

# Archaeological monitoring at Southway Roman Church, Southway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 BU

July 2020-June 2021



**by Sarah Veasey**

figures by Chris Lister, Sarah Veasey and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner and Alec Wade

**commissioned by Martin Leek  
on behalf of Colchester Borough Homes**

NGR: TL 9926 2484 (centre)

CAT project ref.: 20/061

ECC code: ECC4638

OASIS ref.: colchest3-397523



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [sv@catuk.org](mailto:sv@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1685**

June 2021

## Contents

|    |                            |   |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 1  | Summary                    | 1 |
| 2  | Introduction               | 1 |
| 3  | Archaeological background  | 1 |
| 4  | Aims                       | 2 |
| 5  | Results                    | 2 |
| 6  | Finds                      | 5 |
| 7  | Conclusion                 | 5 |
| 8  | Acknowledgements           | 5 |
| 9  | References                 | 5 |
| 10 | Abbreviations and glossary | 5 |
| 11 | Contents of archive        | 6 |
| 12 | Archive deposition         | 6 |

Figures after p7

CAT wsi

OASIS summary sheet

## List of photographs, maps and figures

Cover: Site shot – looking north-east

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Photograph 1 | Working shot during renovation works – looking south-east | 3 |
| Photograph 2 | Site shot showing new posts in place – looking east       | 3 |
| Photograph 3 | Removed post – looking east                               | 4 |
| Photograph 4 | Working shot (interpretation panel) – looking south-west  | 4 |

|       |               |
|-------|---------------|
| Fig 1 | Site location |
| Fig 2 | Results       |
| Fig 3 | Section       |

## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Southway Roman Church, Southway, Colchester, Essex, during renovation groundworks and the erection of an interpretation panel. The Southway Roman Church is a late Roman apsidal building, located immediately outside the south side of the walled part of the Roman town and in vicinity of the Butt Road cemetery. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the works.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at Southway Roman Church, Southway, Colchester, Essex which was carried out from 5th July 2020 until 8th June 2021. The work was commissioned by Martin Leek on behalf of Colchester Borough Homes and took place during renovation works and the installation of an interpretation panel. This work was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Dr Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

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

## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The Southway Roman Church, also known as the Butt Road Church, is a late Roman apsidal building (MCC476) prominently placed and would have been visible from Head Gate. It stood on the brow of the small valley which runs east-west immediately outside the south side of the walled part of the Roman town. The building stood at or just to the west of what was probably the north-west corner of the Butt Road cemetery (MCC481). The remains are currently locally listed and are in the process of being assessed for Scheduled Ancient Monument status.

The following information is predominantly extracted from *CAR 9*. Please see the publication for a full background.

The first-known record of the building occurs on a sketch by William Wire and the standing remains were later plotted on the Museum's copy of the 1875-6 1:500 Ordnance Survey maps. The first recorded excavation was undertaken by M R Hull when in 1935 he examined the apse and a pit nearby (Hull 1958, 245-8). Miss B R K Dunnett investigated the site with small square trenches in 1965 (Dunnett 1971, 78-84). CAT carried out excavations of the church in three phases in 1978-9 and 1988.

CAT excavations showed the remains of the church were poorly preserved. The building did not suffer full-scale demolition at the end of the Roman period but survived as a ruin. The remains suffered gradually erosion and piecemeal demolition until with

the removal of the apse in the 1930s nothing remained above ground. The northern foundation had been robbed out and much of the south foundation had been removed as part of a sand pit. Gardening in the 19th and 20th centuries, attentions of various archaeologists over the years as well as pit digging and tree-planting have caused a fair amount of damage to the remains.

The building is rectangular in shape, with a semi-circular apse at the eastern end and is orientated roughly west-east. The outer walls were of stone (Kentish Ragstone) and lime mortar which were probably plastered and painted inside. There were internal partitions or colonnades of timber, some of which incorporated wattle and daub. The roof of the building was of tile. No evidence was found of solid floors of any kind. The floors which did survive point to plain sand or earth but the evidence is not strong either way and the post-Roman damage to the site has been so severe that conceivably all traces of a quality floor could have been lost. Inside the church CAT recorded rubble-filled post-pits, pits and shallow depressions. A human skull and femur were found at the bottom of a deep circular pit inside the building at the east end and three large pits were interpreted as possible graves.

The identification of the purpose of the apsidal building is difficult with no direct evidence (for example surviving inhumations, artefacts or iconography) to show its purpose or who the building is affiliated with. P Crummy believes the building was a Christian church based on its basilical nature, its west-east orientation with the apse to the east, three possible graves inside, and a cemetery with more than 500 east-west burials immediately outside its north and east walls. There was no evidence for industrial, agricultural or domestic activity (although food was consumed on the site), nor for any pagan cult or practice. Other theories include the idea the building was a pagan banqueting hall (Millett, 1995, 451–54) or a Mithraic temple (Walsh, 2018, 339–374).

#### **4 Aims**

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

#### **5 Results (Figs 2-3)**

Works supervised by a CAT archaeologist included the removal and replacement of the gravel and wooden posts in the ruins and the erection of an interpretation panel approximately 8.5m north of the church.

##### **Renovations (Fig 2)**

Eleven wooden posts were removed and replaced from the eastern end of the church. The posts were replaced in exactly the same locations as the removed posts so no other ground was disturbed. The replacement of the terram and gravel did not penetrate the ground.



**Photograph 1** Working shot during renovation works – looking south-east



**Photograph 2** Site shot showing new posts in place – looking east



**Photograph 3** Removed post – looking east

**Interpretation panel (Fig 2 & 3)**

A post-hole (0.80m by 0.5m and 0.55m deep) was excavated through L1 (topsoil, c 0.20-0.25m thick, dark brown grey sandy silt) into L2 (accumulation layer, dug to 0.32m thick, very dark brown grey sandy silt).



**Photograph 4** Working shot (interpretation panel) – looking south-west

## 6 Finds

Finds were observed but not recovered from L1 and L2. L1 contained modern rubbish, glass and a Roman tile fragment. L2 contained a modern brick fragment, a horse tooth and a Roman tile fragment.

## 7 Conclusion

The replacement of the wooden posts within the Southway Roman Church did not disturb any further ground than that of the removed posts. The removal and re-laying of the terram and gravel did not penetrate the ground.

Despite being located in a very archaeologically-sensitive area only residual finds were observed in later layers during the installation of the interpretation panel.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Martin Leek for commissioning and Colchester Borough Homes for funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by N Rayner and A Wade. Figures were prepared by C Lister, S Veasey and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Dr Jess Tipper and Dr Richard Hoggett.

## 9 References

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

- |                       |       |   |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| Brown, D              | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>  |
| (2nd ed.)             |       |   |
| CAR 9                 | 1993  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88.</i> By N Crummy, P Crummy, and C Crossan. |
| CAT                   | 2020  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CIfA                  | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Revised June 2020  |
| CIfA                  | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated October 2020                                     |
| CIfA                  | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2019  |
| Dunnett, B R          | 1971  | Excavations in Colchester, 1964-8, in <i>Trans Essex Archaeol Soc</i> , 3 (3rd ser) 1, 1-106  |
| K                     |       |   |
| 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) | 2015b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Hull, M R             | 1958  | <i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL 20</i>  |
| Medlycott, M          | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)                                  |
| MHCLG                 | 2019  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.   |
| Millet, M             | 1995  | An Early Christian Community at Colchester? <i>Archaeological Journal</i> 152   |
| Walsh D               | 2018  | Reconsidering the Butt Road "Church," Colchester: Another Mithraeum? <i>Journal of Late Antiquity</i> 11, 2   |

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| CAT   | Colchester Archaeological Trust                   |
| CBC   | Colchester Borough Council                        |
| CBCAA | Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| CBCPS       | Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  |
| CHER        | Colchester Historic Environment Record  |
| ClfA        | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists  |
| context     | specific location of finds on an archaeological site  |
| feature (F) | an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'   |
| layer (L)   | distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material   |
| modern      | period from c AD 1800 to the present  |
| natural     | geological deposit undisturbed by human activity  |
| NGR         | National Grid Reference   |
| OASIS       | Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations,<br><a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a> |
| Roman       | the period from AD 43 to c AD 410   |
| section     | (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s   |
| wsi         | written scheme of investigation   |

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1685)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (plan/sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1685)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under reference number ECC4638.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2021

### **Distribution list**

Colchester Borough Homes

Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

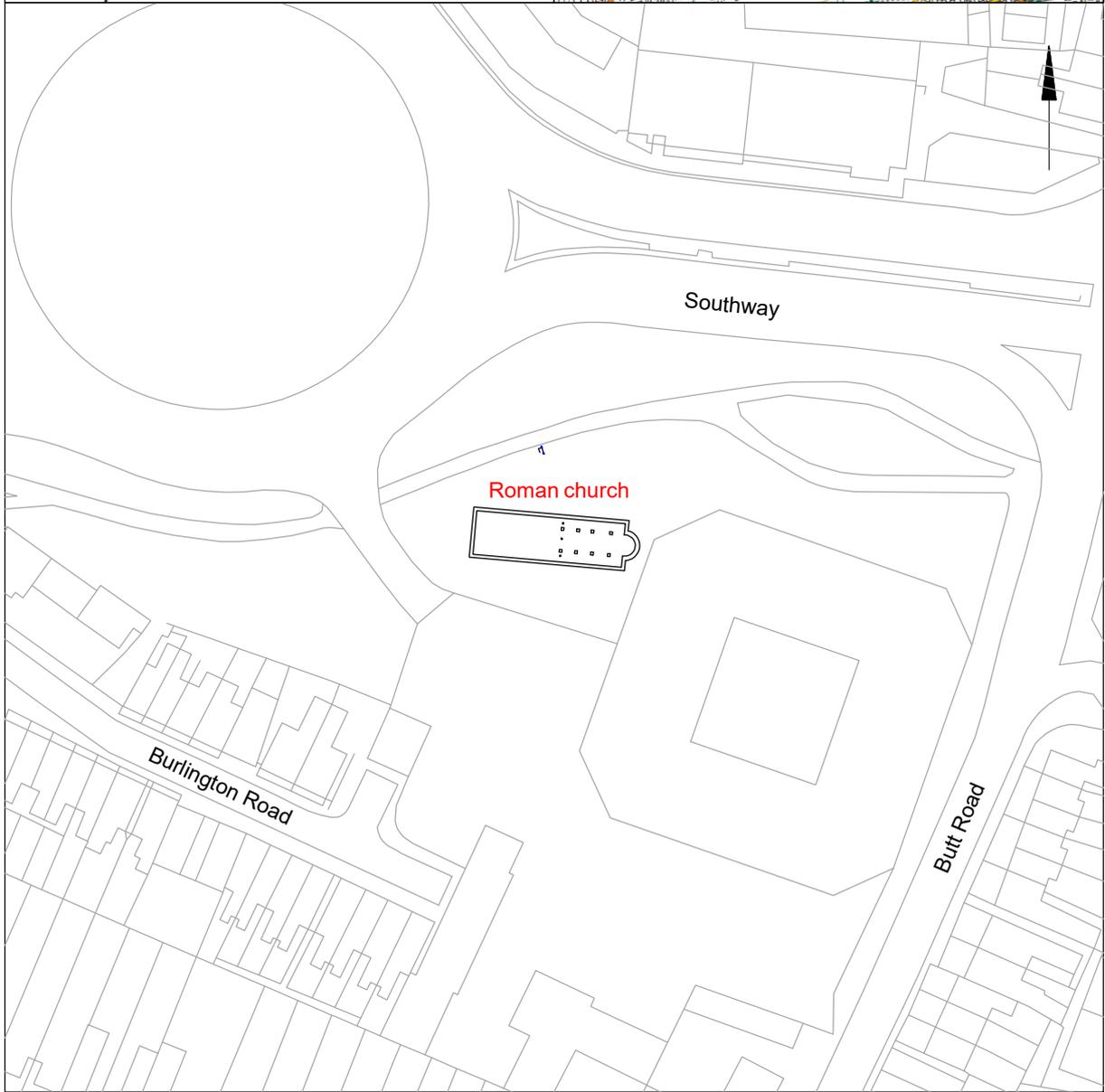
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [sv@catuk.org](mailto:sv@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

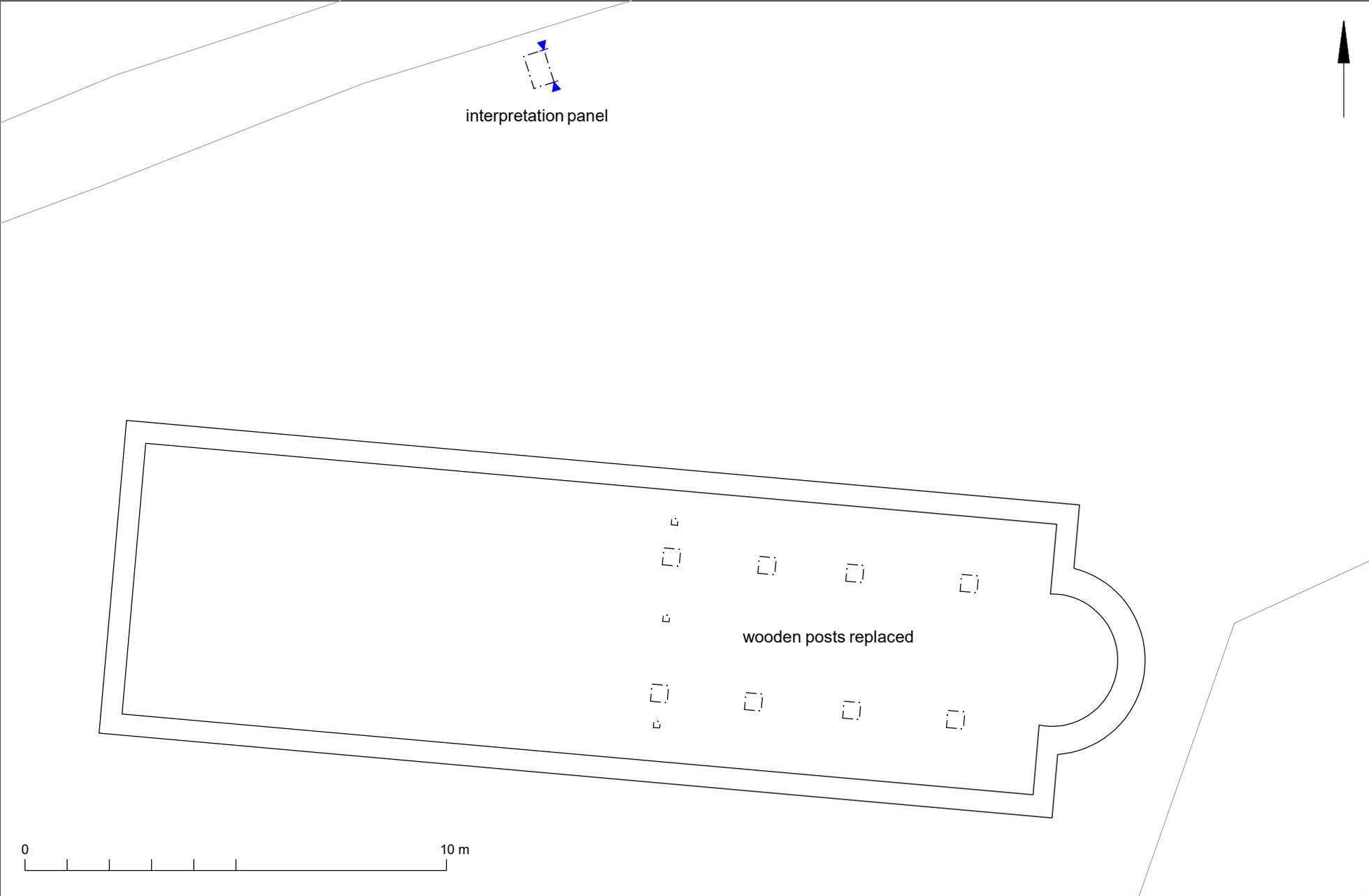
Date: 01/07/2021



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location.





© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 2 Results.

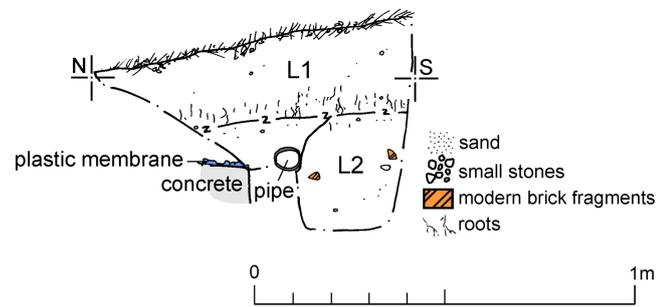


Fig 3 Interpretation panel section.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Address:</b> Southway Roman Church, Southway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BU  |  |
| <b>Parish:</b> Colchester  | <b>District:</b> Colchester  |
| <b>NGR:</b> TL 9926 2484 (centre)  | <b>Site code:</b><br>CAT project ref.: 20/06I<br>CHER ref: <b>ECC</b><br>OASIS ref: colchest3-397523 |
| <b>Type of work:</b><br>Monitoring   | <b>Site director/group:</b><br>Colchester Archaeological Trust                                       |
| <b>Date of work:</b><br>5th July 2020-8th July 2021  | <b>Size of area investigated:</b><br>0.06ha  |
| <b>Location of curating museum:</b><br>Colchester Museum   | <b>Funding source:</b><br>Colchester Borough Homes   |
| <b>Further seasons anticipated?</b><br>no  | <b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b><br>MCC476  |
| <b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1685   |  |
| <b>Periods represented:</b> -  |  |
| <b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b><br><i>Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Southway Roman Church, Southway, Colchester, Essex, during renovation groundworks and the erection of an interpretation panel. The Southway Roman Church is a late Roman apsidal building, located immediately outside the south-side of the wall part of the Roman town and in vicinity of the Butt Road Cemetery. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the works.</i> |  |
| <b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none  |  |
| <b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Jess Tipper, Dr Richard Hogget, Dr Simon Wood   |  |
| <b>Keywords:</b> -   | <b>Significance:</b> -   |
| <b>Author of summary:</b><br>Sarah Veasey  | <b>Date of summary:</b><br>June 2021   |

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at Southway Roman Church, Southway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BU.**

**NGR:** TL 9926 2484 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Commissioned by:** Martin Leek (CB Homes)

**Client:** Colchester Borough Homes

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** tbc

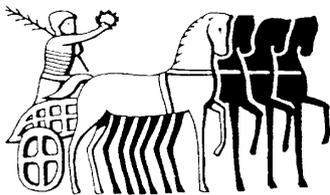
**CAT project code:** 2020/06L

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-397523

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 26/06/2020



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

*tel:* 01206 501785

*email:* [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at the southwest corner of the historic core of Colchester's Town centre on land adjacent to 10 Southway, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 97768 31203.

## Proposed work

The project involves renovation work of the remains. These include the removal of existing shingle and weeds to lay down geotextile membrane and replace the shingle. Carry out masonry repairs and repointing works in lime mortar, replace the existing timber representation posts and sundry work including removal of moss, vegetation and redecoration of metal posts.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts from *CAR 9*, and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECC/MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk))

The Southway Roman Church, also known as the Butt Road Church, is a late Roman apsidal building (MCC476) prominently placed and would have been visible from Head Gate. It stood on the brow of the small valley which runs east-west immediately outside the south side of the walled part of the Roman town. The building stood at or just to the west of what was probably the north-west corner of the Butt Road cemetery (MCC481). The remains are currently Locally Listed and are in the process of being assessed for Scheduled Ancient Monument status.

The following information is predominantly extracted from *CAR 9*, please see the publication for a full background.

The first-known record of the building occurs on a sketch by William Wire and the standing remains were later plotted on the Museum's copy of the 1875-6 1:500 Ordnance Survey maps. The first recorded excavation was undertaken by M R Hull when in 1935 he examined the apse and a pit nearby (Hull 1958, 245-8). Miss B R K Dunnett investigated the site with small square trenches in 1965 (Dunnett 1971, 78-84). CAT carried out excavations of the church in three phases in 1978-9 and 1988.

CAT excavations showed the remains of the church were poorly preserved. The building did not suffer full-scale demolition at the end of the Roman period but survived as a ruin. The remains suffered gradually erosion and piecemeal demolition until with the removal of the apse in the 1930s nothing remained above ground. The northern foundation had been robbed out and much of the south foundation had been removed as part of a sand pit. Gardening in the 19th and 20th centuries, attentions of various archaeologists over the years as well as pit digging and tree-planting have caused a fair amount of damage to the remains.

The building is rectangular in shape, with a semi-circular apse at the eastern end and is orientated roughly west-east. The outer walls were of stone (Kentish Ragstone) and lime mortar which were probably plastered and painted inside. There were internal partitions or colonnades of timber, some of which incorporated wattle and daub. The roof of the building was of tile. No evidence was found of solid floors of any kind. The floors which did survive point to plain sand or earth but the evidence is not strong either way and the post-Roman damage to the site has been so severe that conceivably all traces of a quality floor could have been lost. Inside the church CAT recorded rubble-filled post-pits, pits and shallow depressions. No human remains were found in any of the internal pits however three large pits were interpreted as possible graves.

The identification the apsidal building is difficult with no direct evidence (for example surviving inhumations, artefact or iconography) to show it's purpose or who the building is affiliated with. P Crummy believes the building was a Christian church based on it being basilical

structure, orientated west-east (that is, with apse to the east), with an internal feature of three burials. The building was located beside a cemetery. There was no evidence for industrial, agricultural or domestic activity (although food was consumed on the site), nor for any pagan cult or practice. Other theories include the idea the building could have been a pagan banqueting hall (Millett, 1995, 451–54) or a Temple for Mithras (Walsh, 2018, 339-374).

## **Project background**

As the site is locally listed and is archaeologically significant archaeological monitoring during the renovation works was requested.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological investigation was recommended by the Colchester Museum Heritage Manager. The archaeological monitoring is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological investigation during the renovation work. Primarily this comprises of ensuring that no damage or disturbance of the remains are occurs without archaeological investigation and recording.

Specifically:

The investigation is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and/or exceptional burnt remains related to the Boudiccan destruction of AD 60/61, and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g, Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

## **General methodology**

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 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 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. 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 CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

## **Investigation methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

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

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. 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).

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

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

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

## **Site surveying**

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

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

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

## **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure 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 investigation.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, 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 taken and archived as per Historic England 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: 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 if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## 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 the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. 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 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 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 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.

### **References**

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

- |          |       |   |
|----------|-------|---|
| Brown, D | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>  |
| CAR 9    | 1993  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88.</i> By N Crummy, P Crummy, and C Crossan. |
| CAT      | 2019  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CIfA     | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| CIfA     | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,</i>   |

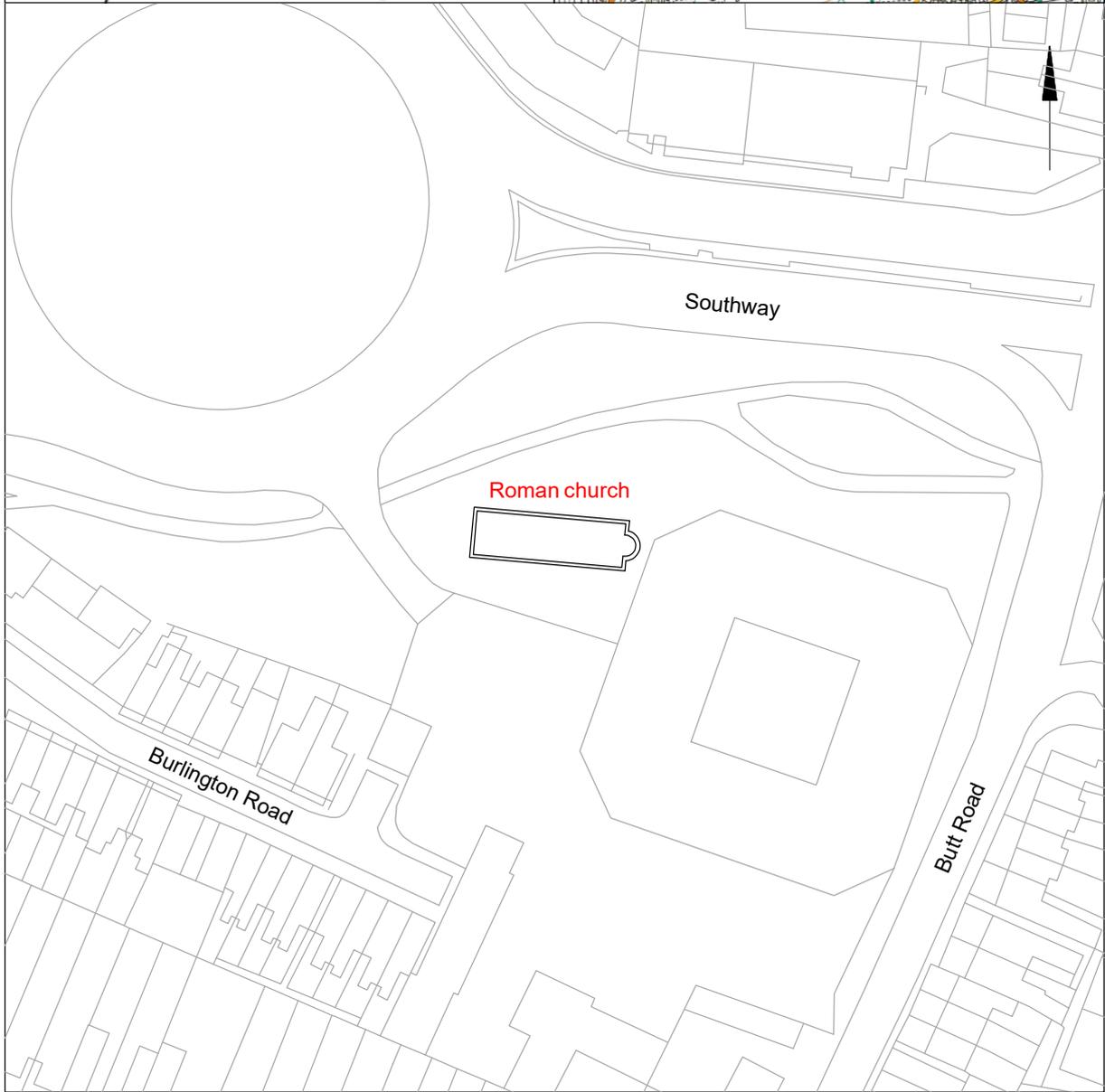
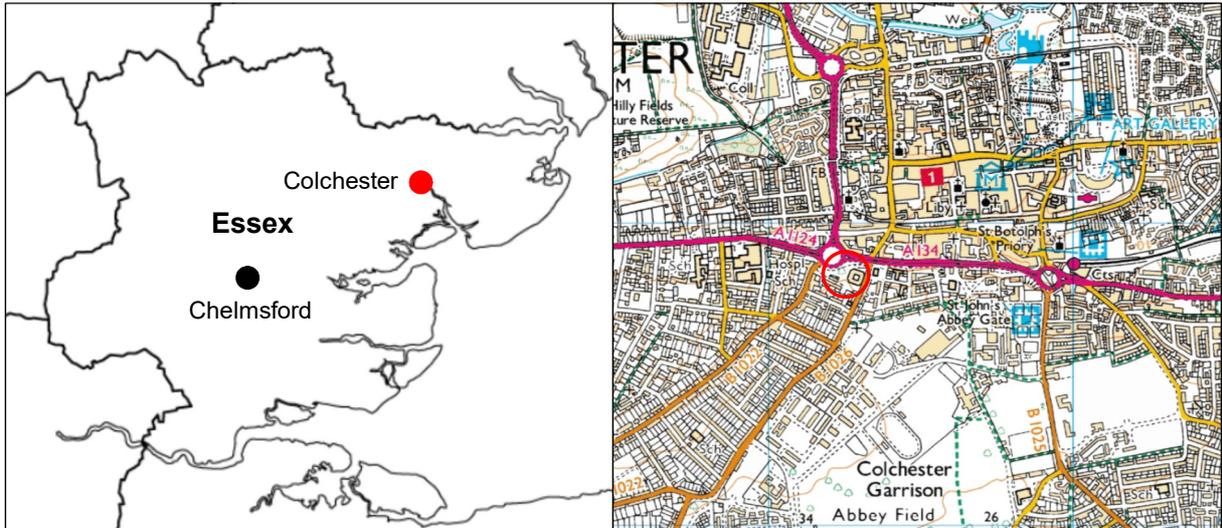
|                          |       |   |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
| Dunnett, B R K           | 1971  | <i>conservation and research of archaeological materials</i><br>Excavations in Colchester, 1964-8, in <i>Trans Essex Archaeol Soc</i> ,<br>3 (3rd ser) <b>1</b> , 1-106 |
| Gurney, D                | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East<br>Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).                                      |
| Historic England<br>(HE) | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best<br/>practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse   |
| Historic England<br>(HE) | 2015b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment<br/>(MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Historic England<br>(HE) | 2018  | <i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological<br/>Fieldwork<br/>Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell  |
| Hull, M R                | 1958  | <i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL <b>20</b>  |
| Medlycott, M             | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the<br/>East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24<br>(EAA <b>24</b> )          |
| MHCLG                    | 2019  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing,<br>Communities and Local Government.   |
| Millet, M                | 1995  | An Early Christian Community at Colchester? <i>Archaeological<br/>Journal</i> 152   |
| Walsh D                  | 2018  | Reconsidering the Butt Road "Church," Colchester: Another<br>Mithraeum? <i>Journal of Late Antiquity</i> <b>11</b> , 2  |

Emma Holloway



Colchester Archaeological Trust  
Roman Circus House  
Roman Circus Walk  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785  
email: [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location.



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-397523**

### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | Archaeological investigation at Southway Roman Church, Southway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BU.  |
| Short description of the project       | Groundworks were observed during the restoration and installation of an interpretation panel at Southway Roman Church, Colchester. The works monitored the removal and replacement of a terram and gravel layer and wooden posts, and the excavation of a posthole for an interpretation panel. Nothing of archaeological significance was recovered. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 05-07-2020 End: 08-06-2021   |
| Previous/future work                   | Yes / Not known   |
| Any associated project reference codes | 2020/06I - Contracting Unit No.   |
| Type of project                        | Recording project   |
| Site status                            | Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument   |
| Monument type                          | CHURCH Roman  |
| Significant Finds                      | NONE None   |
| Investigation type                     | "Watching Brief"  |
| Prompt                                 | Conservation/ restoration   |

### Project location

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Country          | England  |
| Site location    | ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Southway Roman Church, Southway, Colchester, Essex |
| Postcode         | CO3 3BU  |
| Study area       | 0.06 Hectares  |
| Site coordinates | TL 9926 2484 51.88592644943 0.895751242078 51 53 09 N 000 53 44 E Point        |

### Project creators

|                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Name of Organisation         | Colchester Archaeological Trust    |
| Project brief originator     | Colchester Museum Heritage Manager |
| Project design originator    | Emma Holloway                      |
| Project director/manager     | Chris Lister                       |
| Project supervisor           | Nigel Rayner                       |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Borough Council                    |

Name of sponsor/funding body Colchester Borough Homes

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Service

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological monitoring at Southway Roman Church, Southway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3BU: July 2020-June 2021

Author(s)/Editor(s) Veasey, S

Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1685

Date 2021

Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust

Place of issue or publication Colchester

Description A4 loose-leaf comb-bound

URL cat.essex.ac.uk

Entered by Sarah Veasey (sv@catuk.org)

Entered on 18 June 2021

**OASIS:**

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice  
 © ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012  
 Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)