

# Archaeological monitoring at 3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QR

June 2021



by **Bronagh Quinn**

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fieldwork by Bronagh Quinn

**commissioned by Mark Polley, MP Associates  
on behalf of the Homeowner**

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a new extension. The site is located adjacent to the Late Iron Age/early Roman scheduled monument of Sheepen Farm and close to a number of Roman kilns and burials. The investigation uncovered four large Roman pits, possibly quarry pits for sand and gravel extraction. This adds to our understanding of life outside of the Roman walled town.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex on 21st, 22nd and 27th June 2022. The work was commissioned by Mark Polley (MP Associates) on behalf of the homeowner in advance of the construction of a single-storey extension to the side and rear of the existing dwelling.

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

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 3 The Chantry, Colchester*, written by Dr Simon Wood and detailing the required archaeological work (CBCAA 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site lies within an area of significant archaeological remains being directly adjacent to the Scheduled Monument of Sheepen Farm (NHLE 1002173, CHER MCC7488), an area of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation and industrial activity (Hawkes & Hull 1946; Niblett 1985), with Bronze Age occupation also attested there (CAR 11, 132-3).

Also, the site is located approximately 1.08km to the east of the Roman walled town, with Roman remains in the area including a major road to the southeast (CHER MCC475 and MCC1928; Hull 1958, 2-3), tile and pottery kilns (MCC1524, MCC1526-7, MCC2157-9, MCC8509; Hull 1963, 3, 157-168), and a large number of burials (for a full discussion see CAR 9, 257-275). Human remains close to the current site include a fragment of skull found inside Roman kiln 26 (MCC2686; Hull 1963, 161) and a Roman lead coffin found at 55 Endsleigh Court (MCC8509).

## 4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to excavate and record any archaeological remains impacted by the groundworks.

## 5 Results (Figs 3-4)

The foundation trenches for the extension totalled 28.5m long, 0.6m wide and varied in depth from 1.2-1.6m. A layer of modern paving slabs (L1) sealed a mixed subsoil layer (L2, 0.6m thick) which overlay natural (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.6m below current ground level).

Four large pits were uncovered, of which three produced datable finds. F1, F2 and F3 were uncovered in the northern end of the foundation trenches, while F4 was located in the south-eastern corner. The full extent of all four features is unknown due to the limits of excavation (LOE).

The relationship between F1, F2 and F3 is uncertain as all three had similar fills, which could suggest that they were all dug and backfilled at relatively similar times. Pits F2 (0.74m long and 0.62m deep) and F3 (3.1m long and 1.0m deep) both produced finds of an early-mid 2nd century date including a heavily degraded coin (SF2) and a large fragment of puddingstone quernstone (SF3), while F1 (0.59m long and 0.49m deep) had no datable evidence. One possible explanation is that these pits were dug for sand and gravel extraction.

F4 (c 3.7m by 2.9m and 0.57m deep) was another large pit found in the southeastern corner of the foundation trenches. The pottery found within indicates a Roman date, although the fill included a Late Iron Age bronze unit of Cunobelinus (SF1) dating from c AD 8-41. The function of this pit is unclear but its size suggests it was a quarry pit for sand and gravel extraction.



Photograph 1 F1 and F3, looking south



**Photograph 2** F2, looking north



**Photograph 3** F4, looking north



**Photograph 4** Trench shot, looking west

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The watching brief uncovered 73 sherds of pottery weighing just under 1.7kg with an EVE of 0.70 (Table 1) and one fragment (51g) of ceramic building material (henceforth CBM). These were recovered from three pits and as unstratified finds, the largest assemblage of which came from F3 (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	73	1,667	23	0.70
CBM	1	51	51	-
<b>All</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0.70</b>

**Table 1** Summary of the pottery and CBM

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F2	Pit	24	249	10	0.55
F3	Pit	37	1,227	33	0.03
F4	Pit	5	90	18	0.00
U/S	-	8	152	19	0.12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0.70</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features**Late Iron Age-Roman pottery**

Apart from one sherd (18g) of prehistoric handmade sand-tempered pottery (fabric HMS) from F3, all the pottery dates to the Late Iron Age-Roman period. The pottery includes one sherd of Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery (fabric GTW) from F3, and occasional Late Iron Age-early Roman material including a Cam 218 bowl in a Romanising coarse ware (fabric RCW) also from F3. There is also some material dating from the early 2nd century AD onwards: a sherd of Lezoux Samian (fabric BACG) from F3 and a Cam 391 beaker in fabric CB (Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware), dating to AD 110/120-180/220, from F2. Other sherds of note included a Cam 175 honey pot (fabric DJ) from F2 which dates to AD 43-80. Finally, it is worth noting that the unstratified pottery (some of which could have come from the uncovered features) contains some later material including a BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 (fabric GB BSW) Cam 305 bowl dating to AD 275-300 and a sherd of Oxidised Hadham ware (fabric CH) dating to AD 225/250-425.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F2	Pit	24	249	10	0.55
F3	Pit	37	1,227	33	0.03
F4	Pit	5	90	18	0.00
U/S	-	7	101	14	0.12
<b>Total</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0.70</b>

**Table 3** Quantities of Late Iron Age-Roman pottery from specific features

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	AD 110-220
BAET	Inland Baetican (Guadalquivir) amphorae	Roman
BSW 1	Black surface ware 1	Roman
BSW 3	Black surface ware 3	Roman
CADIZ	Coastal Baetican (Dr.7-11, Dr.12, Beltran II)	Roman
CB	Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware	AD 100/110-275/300
CH	Oxidised Hadham wares	AD 225/250-425
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman
FJ	Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware	AD 43-160
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	AD 110/125-300
GB (BSW)	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 (Black surface ware)	AD 110/125-300
GTW	Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware	Late Iron Age
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	LIA-AD 200/300
HZ OX	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares	LIA-AD 200/300
LYONNAIS	Lyon amphorae	20 BC-AD 120
RCW	Romanizing Coarse ware	Late Iron Age-early Roman
TZ	Mortaria, Colchester and Continental imports	AD 43-400
UR (BSW)	Copies of Terra nigra-wares (Black surface ware)	AD 43-100

**Table 4** Late Iron Age-Roman pottery fabrics recorded. \*NRFRC

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	1	5	5	0.00
BAET	Inland Baetican (Guadalquivir) amphorae	1	67	67	0.00
BSW 1	Black surface ware 1	1	4	4	0.00
BSW 3	Black surface ware 3	4	59	15	0.00
CADIZ	Coastal Baetican (Dr.7-11, Dr.12, Beltran II)	1	573	573	0.00
CB	Colchester red colour-coated, roughcast ware	5	32	6	0.30
CH	Oxidised Hadham wares	1	16	16	0.00
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	12	157	13	0.30
FJ	Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware	1	5	5	0.00
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	1	9	9	0.00
GB (BSW)	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 (Black surface ware)	1	14	14	0.07
GTW	Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware	1	36	36	0.00
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	12	141	12	0.00
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	3	86	29	0.00
HZ OX	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares	4	233	58	0.00
LYONNAIS	Lyon amphorae	2	62	31	0.00
RCW	Romanizing Coarse ware	18	120	7	0.00
TZ	Mortaria, Colchester and Continental imports	2	17	9	0.03
UR (BSW)	Copies of Terra nigra-wares (Black surface ware)	1	13	13	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0.70</b>

Table 5 Details on the Late Iron Age-Roman pottery

Fabric Group	Form	EVE
CB	<b>All</b>	<b>0.30</b>
	Cam 391	0.30
DJ	<b>All</b>	<b>0.30</b>
	?	0.05
	Cam 175	0.25
GB (BSW)	<b>All</b>	<b>0.07</b>
	Cam 305B	0.07
TZ	<b>All</b>	<b>0.03</b>
	?	0.03
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.70</b>

Table 6 Late Iron Age-Roman pottery quantification via vessel form

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

CBM was limited to one fragment (51g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile which was unstratified.

### Conclusion

Table 7 summarizes the dating evidence for the three features which contained dateable pottery. On the available evidence, pits F2 and F3 date to the 2nd century although both contain some residual earlier material.



Context	LIA-Roman pottery	Approximate date
F2	BSW 1, BSW 3, CB (CAM 391), DJ (CAM 175), HZ, GX, UR (BSW)	Early-mid 2nd century AD?
F3	BACG, BAET (DR20), CADIZ (DR7-11), DJ, FJ, GTW, GX, HMS, HZ, HZ OX, RCW (CAM 218), TZ	2nd century AD
F4	GX, LYONNAIS	Roman

**Table 7** Approximate dates for the individual features

## 6.2 Small finds and glass

by *Laura Pooley*

From pit F4 was a Late Iron Age bronze unit of Cunobelinus (SF1) dating from c AD 8-41 (Photograph 5). On one side is a sphinx standing right with the inscription CVNO below, and on the other a figure standing left holding a severed head in the right hand and a staff in the left, with the inscription CA (to left) M (to right).



**Photograph 5** Late Iron Age bronze unit of Cunobelinus, c AD 8-41 (actual size above, larger black and white image below)

A copper-alloy Roman coin (SF2) from pit F3 is in a poor condition with the bust just about visible on one side. Also from F3 was a fragment of puddingstone quernstone (SF3), a piece of pale green vessel glass and an incomplete iron nail.

### Catalogue of small finds

SF1 F4, finds no. 6. Late Iron Age bronze unit of Cunobelinus, c AD 8-41, 15mm diameter, 2.3g, fair condition. Obverse: Sphinx standing right, CVNO below. Reverse: Figure standing left holding severed head in right hand, staff in left, CA to left, M to right. ABC 2987 (Rudd 2010).

SF2 F3, finds no. 4 (mid fill). Roman copper-alloy coin, 22mm diameter, 4.7g. Very worn and in very poor condition with very little of the original surface surviving. The bust is just about visible on the obverse.

SF3 F3 (finds no. 2). Fragment of puddingstone quernstone with no original surfaces surviving, 473g.

Also from F3 (finds no. 2):

- Fragment of pale green vessel glass, 1.7g

- Incomplete iron nail with tip missing, 9.0g. The nail has a square-sectioned shank clenched at 90° with a flat round head, and is of Manning Type 1b.

### 6.3 Animal bone

by Pip Parmenter

Five bones were recovered from F3 (finds no. 2). Four of these were large mammal, likely cattle. They include two conjoining fragments of metatarsal shaft, gnawed at one end and snapped when fresh, possibly for marrow extraction, at the other. There are also two conjoining pieces of pelvis, though these were broken recently rather than historically. The fifth bone is the shaft of a small mammal long bone, possibly sheep femur. Two bones from F2 (finds no. 1) were both fragments of large mammal skull.

## 7 Conclusion

Archaeological investigations at 3 The Chantry, Colchester revealed four large Roman pits, all probably quarry pits for sand and gravel extraction. Finds recovered from the fill of the pits included pottery, animal bone, glass, coins, a nail and a fragment of quernstone. The Late Iron Age bronze coin likely came from occupational/industrial activity at the scheduled monument of Sheepen Farm immediately to the north. This information has helped to expand the knowledge of life outside of the Roman town of Colchester.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mark Polley (MP Associates) and the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, the fieldwork was carried out by B Quinn. Figures are by S Veasey and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Simon Wood.

## 9 References

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

- |                       |       |   |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
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| CAR 9                 | 1993  | <i>Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88. Colchester Archaeological Report 9</i> , by N Crummy, P Crummy, and C Crossan. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd                |
| CAR 10                | 1999  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds & S Wade. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd  |
| CAR 11                | 1995  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd  |
| CAT                   | 2021  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QR</i>   |
| CAT                   | 2022  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CBCAA                 | 2021  | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Monitoring at 3 The Chantry, Colchester by S Wood</i>  |
| CIfA                  | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief</i>  |
| CIfA                  | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>   |
| CIfA                  | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2019   |
| Gurney, D             | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East  |

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MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Niblett, BRK	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman Industrial site at Camulodunum</i> , CBA Research Report, <b>57</b>
Rudd, C	2010	<i>Ancient British Coinage</i>
Symonds, R & Wade, S	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** One box

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1818)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1818)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under project ref. ECC4729, and with the Archaeological Data Service

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## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Paving slabs	Modern paving slabs and associated concrete	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Soft dry medium/dark grey/brown silty sand and inclusions of gravel	Undated
L3	-	Natural	Friable dry medium yellow/orange sand and inclusions of gravel	Post-glacial
F1	-	Quarry pit	Soft dry medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of gravel	Roman
F2	1	Quarry pit	Soft dry medium/dark grey/brown silty sand and inclusions of gravel	Early-mid 2nd century AD?
F3	2, 3, 4	Quarry pit	Soft dry medium/dark grey/brown silty sand and inclusions of gravel	2nd century AD
F4	5, 6	Quarry pit	Soft dry medium grey/brown silty sand	Roman

## Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Level	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wmd	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Gritted	Spout	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Hole diam.	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	Vessel function	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date		
F2	PIT	1		1	11	11																												LIA-AD 200/300		
F2	PIT	1		1	23	23								X														GX						ROMAN		
F2	PIT	1		3	22	7		0	0	1																		GX						ROMAN		
F2	PIT	1		1	13	13		0	0	1																		UR (BSW)						LIA-ER		
F2	PIT	1		3	44	15						X																BSW 3						ROMAN		
F2	PIT	1		1	4	4																						BSW 1						ROMAN		
F2	PIT	1		5	32	6		2	0	0																		CB	CAM 391	BEAKER	0.30	80		AD 110/125-180/220		
F2	PIT	1		6	77	13		0	1	0																			DJ					CR/WH	ROMAN	
F2	PIT	1		3	23	8		2	0	0																		DJ	CAM 175	STORAGE JAR	0.25	120	YELLOW, PK CORE	AD 43-80		
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	1	67	67	X																						BAET	DR20					ROMAN	
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	1	573	573	X																						CADIZ	DR7-11					ROMAN	
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	3	197	66						?																	HZ OX						WHITE DEPOSIT INT (?)	LIA-AD 200/300
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	1	53	53								X															HZ						LIA-AD 200/300	
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	1	13	13																						RCW	CAM 218	BOWL					LIA-AD 120	
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	1	11	11																							GX						ROMAN	
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	2	17	9		2	0	0								X											TZ	?		0.03	?			ROMAN
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	1	7	7																							DJ						OR	ROMAN
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	17	107	6		0	0	2																			RCW						LIA-ER	
F3	PIT	2	UP/MID	1	22	22								X															HZ						LIA-AD 200/300	
F3	PIT	3	LWR	1	36	36																							HZ OX						LIA-AD 200/300	
F3	PIT	3	LWR	1	39	39		0	1	0																			DJ						WH/CR	ROMAN
F3	PIT	3	LWR	1	5	5																							FJ						AD 43-160	
F3	PIT	3	LWR	2	21	11																							GX						ROMAN	
F3	PIT	3	LWR	1	5	5																							BACG						AD 110-220	
F3	PIT	3	LWR	1	18	18																							HMS						PREHISTORIC	
F3	PIT	3	LWR	1	36	36																							GTW					SOME SAND	LIA	
F4	PIT	5		3	28	9		0	0	1																			GX						ROMAN	
F4	PIT	5		2	62	31		0	2	0																			LYONNAIS						20 BC-AD 120	
US	US	7		2	36	18																							GX						ROMAN	

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Level	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wmd	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Gritted	Spout	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Hole diam.	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	Vessel function	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
US	US	7		1	16	16																					CH						AD 225/250-425	
US	US	7		1	14	14	1	0	0																		GB (BSW)	CAM 305B	BOWL	0.07	210		AD 275-300	
US	US	7		1	15	15																					BSW 3						ROMAN	
US	US	7		1	9	9																					GB					XXX	AD 110/125-300	
US	US	7		1	11	11	1	0	0																		DJ	?	?	0.05	190	OR	ROMAN	

### Appendix 3 CBM list

Feature type	Find no.	Soil S no.	Section	Level	Trench	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	FL CORN.	MNI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. Vt.	Rect. Vt.	Bl. vt.	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phs	Blind	L	BR.	TH.	Frog. L	Frog. Width	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date
US	7					1	51	51	X	PT	0																																				MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL

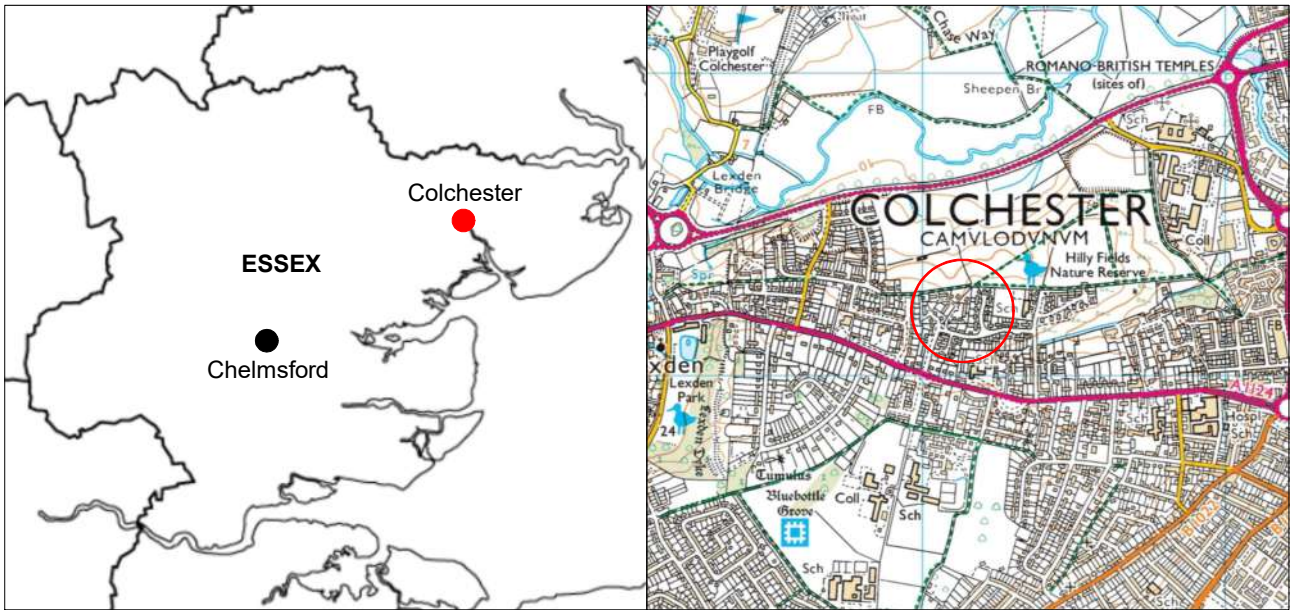


Fig 1 Site location.



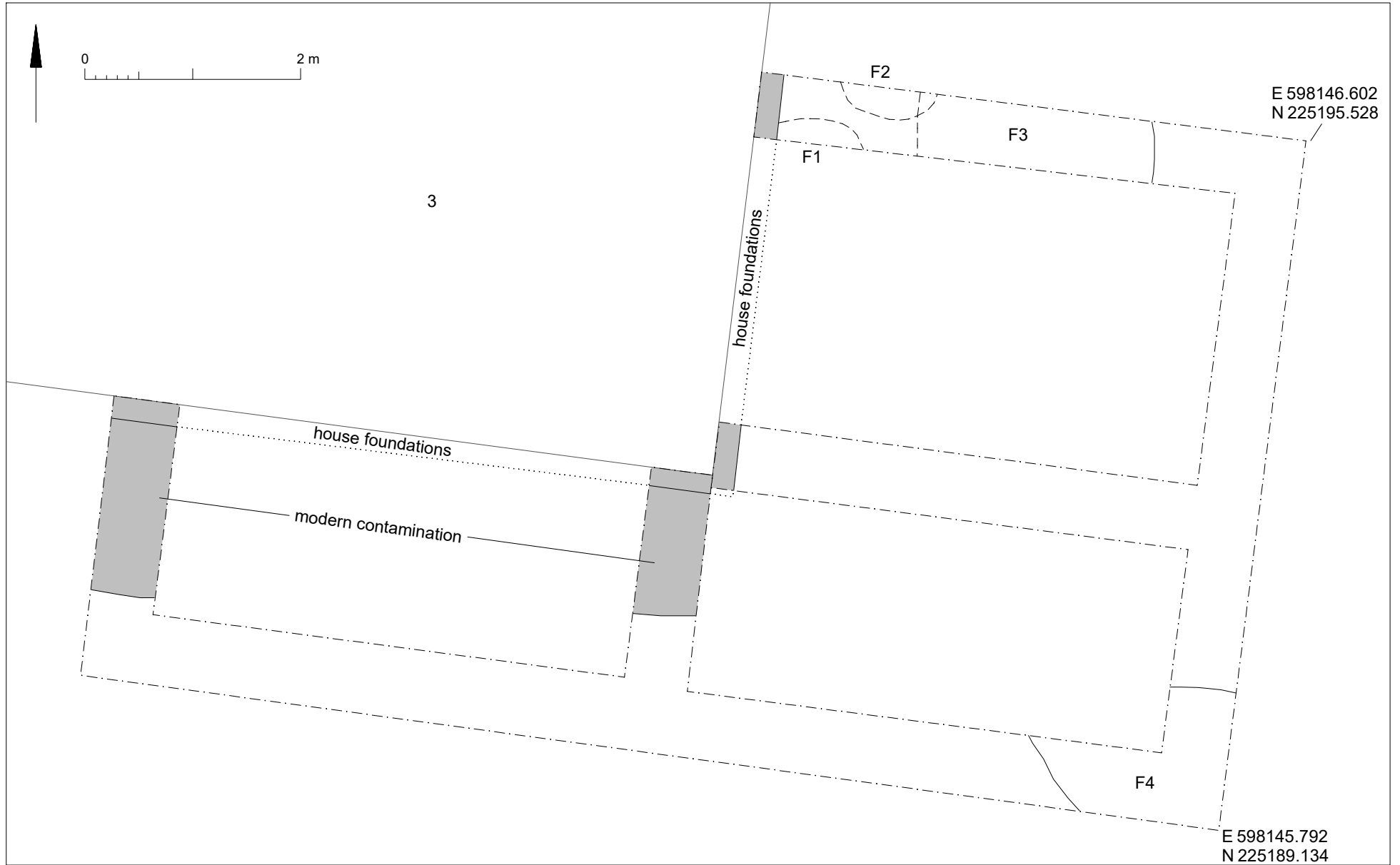


Fig 2 Results

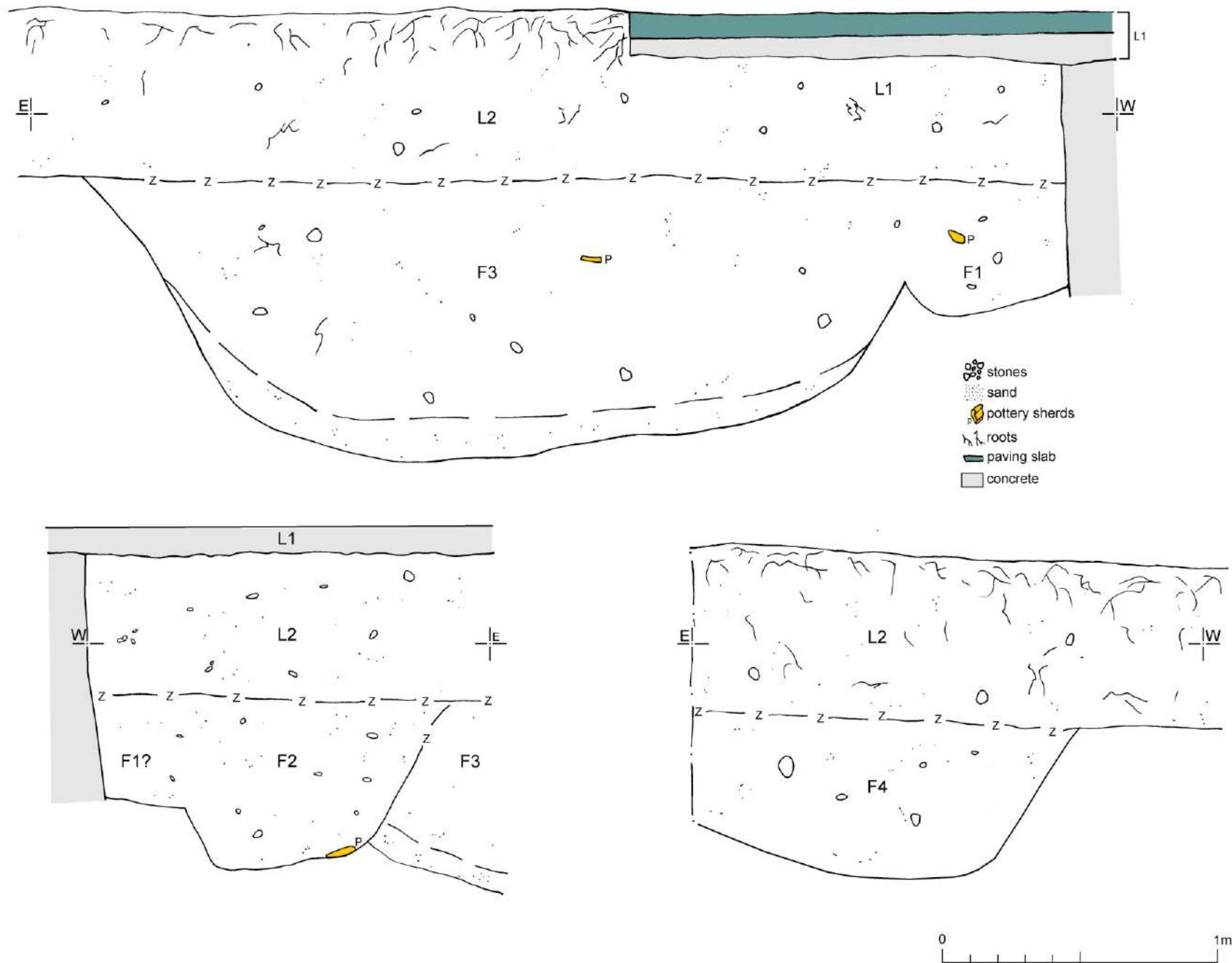


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QR	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 98137 25196 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2021/11j CHER ref: ECC4729 OASIS ref: colchest3-502869
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 21st, 22nd, 27th June 2022	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.07ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester Museum & Archaeological Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> Homeowner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC475, MCC1524, MCC1525, MCC1526, MCC1527, MCC1928, MCC2157, MCC2158, MCC2159, MCC2686, MCC7488, MCC8509, SMR1002173
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1818	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a new extension. The site is located adjacent to the Late Iron Age/early Roman scheduled monument of Sheepen Farm and close to a number of Roman kilns and burials. The investigation uncovered four large Roman pits, <i>possibly quarry pits for sand and gravel extraction</i> . This adds to our understanding of life outside of the Roman walled town.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Simon Wood	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Bronagh Quinn	<b>Date of summary:</b> August 2022

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QR**

**NGR:** TL 98137 25196(centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** Colchester

**Planning reference:** 212136

**Commissioned by:** Mark Polley (MP Associates)

**Client:** Homeowner

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** tbc

**CAT project code:** 2021/11j

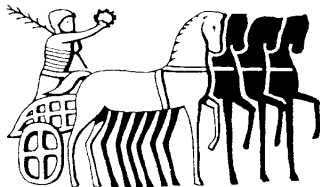
**OASIS project number:** colchest3-502869

**Contracts manager:** Chris Lister

**Fieldwork manager:** Adam Wightman

**CBC monitor:** Dr Simon Wood

**This WSI written:** 17.11.2021



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
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## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.4km west-northwest of the historic core of Colchester town centre at 6 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 98137 25196.

## Proposed work

The development comprises of a single storey extension to the side and rear of the existing dwelling and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site lies within an area of significant archaeology where evidence of concentrations of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation, and industrial activity, have been recorded in an area known as Sheepen Farm (CHER MCC7488). The area is designated as a heritage asset (Scheduled Monument number 1002173). The late Iron Age and Roman site at Sheepen involves a main period of occupation between c AD 5-60 (Hawkes & Hull 1946; Niblett 1985), though Bronze Age occupation is also attested there (CAR 11, 132-3).

The site is situated outside the Roman walled town which lies approximately 1.08km to the east. The site is surrounded by important archaeological remains, principally of Late Iron Age and Roman date. These remains are dominated by the major road a short distance to the southeast (CHER MCC475 and MCC1928) which led from the walled town to London (Hull 1958, 2-3).

The site is surrounded by a concentration of Roman pottery and tile kilns. In Warren Field c 78m northeast of the site four kilns were excavated by Joslin in 1877 (MCC1524, MCC1525, MCC1526 and MCC 1527. Hull 1963, 3). In Endsleigh Court a kiln was found in 1959 (MCC8509, Hull 1963, 168). Three kilns were recorded c 103m southwest of the site in Lockhart Avenue (MCC2157, MCC2158, MCC2159, Hull 1963, 157-168).

The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of Lexden Road (the main Roman road leading from the walled town towards London and Braughing), leading out of Balkerne Gate as far west as The Avenue (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). A number of Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered in the immediate vicinity (Hull 1958), a full discussion of which can be found in CAR 9. Burials close to the current site include a fragment of skull found inside Roman kiln 26 (MCC2686, Hull 1963, 161). A Roman lead coffin was found at 55 Endsleigh Court (MCC8509).

## Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in July 2021 (application No. 212136) for a *proposed single storey rear/side extension*.

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

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological monitoring of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021).

Specifically:

The monitoring 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 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-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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.

## **Monitoring 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 monitoring.

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 Historic England guidance (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 (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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). 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

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

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 / Gwladys Monteil  
Roman brick/tile: 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* (Historic England 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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

## **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	2011	<i>Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88. Colchester Archaeological Report 9.</i> By N Crummy, P Crummy, and C Crossan
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2021	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 3 The Chantry, Colchester,</i> by S Wood
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Revised October 2021
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised Oct 2019
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hawkes, C F C and Hull, M R	1947	Camulodunum, Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14

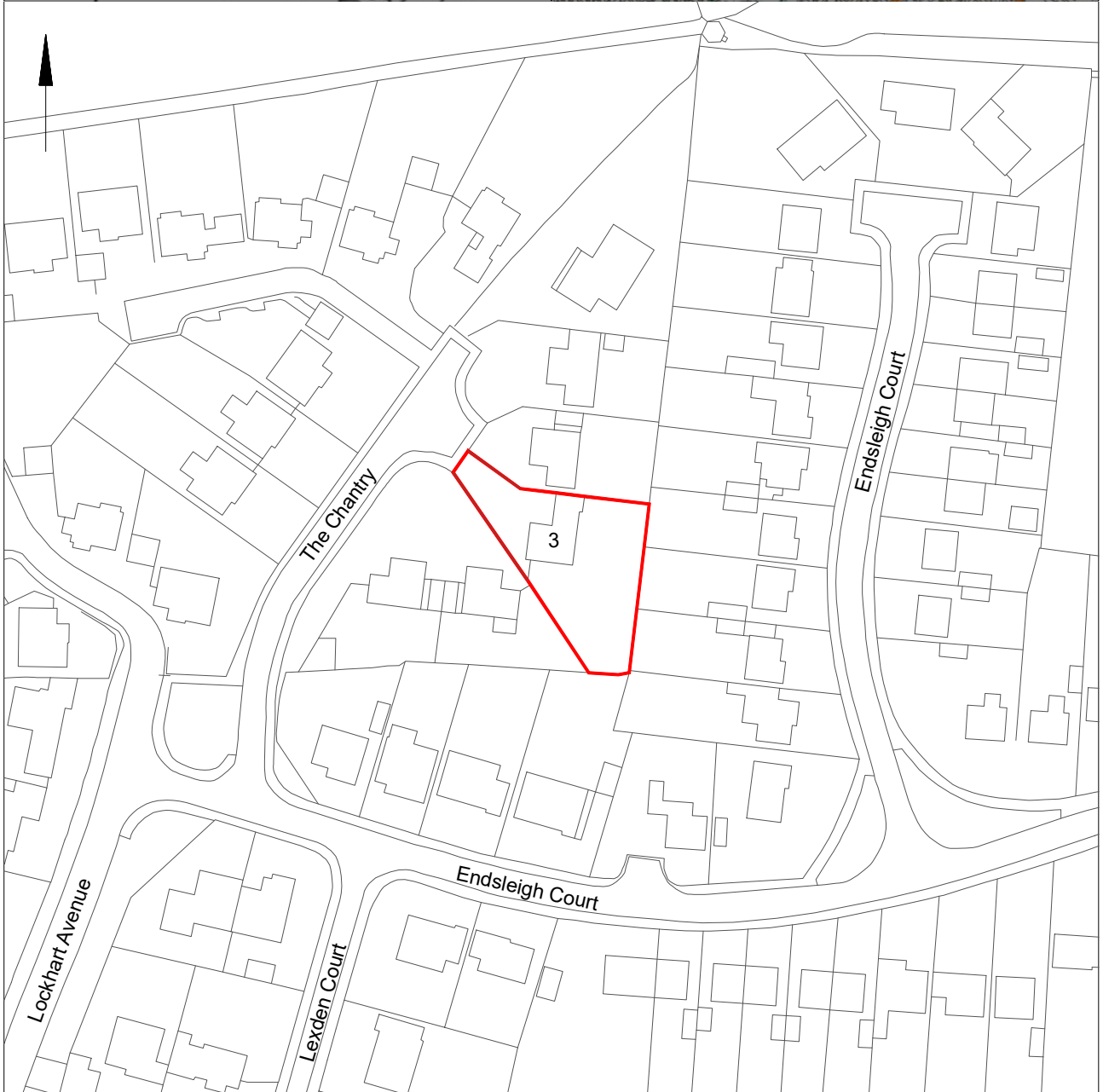
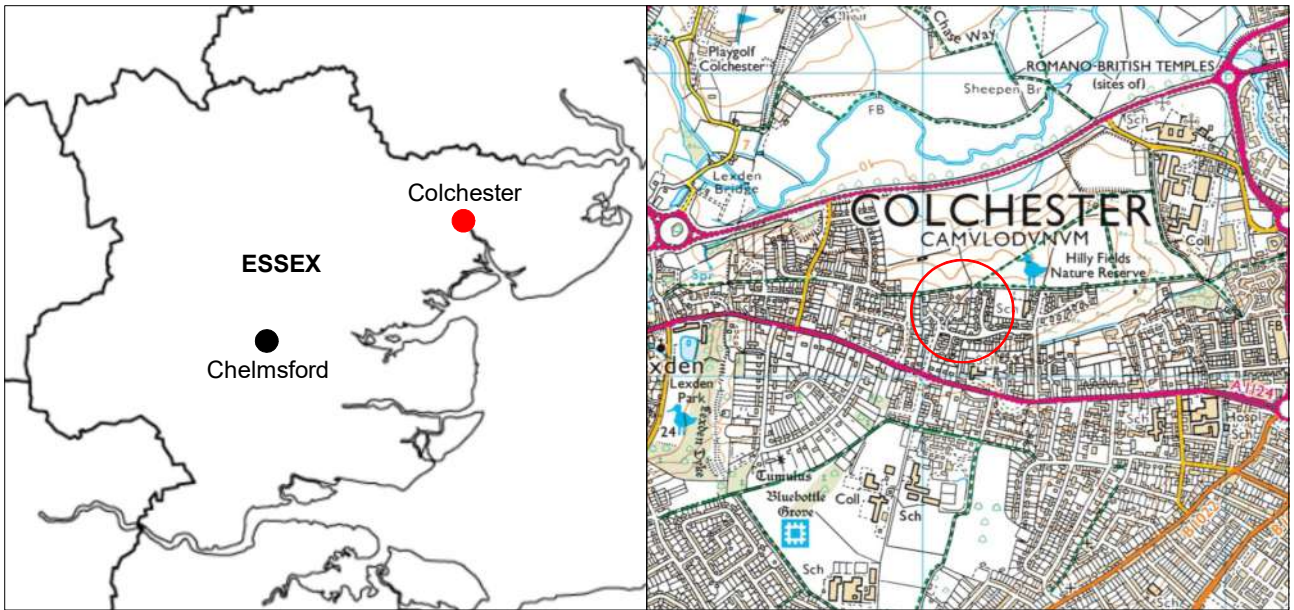
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester.</i> Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, <b>20</b>
Hull, M R	1963	<i>The Roman Potters' Kilns of Colchester</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 <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Niblett, B R K	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman Industrial site at Camulodunum,</i> CBA Research Report, <b>57</b>

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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

## Summary for colchest3-502869

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-502869
Project Name	Field Observation (Monitoring) at 3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QR
Sitename	3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QR
Activity type	Field Observation (Monitoring)
Project Identifier(s)	2021/11j
Planning Id	212136
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	21-Jun-2022 - 27-Jun-2022
Location	3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3QR NGR : TL 98137 25196 LL : 51.8900910904875, 0.877918559587849 12 Fig : 598137,225196
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 3 The Chantry, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a new extension.
Project Results	<p>The foundation trenches for the extension totalled 28.5m long, 0.6m wide and varied in depth from 1.2-1.6m. A layer of modern paving slabs (L1) sealed a mixed subsoil layer (L2, 0.6m thick) which overlay natural (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.6m below current ground level).</p> <p>Four large pits were uncovered, of which three produced datable finds. F1, F2 and F3 were uncovered in the northern end of the foundation trenches, while F4 was located in the south-eastern corner. The full extent of all four features is unknown due to the limits of excavation (LOE).</p> <p>The relationship between F1, F2 and F3 is uncertain as all three had similar fills, which could suggest that they were all dug and backfilled at relatively similar times. Pits F2 (0.74m long and 0.62m deep) and F3 (3.1m long and 1.0m deep) both produced finds of an early-mid 2nd century date including a heavily degraded coin (SF2) and a large fragment of puddingstone quernstone (SF3), while F1 (0.59m long and 0.49m deep) had no datable evidence. One possible explanation is that these pits were dug for sand and gravel extraction.</p> <p>F4 (c 3.7m by 2.9m and 0.57m deep) was another large pit found in the southeastern corner of the foundation trenches. The pottery found within indicates a Roman date, although the fill included a Late Iron Age bronze unit of Cunobelinus (SF1) dating from c AD 8-41. The function of this pit is unclear but its size suggests it was a quarry pit for sand and gravel extraction.</p>
Keywords	Gravel Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD

Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4729
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;