stone-built buildings have been identified within the Castle's bailey (including MCC2087). Much of the archaeological work immediately south of the castle was undertaken by P.G. Laver in 1931-32 and published in detail by Paul Drury (1982).

In 2001, CAT hand-excavated a series of cable trenches surrounding the Castle for new floodlights. Although a report for this work has never been produced, a useful summary can be found in CAT Report 850. The trenches, measuring 0.3m wide and 0.8m deep, were largely excavated through modern/post-medieval soil layers – probably the result of a combination of modern gardening activities, 1930s excavations at the front of the castle, and

earthmoving in preparation for the opening of the extension to the Castle Park in 1929. In some places, only post-medieval topsoil was exposed. At the front of the castle, rubble layers probably contemporary with Weeley's demolition of the castle in the 1690s were identified at the bottom of the trench.

In 2002, CAT monitored the excavation of an additional cable trench near the southeastern corner of the castle (CAT Report 190). This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.3-0.4m below modern ground level through either modern concrete/tarmac into postmedieval/modern layers of accumulation or through modern topsoil into the same layers.

In February 2019, CAT undertook an archaeological excavation in upper castle park as part of the emergency replacement of a lead water main (CAT report 1382). A series of deposits, located close to the castle forebuilding may have been related to the partial demolition of the castle by Weeley in the 1690s and/or the restoration of the castle in the 1760's. The foundation of the forebuilding wall itself was uncovered as well as an additional foundation further south which may have also been a part of the castle defences or perhaps a contemporary outbuilding. It may even be part of a structure which predates the castle.

In advance of the current lighting scheme CAT excavated four trial-pits in May 2019 (CAT Report 1408). Foundations belonging to the castle forebuilding were identified below the modern turf/topsoil in two of the trial-pits (TP2 and TP3). In TP2, the foundation was c 200mm below modern ground level (bmgl). This would allow for low voltage power cables to be buried in the modern topsoil above the forebuilding remains in this location. In TP3, the foundation below the doorway of the forebuilding was 140mm bmgl. However, 0.6m to the east, the top of the same foundation was level with the current ground surface. The proposed LED light in this location would need to be moved (ideally to the east within a backfilled archaeological trench excavated in 1977) and it would not be possible to bury the power cables beneath the existing topsoil. Trial-pit 1 was located inside the forebuilding and was excavated through dark, sandy silt soils containing 19th/20th-century finds, down to the maximum depth of 0.4m bmgl. It is likely that TP1 was located within a backfilled 20th-century archaeological investigation, possibly the 'shaft' sunk against the south face of the keep in 1932 to establish the nature of the castle foundations (Drury 1982, 315). In Trial-pit 4 to the east of the castle forebuilding, a 20th-century topsoil overlaid a layer of redeposited natural sand mixed with septaria and Roman brick and tile fragments. This deposit may correspond with the fill of a vertical-sided shaft or trench identified during archaeological investigation to the east in 1977, which was interpreted as part of J. T. Round's explorations in the 19th century (Drury 1982, 324). A level survey was undertaken along the route of the proposed cable trench in front of the south side of the castle and the results compared to the levels at which significant archaeological deposits were encountered during previous excavations (Drury 1982). Deposits interpreted as belonging to the surface of the Roman temple precinct survive at a depth of 0.9m bmgl and deposits associated with the construction of the castle keep survive 0.4m bmgl. However, caution should be noted as further to the west during the recent installation of a new water pipe (2019) significant deposits were encountered at depths of only c 150-200mm bmgl (CAT Report 1382).

Planning background

*As the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument and therefore an area highlighted as having a high potential for archaeological remains the Historic England Inspector (HEI) granted permission for the work. The recommended archaeological investigation is based on Scheduled Monument consent conditions and guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).*

Requirement for work

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

Specifically:

The investigation is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site. As much as possible existing cable runs will be reused for the

new lighting. In areas of new cable runs hand excavation and recording of archaeological deposits will be undertaken.

If unexpected remains are encountered the HEI and CBCAA will be informed immediately and the HEI/CBCAA will decide if further work is required.

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 2019)
- the conditions in the Scheduled Monument Consent

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 the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (HEI) one week before start of work.

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

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). 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. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

In charge of the fieldwork: Adam Wightman

Investigation 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 by hand, planned and recorded. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below). 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 HIA and 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 investigated both before

and during excavation. All features and spoil heaps will be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. 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.

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 and trenches 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. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise.

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

If human remains are encountered during the investigation the HEI and CBCAA will be informed immediately.

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 the HEI and CBCAA.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the investigation, 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.

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 HEI and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. 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:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Robin Mathieson/Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

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:

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /
Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

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.

Results

Notification will be given to HEI and 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 HEI and CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

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

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

Post-excavation assessment

Once fieldwork has finished the need for a post-excavation assessment will be discussed and agreed with the HEI and 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 the HEI and 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 the HEI and 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.

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

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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

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 the HEI and 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. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The HEI and 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

The HEI and 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 HEI and CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

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

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

References

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

Brooks, H	1997	<i>An Historical Survey of Castle Park (Report for Council 1997)</i>
Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by Philip Crummy
CAT	2019	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 190	2002	<i>An archaeological watching brief on the laying of a cable pipeline at Colchester Castle Park, Essex: April 2002</i>
CAT Report 850	2015	<i>An archaeological assessment: Winter Wonderland, Castle Park, Colchester, Essex</i>
CAT Report 1382	2019	<i>Archaeological excavation at Castle Park, Colchester, Essex – February 2019</i> . By A Tuffey
CAT Report 1408	2019	<i>Archaeological excavation of trial-pits in advance of the installation of</i>

new lighting around the castle in Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex – May 2019. By A Wightman

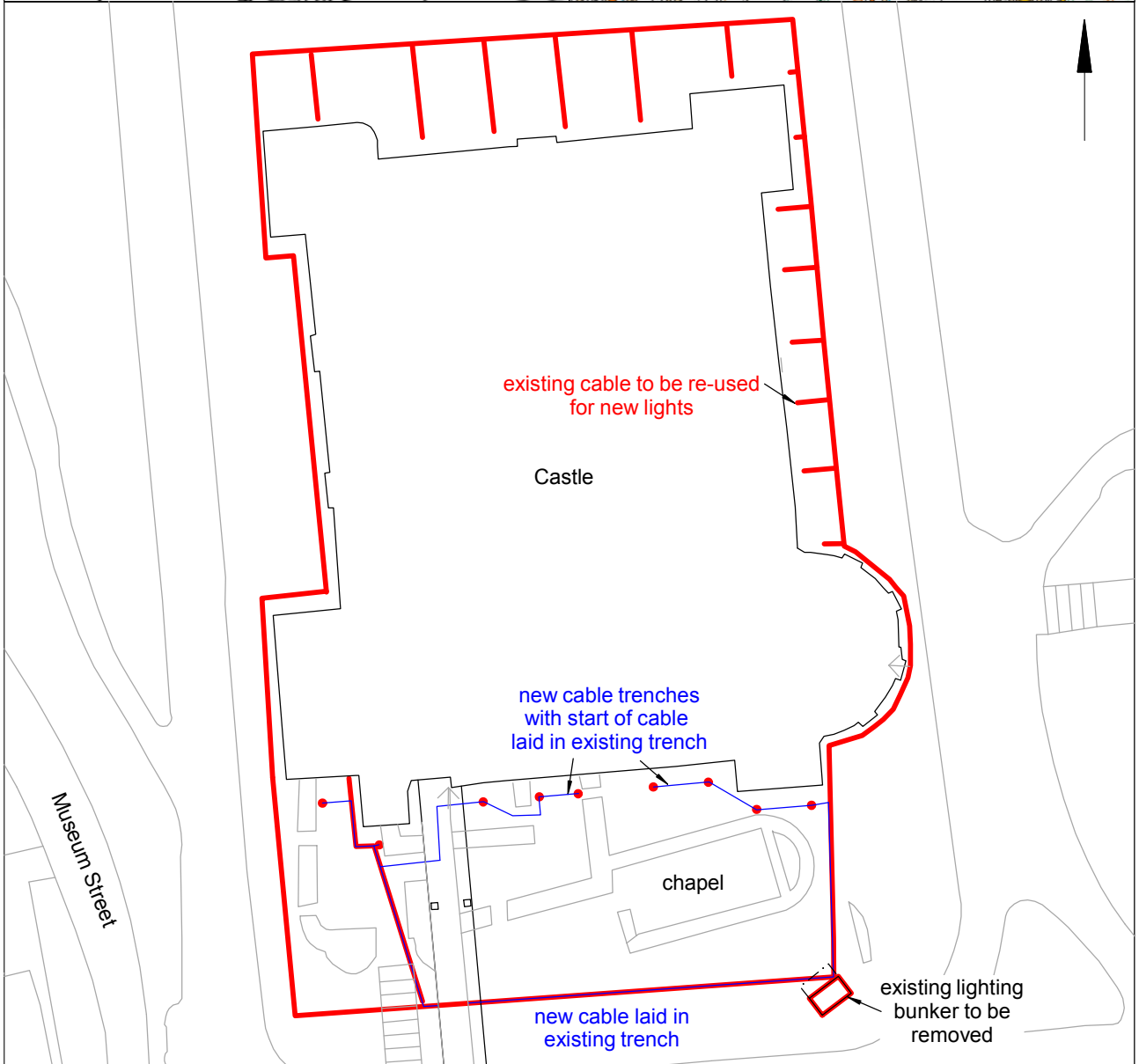
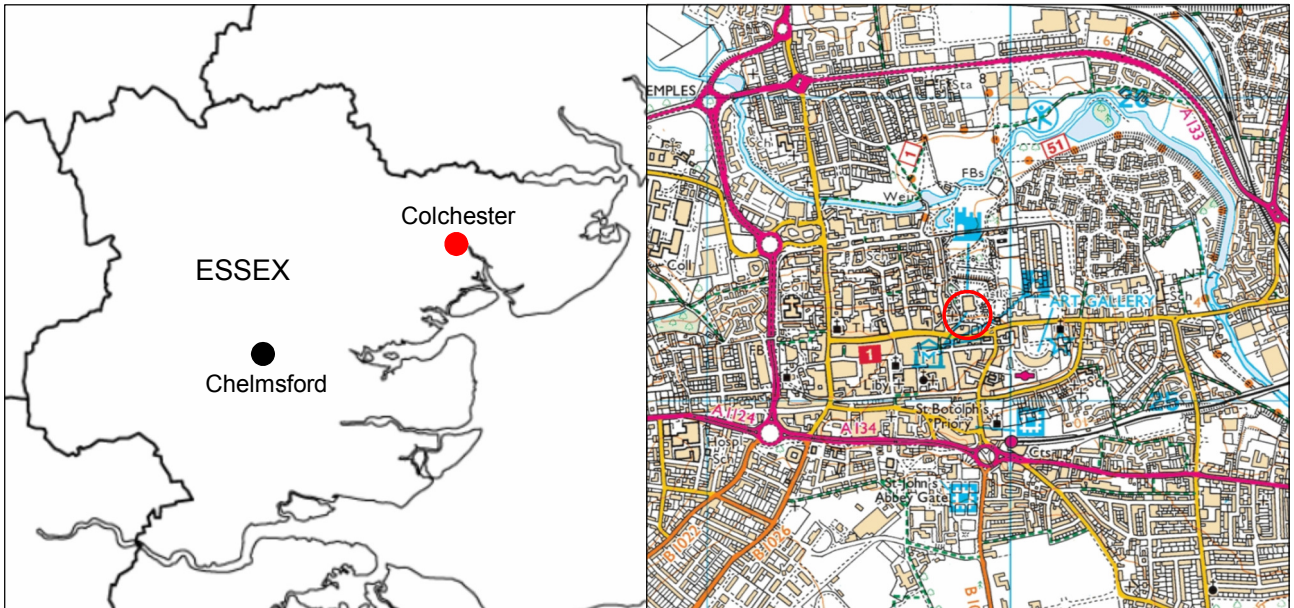
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Drury, PJ	1982	Aspects of the origins and development of Colchester castle in the Archaeological journal vol.139
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
Historic England (HE)	2019	<i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works. Application for Scheduled Monument Consent: Colchester Castle, Colchester.</i> By D Priddy
Hull, MR	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London Report XX
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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Fig 1 Site location and proposed lighting scheme with majority of new cable runs placed in existing cable trench and minimal new dig.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-373266

Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation at Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN
Short description of the project	Archaeological excavations took place to the south and east of Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park, Colchester, Essex during groundworks to install new light boxes and power cables. Colchester Castle was built in the late 11th century on the site of the Roman Temple of Claudius and most of the castle park is a Scheduled Monument (SM EX 1, HA 1002217). Excavations largely occurred through modern turf/topsoil and layers of post-medieval/modern accumulation/make-up/levelling. These layers were probably the result of a combination of: modern gardening activities; excavations at the front of the castle in the 19th century, the 1930s and the 1970s; earth-moving and landscaping after 1892 when the site was sold to Colchester Borough for the creation of a public park; and early 18th century landscaping of the grounds by Charles Gray of Hollytrees. Foundations belonging to the castle forebuilding were however identified 0.2m below current ground level, along with a dense patch of demolition material likely dating to Weeley's demolition of the castle in the 1690s.
Project dates	Start: 18-11-2019 End: 20-01-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/11b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4399 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Site status	National Park
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Medieval
Monument type	DEMOLITION DEBRIS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Part Excavation"", ""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park
Postcode	CO1 1UN
Study area	0.13 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 99864 25292 51.889768299428 0.90477862125 51 53 23 N 000 54 17 E Point

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	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4399
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID ECC4399
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological excavation at Colchester Castle, Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UN: November 2019 - January 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1531
Date 2021
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on 5 March 2021

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