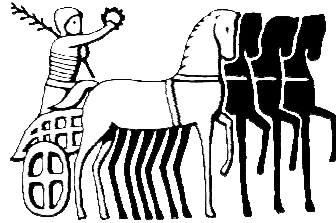


# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2081  
issued August 2024**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at  
B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North,  
Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SX:  
March-June 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/03a  
CHER code: ECC4844**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at  
B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North,  
Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SX: March-June 2024**

**NGR: TL 9950 2430 (centre)**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/03a  
CAT Report 2081**

**CHER code: ECC4844  
OASIS id: colchest3-523471**

**Report prepared by Emma Holloway  
With contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton**

**Fieldwork by Ziya Eksen, Emma Holloway and  
Xander Smith**

**Commissioned by: Russell Dellar, Sodexo  
Client: RMPA Services Ltd**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Emma Holloway	Project Officer (Post-excavation & Illustration)
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<b>Issued:</b>	30/08/2024	

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the replacement of a hammer and discus throwing cage. The development site is located within the Abbey Field conservation area and close to significant archaeological remains including Roman burials and the Roman circus. However, only one post-medieval feature was encountered during the groundworks.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring and recording at B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 19th March and 4th June 2024. The work was commissioned by Russel Dellar of Sodexo on behalf of RMPA Services Ltd and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during groundworks for the replacement of the hammer and discus throwing cage.

As the site lies within the Abbey Field Conservation Area and an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

No archaeological brief was issued for this project; however, the work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2024a) and approved with the CCCAA in advance of the groundworks.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024b).

## 3 Geological and Archaeological background

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

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is comprised of Thames group (Mainly silty clays and clays, some sandy or gravelly, with some silts, sands, gravels and calcareous mudstones. The Thames Group was deposited in environments ranging from marine shoreface ranging out to outer marine shelf.) with superficial deposits of Cover Sand (periglacial aeolian blanket deposits of lowland areas comprising fine- to very fine-grained sand, usually horizontally bedded although they may form subaerial dunes with large-scale cross-bedding).

Over 20 years' worth of archaeological investigations have taken place around the development site as part of the Colchester Garrison redevelopment project, revealing an archaeological landscape rich in remains. CAT has produced over 70 grey literature reports during the project, which can be accessed via the CAT report website (<https://cat.essex.ac.uk/>).

The archaeological context of B-ground is well understood following a series of evaluations and excavations conducted in adjacent areas since 2000. The investigations uncovered a large number of Roman cremation burials, many of which produced a variety of grave goods. The

<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?>

cremation cemetery was proposed to have been in-use until the latter half of the 4th century. Other features identified included a possible trackway, a ditched enclosure and a possible hearth or pyre (CAT Report 138).

Previous monitoring work on the proposed site, which included the excavation of post-holes and the removal of artificial grass and three hammer-throwing circles, revealed no archaeological remains.

In advance of the new pavilion building CAT carried out an archaeological watching brief on the site between September 2012-March 2013 (CAT Report 686). The watching brief revealed eight archaeological features. Of these, three ditches and one pit are tentatively dated to the Roman period. Two of the ditches were north-south orientated and formed part of a ditched trackway. The third ditch was an east-west orientated boundary ditch that appeared to abut the eastern edge of the trackway.

The most notable archaeological discovery within the vicinity of the site is the Roman Circus, located to the north (NHLE No. 1021426). The 450m-long chariot racing track has an east/west alignment and is the only known Roman Circus in Britain (CAT Report 412).

#### 4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify, record and plot the location of any other archaeological contexts revealed during the works.

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

The fieldwork was carried out in the following phases:

- a) Four geo-technical test-pits 0.87-1.2m deep (TPA-TPD) were excavated adjacent to existing ground anchor points. All the test-pits contained three layers: L1, 0.18-0.31m of topsoil, L2 0.23-0.4m of soft mid-brown silt with mottled redeposited orange natural sand and L3 soft dark orange natural sand.



Photograph 1 TPA section, looking south-east.

- b) Four small pads (Pads 4-7) 0.33-0.35m by 0.35-0.38m and 0.4-0.5m deep were excavated around the exterior of the rear half of the cage. These did not exceed L2.



**Photograph 2** Pads 7-8 (foreground) Pad 3 (background), looking south/south-west.

- c) The internal concrete throwing circles were broken up by the machine which exposed a modern sand and gravel sub-base. Excavation did not penetrate below the modern sub-base.
- d) Three pads 0.6m wide, 1.2-1.6m long and 1.4-1.49m deep, were excavated for the main base plate for the rear pole and the two front gate poles. All three contained 0.28-0.42m of topsoil (L1) and 0.23-0.39m of silt (L2) onto orange natural sand (L3) except for Pad 1 which contained one feature (F1). As no edges of the feature were exposed it is uncertain what this is. As it did not appear in any of the other pits or pads, especially the adjacent

TPA, it is assumed that it was not a layer. Pad 2 had a substantial amount of concrete on the north-eastern edge from the old cage post base.



**Photograph 3** Pad 1 section, looking east/north-east.



**Photograph 4** Pad 3 fully excavated, looking north/north-east.

## 6 Finds

By Dr Matthew Loughton

Feature F1 produced one sherd (3g) of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) and a piece (58g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile. The pottery was identified using the Cotter type series (CAR 7). This material was not retained.

## 7 Conclusion

The archaeological monitoring did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. Unidentified feature F1 dates from the post-medieval period and may be contemporary with post-hole F3 and ?pit F5 recorded during the monitoring for the pavilion in 2013 as they too comprised of mid-brown silt containing rare peg-tile fragments.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Russell Dellar of Sodexo for commissioning the work and RMPA Services Ltd funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by Z Eksen, E Holloway and X Smith. Figures are by E Holloway. The project was monitored for CCC by 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, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8).  |
| CAR 7                    | 2000  | <b>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</b> by J P Cotter. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.  |
| CAT                      | 2024a | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological monitoring and recording at B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SX</i> by Sarah Veasey. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT                      | 2024b | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.  |
| CAT Report 138           | 2000  | <i>Archaeological excavations at the Garrison Sports pitch, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex (Abbey Field): February-March 2000</i> by C Crossan. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.                                 |
| CAT Report 686           | 2013  | <i>An archaeological watching brief at the Colchester Garrison Athletics Facility, Abbey Field, Colchester, Essex; September 2012-March 2013</i> by A Wightman. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.                         |
| CAT Report 412           |       | <i>Archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex: May 2004-October 2007</i> by L Pooley et al. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.  |
| ClfA                     | 2020a | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.   |
| ClfA                     | 2020b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.                                    |
| ClfA                     | 2022  | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.   |
| ClfA                     | 2023a | <i>Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.  |
| ClfA                     | 2023b | <i>Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.  |
| 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>  |
| 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                      2023    *National Planning Policy Framework*. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCHEA	Colchester City Council Historic Environment Advisor
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.
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	period 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
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

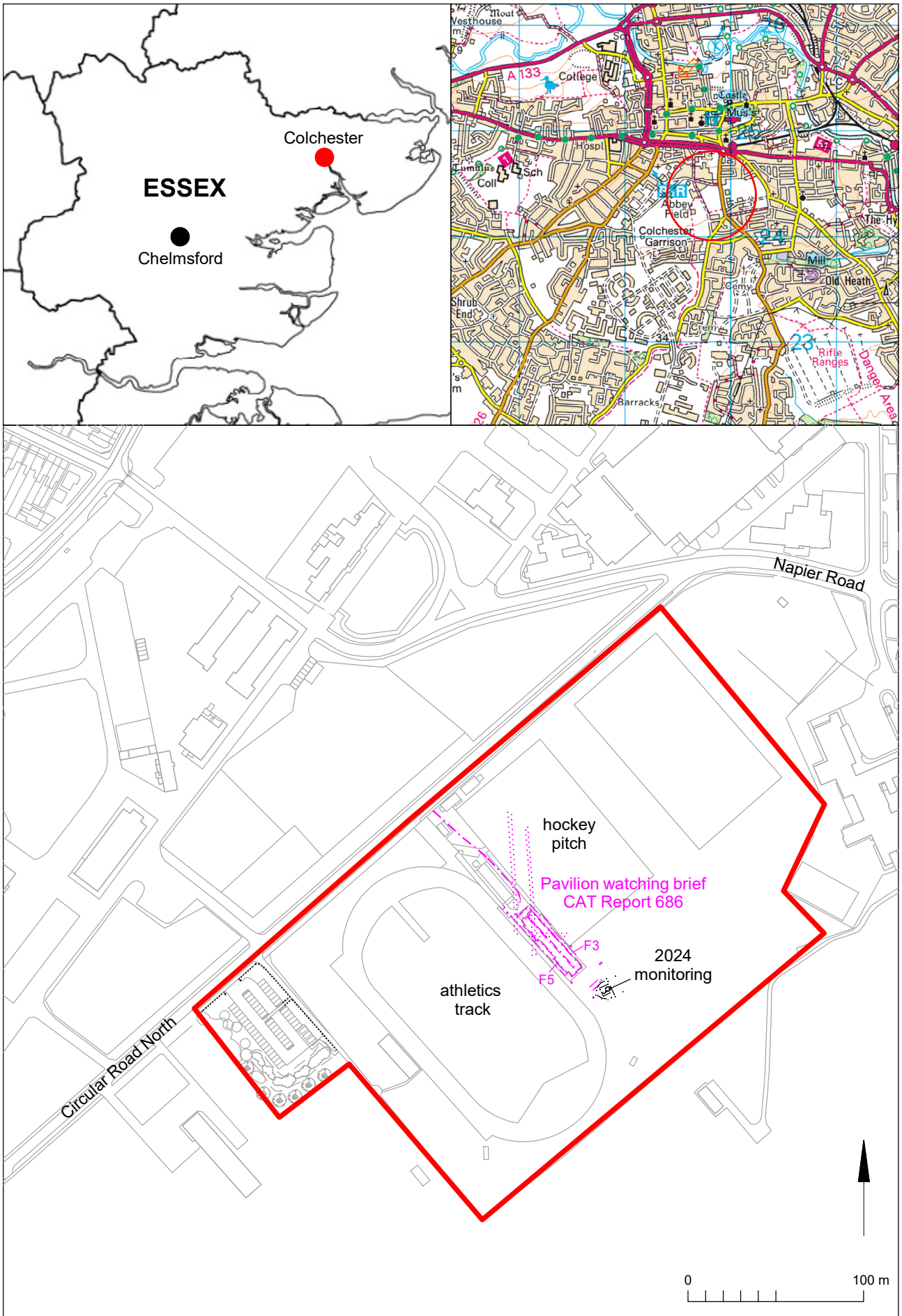
## 11 Archive deposition

**Digital record:** This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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### Distribution list:

Russell Dellar, Sodexo  
RMPA Services Ltd  
Dr Rik Hoggett (Colchester City Council)  
Colchester Historic Environment Record



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Fig 1 Site location.

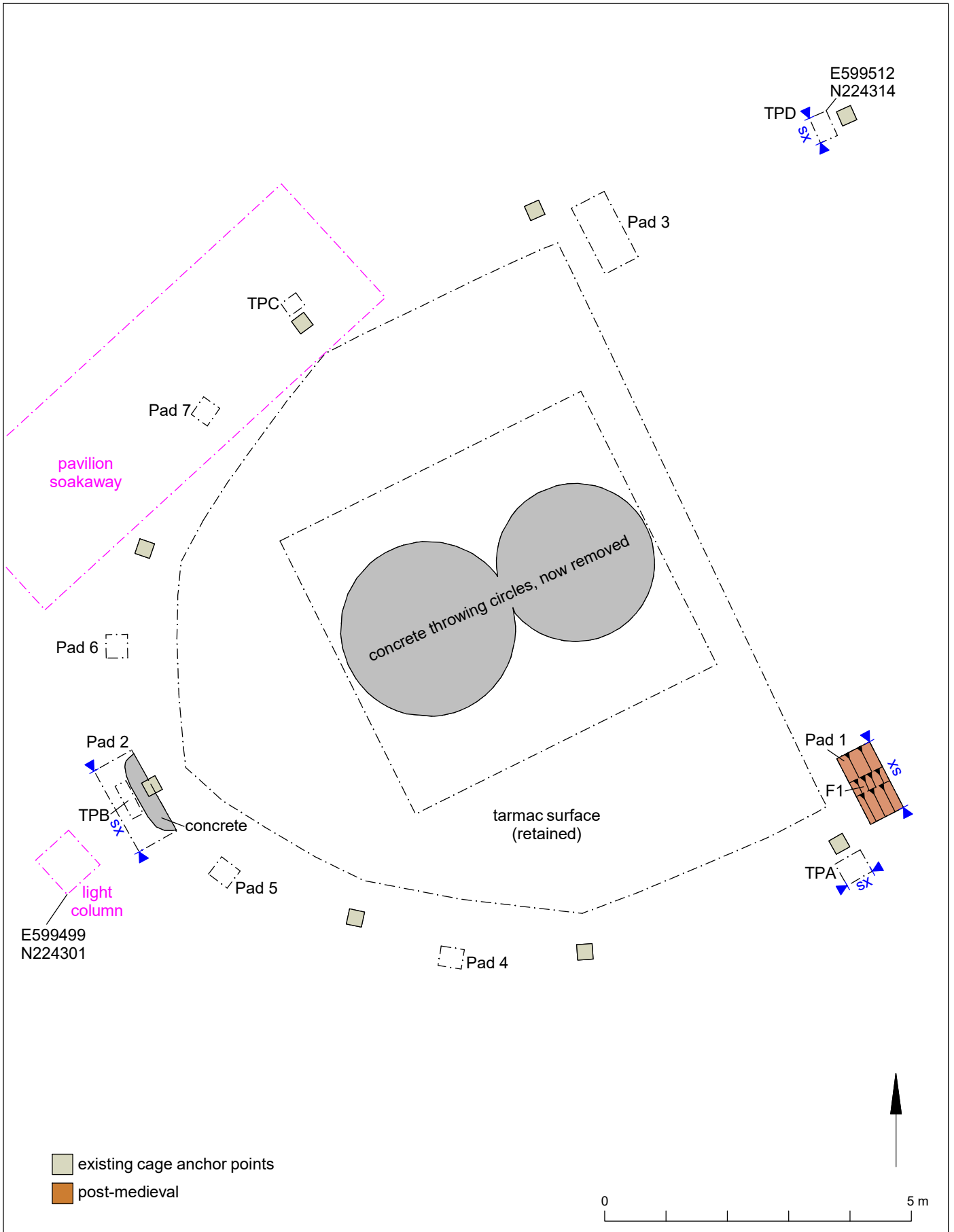


Fig 2 Hammer and discus throwing cage results.

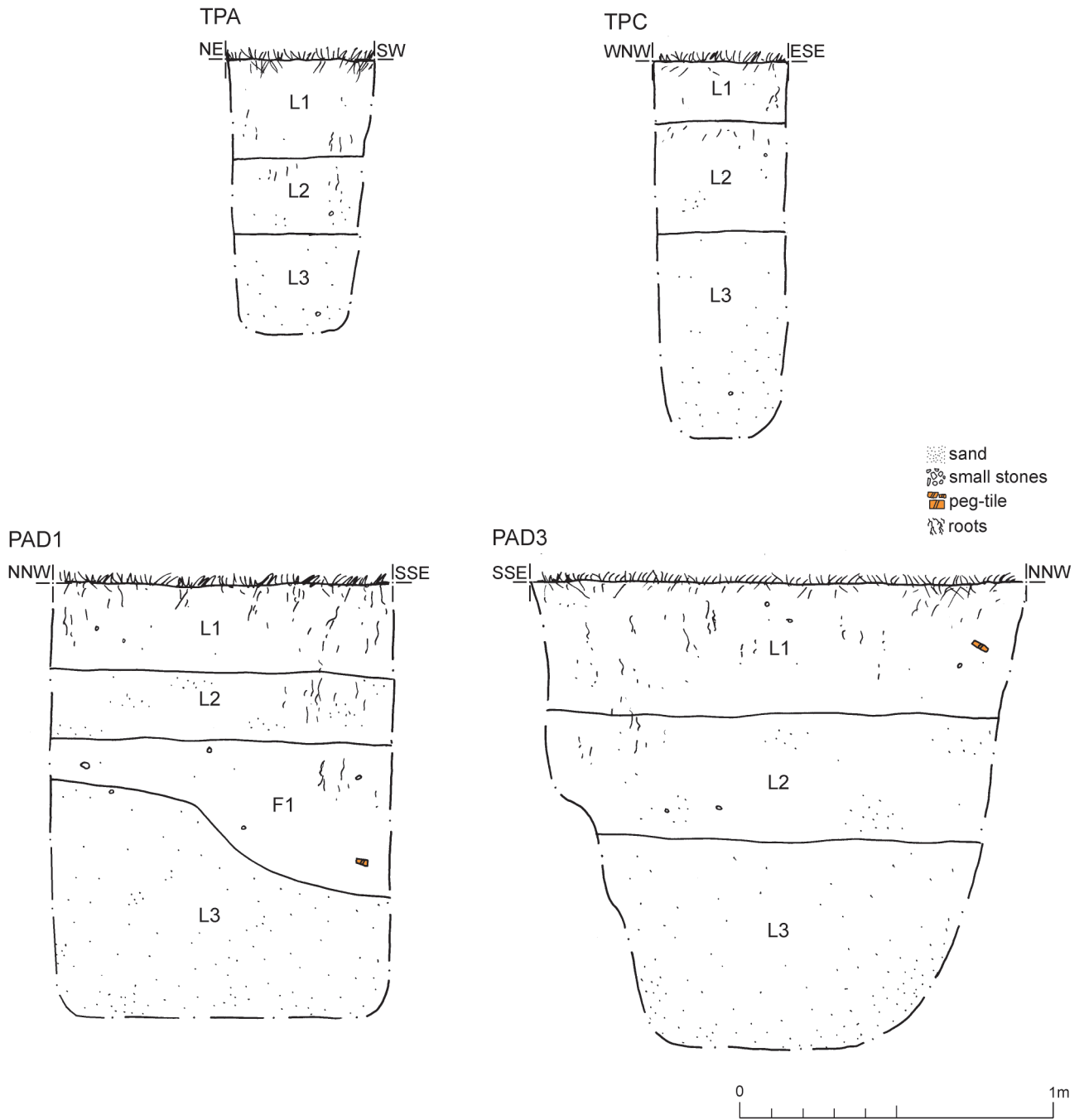


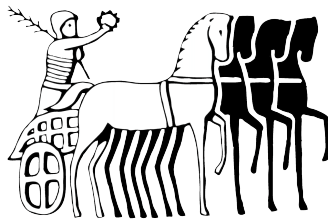
Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SX	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9950 2430 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2024/03a CHER ref.: ECC4844 OASIS ref.: colchest3-523471
<b>Type of work:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 12th March-4th June 2024	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 134m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> OASIS	<b>Funding source:</b> RMPA Services Ltd
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 2081	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the replacement of a hammer and discus throwing cage. The development site is located within the Abbey Field conservation area and close to significant archaeological remains including Roman burials and the Roman circus. However, only one post-medieval feature was encountered during the groundworks.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> n/a	
<b>CCC monitor:</b> Dr Richard Hoggett	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Emma Holloway	<b>Date of summary:</b> 29/08/2024

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for archaeological monitoring and recording at  
B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North,  
Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SX**

**March 2024**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/03a  
CHER code: [tbc](#)**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
archaeological monitoring and recording at  
B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North,  
Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SX**

**March 2024**

**NGR: TL 9950 2530 (centre)**

**District.: Colchester**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/12a**

**CHER code: [tbc](#)**

**CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett**

**OASIS id: colchest3-523471**

**WSI prepared by: Sarah Veasey**

**Figure by: Chris Lister**

**Commissioned by: Russell Dellar (Sodexo)**

**Client: RMPA Services PLC**

Prepared by:	Sarah Veasey	Junior Project Officer
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	13/03/2024	

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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located to the south of the historic settlement core of Colchester at B Sport Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9950 2530.

## Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the replacement of a hammer-throwing cage.

## Archaeological and geological background

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

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is comprised of Thames group (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of Cover Sand (clay silt and sand).

Over 20 years' worth of archaeological investigations have taken place around the development site as part of the Colchester Garrison redevelopment project, revealing an archaeological landscape rich in remains. CAT has produced over 70 grey literature reports during the project, which can be accessed via the CAT report website (<https://cat.essex.ac.uk/>).

The archaeological context of B-ground is well understood following a series of evaluations and excavations conducted in adjacent areas since 2000. The investigations uncovered a large number of Roman cremation burials, many of which produced a variety of grave goods. The cremation cemetery was proposed to have been in-use until the later half of the 4th century. Other features identified included a possible trackway, a ditched enclosure and a possible hearth or pyre (CAT Report 138).

Previous monitoring work on the proposed site, which included the excavation of post-holes and the removal of artificial grass and three hammer-throwing circles, revealed no archaeological remains.

The most notable archaeological discovery within the vicinity of the site is the Roman Circus, located to the north (NHLE No. 1021426). The 450m-long chariot racing track has an east/west alignment and is the only known Roman Circus in Britain.

## Project background

The project comprises the removal and replacement of an existing concrete hammer-throwing circle.

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 City Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

## Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks.

*Specifically*, the monitoring is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

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<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>



If unexpected remains are encountered the CCCAA will be informed immediately and, if necessary, an amendment will be made to this WSI 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 this WSI is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CCCAA 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 2020, 2022 & 2023a-b).
- 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 2024).

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 CCCAA 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CCCAA 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 and recording methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' groundworks 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), at least 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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be at least 40 litres in size (assuming 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.
- 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 process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or 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 the CCCAA.

The CCCAA 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.

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 CCCAA 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.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT staff under the supervision and direction of Howard Brooks (Interim 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/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)  
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley  
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley  
flint: Adam Wightman  
environmental processing: Bronagh Rae-Quinn  
osteology: (human remains): Megan Beale

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:  
Historic England 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 the ECCHEA.

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 CCCAA 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 the CCCAA as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- 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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/ee/>)
- 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 CCCAA.

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 City 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.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museum *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

**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 the CCCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the CCCAA. 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 CCCAA 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 CCCAA for integration into the HER.

## **Monitoring**

The CCCAA 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 the CCCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with the CCCAA prior to them being carried out.

The CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the CCCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## **Public outreach**

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

## **Events, activities and social media**

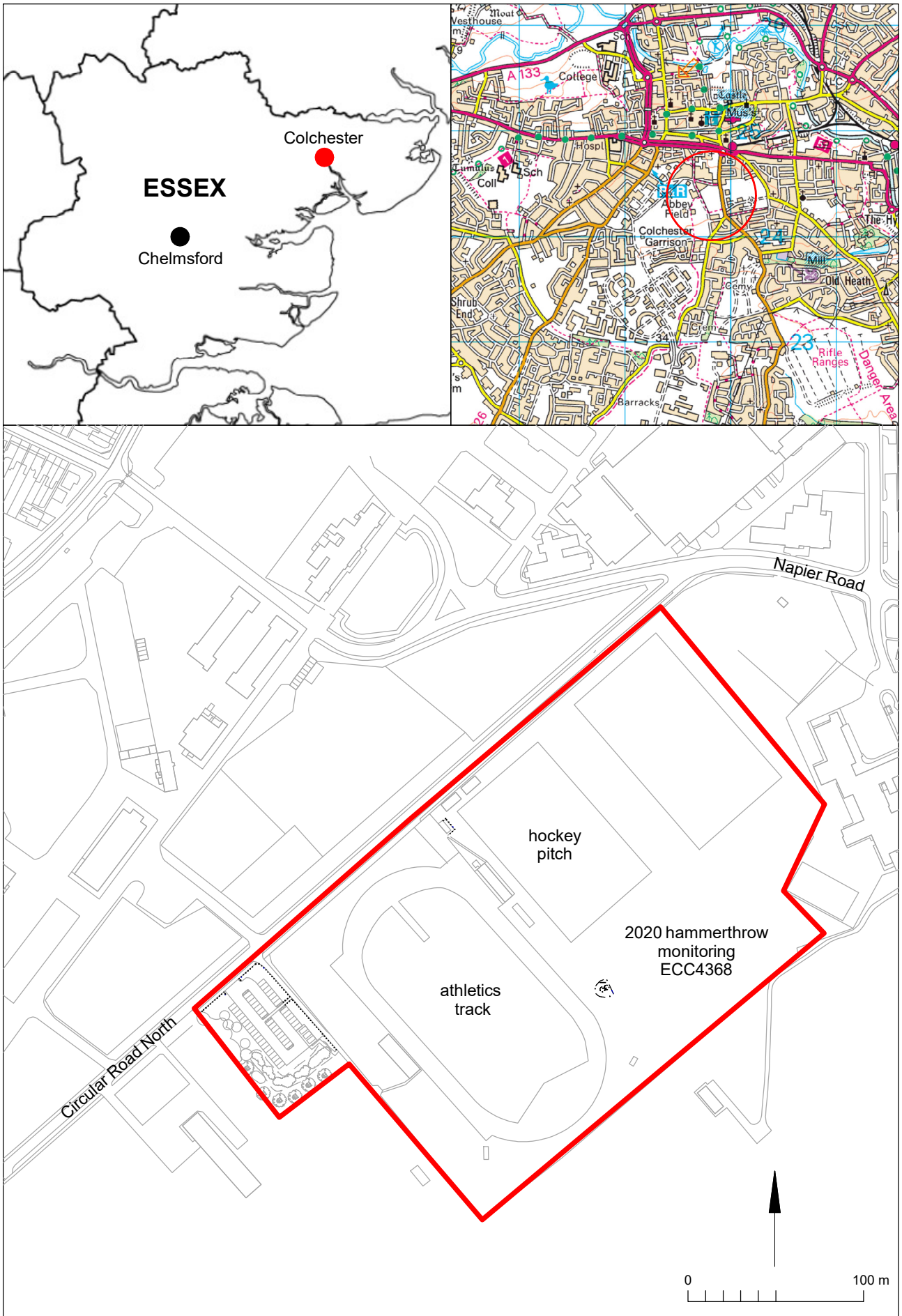
In addition, the CAT website ([www.catuk.org](http://www.catuk.org)) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely

available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

## 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.	
Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8).
CAT	2023	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy.</i>
CAT Report 138	2000	<i>Archaeological excavations at the Garrison Sports pitch, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex (Abbey Field): February-March 2000</i> by C Crossan
CifA	2020	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2020
CifA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2022
CifA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording.</i>
CifA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording.</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	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 & J Sidell
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	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



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Fig 1 Site location.

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-523471

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-523471
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SX
Sitename	B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SX
Sitecode	ECC4844
Project Identifier(s)	2024/03a
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Heritage management
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	19-Mar-2024 - 04-Jun-2024
Location	B Sports Ground, Abbey Field, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7SX NGR : TL 99500 25300 LL : 51.89053920564146, 0.89775855290378 12 Fig : 599500,225300
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring and recording on groundworks to replace and install a hammer and discus-throwing cage. The site is located within a conservation area and surrounded by Roman burials and close to the Roman circus. Monitoring was carried out following a WSI in accordance with ClfA professional standards.
Project Results	The development site is located within the Abbey Field conservation area and close to significant archaeological remains including Roman burials and the Roman circus. However, only one post-medieval feature was encountered during the groundworks.
Keywords	
Funder	Ministry of Defence
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman, Laura Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4844
Archives	