

**Archaeological evaluation on land at the  
former Norfolk Public House,  
132 North Station Road, Colchester, Essex  
CO1 1UZ**

**April 2022**



**by Chris Lister**

With contributions from Dr Matthew Loughton  
figures by Chris Lister and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Chris Lister and Nicholas Pryke

**commissioned by Andrew Feasey  
on behalf of the owner**

NGR: TL 99259 26159 (centre)

Planning ref.: 212350

CAT project ref.: 22/02b

CHER code: ECC4703

OASIS ref.: colchest3-504986



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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**CAT Report 1808**  
May 2022

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was undertaken on at the rear of the former Norfolk Public House, 132 North Station Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new office block with revised car parking and a sheltered bike store. No archaeological features were identified in the single 8m trench.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land to the rear of the former Norfolk Public House, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 12th April 2022. The work was commissioned by Andrew Feasey of CPS Architecture Ltd on behalf of the owner, in advance of the construction of a new office block with revised car parking and a sheltered bike store.

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 evaluation by trial-trenching 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 an Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Simon Wood (CBCAA 2022), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the Brief and agreed with the CBCAA (CAT 2022).

In addition to the Brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *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 evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

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

The site is close to the location of a number of Roman burials including: a grave group found at 22 Mercers Way in 1939 during the construction of an air-raid shelter; three burials at the junction of Serpentine Road and Margaret Road recorded on the HER, including an urned cremation (MCC2516), a tile tomb (MCC2515) and a burial with 11 beads (MCC2517); a scatter of Roman urned cremations is recorded between Kings Meadow and the railway (MCC7690).

Between 1996-8 CAT carried out multi-phased fieldwork projects approximately 360m to the north-east of the current site at Turner Rise prior to the creation of the Asda supermarket and adjacent housing development. Sixty Roman cremation burials and pits with pyre debris were excavated in 1996-7. A range of burial types were recorded including both urned and un-urned examples, with several of the latter being large and regularly shaped. The cremation burials and pyre-related features were mainly of late 1st-2nd century date, and many lay in a circular cluster/ring towards the southern end of the cemetery area. The cemetery extended to the west of a possible Roman road (projects 96/4e & 98/2e CAT Report 1000 and CAT Report 322, MCC4940).

Work carried out by CAT in the vicinity of the site includes an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in the car park of the Globe Hotel on North Station Road in 2003 and a subsequent watching brief (CAT Reports 248 and 355, MCC5427). Two phases of Roman building were recorded. The later Roman phase featured a large building, the evidence for which was four robbed-out walls running on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment, which appear to match up with other Roman buildings excavated along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appeared to have been of high status, having evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls. The watching brief was required to locate more of these features, particularly the robbed-out walls and the course of the Roman road.

Nearby find spots include Roman coins found at 1 Mercers Way (MCC1208), 18 Cowdray Avenue (MCC1252) and at the old swimming baths (MCC1216). A quantity of Roman pot was recorded from around the junction of Serpentine Walk and Margaret Road, this is thought to be from a site Hull refers to as a possible pottery kiln site (MCC1341). Roman pottery has been found between Margaret Road and Catchpool Road (MCC1899) and at the Colchester Fire Station on Cowdray Avenue (MCC1332). Two English Civil War cannon balls were found in the garden at 14 Mercer Way (MCC2524).

#### **4 Aim**

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

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

One trial-trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. As per the Brief and WSI, trench T1 was 8m long by 1.8m wide. Due to site constraints which included the existing building, a new boundary fence and a timber smoking shelter, it was only possible to locate approximately two-thirds of the evaluation trench through the footprint of the proposed building.

The trench was cut through modern turf and topsoil (L1, 0.15m thick) overlying subsoil (L2, 0.3m thick) which sealed a layer of disturbed natural (L3 c 0.35m thick) which in turn sealed natural (L4, encountered at a depth of c 0.8m below current ground level, c 12.64m AOD). Modern pitting with inclusions of frogged brick, slate, pottery (predominantly flowerpot), wood and black plastic sacks cut each of these layers but no significant archaeological features were identified: a full context list with soil descriptions and measurements can be found in Appendix 1.

L3 produced three sherds of 19th-20th century pottery.





**Photograph 1** General trench shot, looking south-west.

## **6 Finds**

### **6.1 Pottery**

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation produced three sherds of 19th-20th century pottery with a weight of 103g. These comprised Modern English stoneware (fabric F45M) and Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric 48D). The only diagnostic sherd came from a Staffordshire-type white earthenware blue transfer printed bowl (EVE: 0.10). None of this material was retained.

## **7 Conclusion**

Archaeological evaluation on land at the rear of the former Norfolk Public House, North Station Road identified only modern archaeological contexts.

None of the evidence recovered from the evaluation indicates any association with the sites recorded on the HER.

Although truncation caused by the modern contexts may have destroyed earlier, more significant archaeological contexts there is no obvious evidence to indicate the presence of such contexts in the immediate area of the evaluation trench.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrew Feasey and the owner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by C Lister with N Pryke. Figures are by C Lister 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>

CAT	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Norfolk Public House, 132 North Station Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 1UZ</i>
CAT Report 248	2003	<i>An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, October 2003.</i> By Kate Orr
CAT Report 322	2009	<i>Archaeological investigations at Turner Rise, Colchester, Essex, 1996-99,</i> by D Shimmin
CAT Report 355	2006	<i>Report on a watching brief - 71 North Station Road (the Globe Hotel), Colchester, Essex,</i> by K Orr
CAT Report 1000	2021	<i>A Miscellany of Colchester and Essex Sites: 1984-2000</i> By C Crossan and H Brooks
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at The Norfolk, North Station Road, Colchester,</i> by S Wood
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</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	2015b	<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	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	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'
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> to the Index of Archaeological Investigation <b>S</b> , <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 11 Contents of digital archive

The report (CAT Report 1808)  
CBC evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation  
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log  
Graphic files  
Site data  
Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

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### Distribution list:

Andrew Feasey  
The landowner  
Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record



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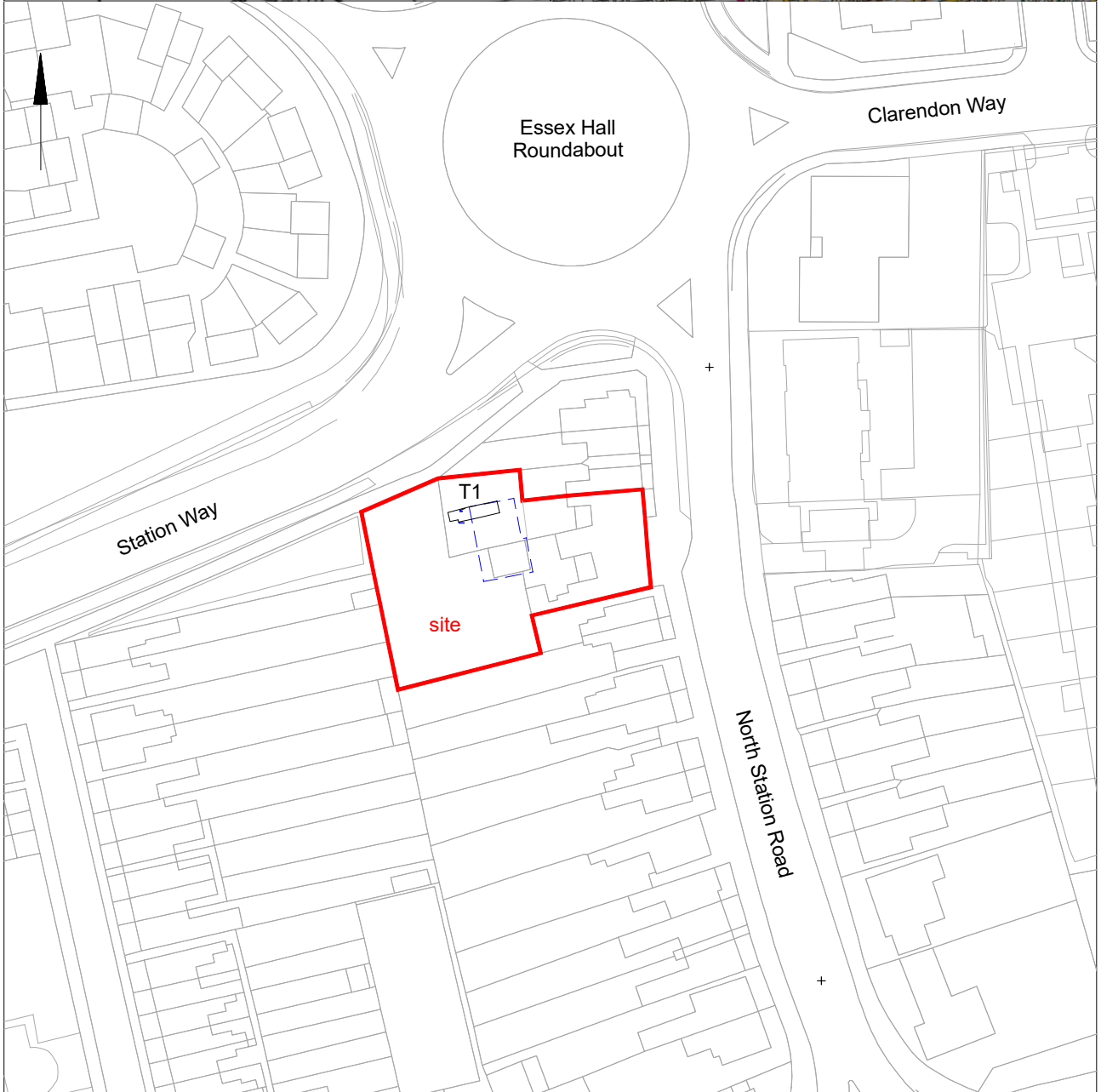
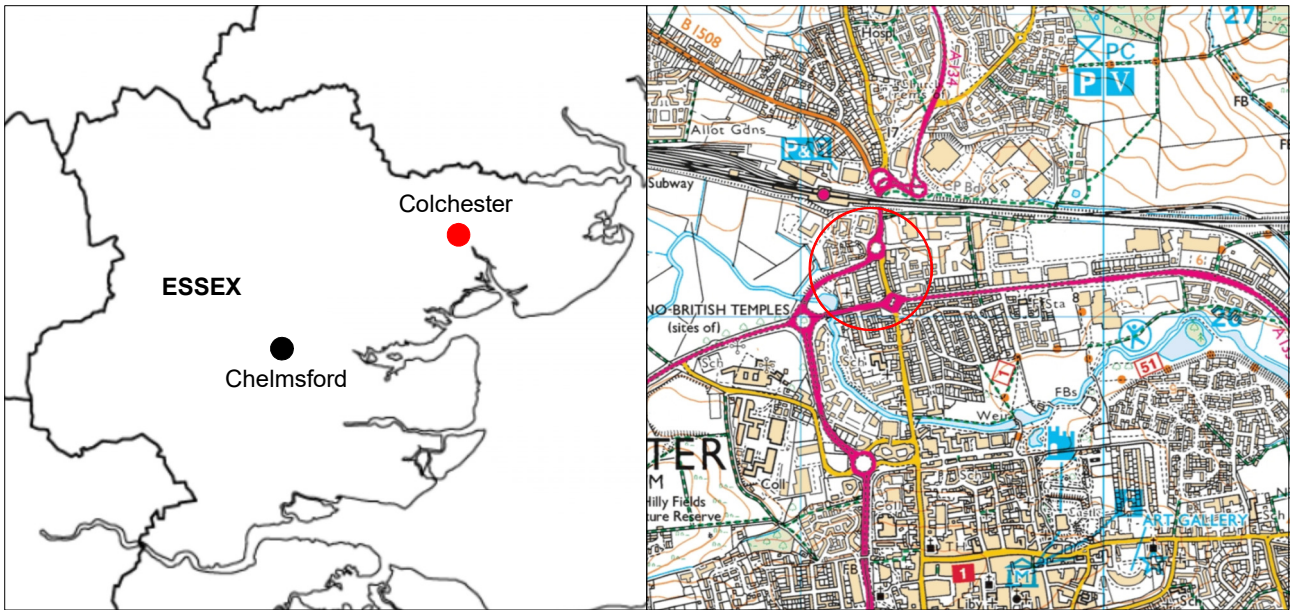
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 03/05/2022

### **Appendix 1 Context List**

<b>Trench no.</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b> Finds no.</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
T1	L1	-	Turf/topsoil	Soft moist dark grey/black loamy and inclusions of tile/brick 2%, pot 2%, c 0.15m thick.	Modern
T1	L2	-	Subsoil	Soft moist dark grey/black silty loam with oyster flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of tile/brick 2%, c 0.3m thick.	Modern
T1	L3	1	Disturbed natural	Firm moist medium orange/brown silty clay with brick flecks and inclusions of gravel 50%, c 0.35m thick.	Modern
T1	L4	-	Natural	Firm moist medium orange/brown sand and inclusions of gravel 50%.	Post-glacial





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Fig 1 Site location.



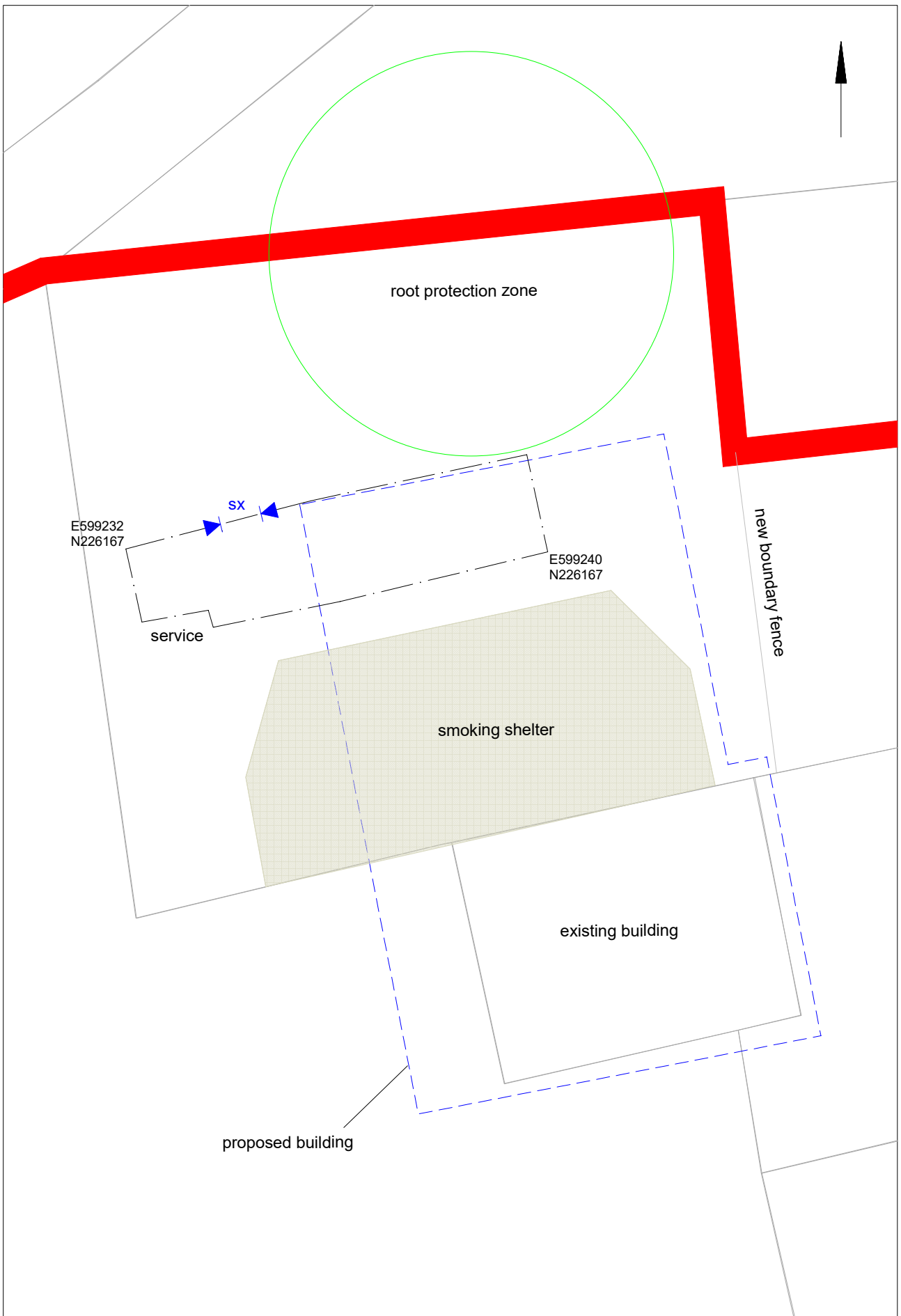


Fig 2 Results.



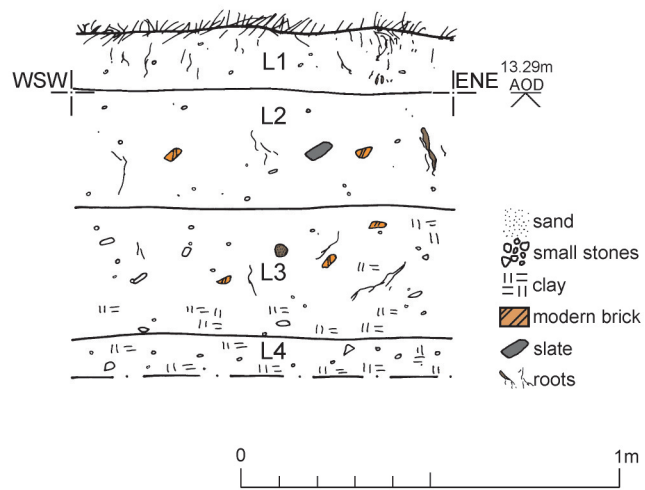


Fig 3 Representative section.

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land at the Former Norfolk Public House, 132 North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UZ

**NGR:** TL 99259 26159 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** Colchester

**Planning references:** 212350

**Commissioned by:** Andrew Feasey (CPS Architecture + Design)

**On behalf of:** Landowner

**Curating museum:** Colchester

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

**CAT project code:** 2022/02b

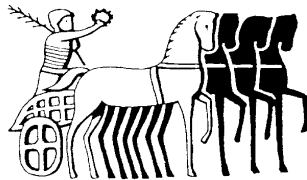
**OASIS project number:** colchest3-504986

**Contract Manager:** Chris Lister

**Fieldwork Manager:** Adam Wightman

**CBC monitor:** Dr Simon Wood

**This WSI written:** 01/03/2022



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 1.01km northwest of the centre and walled historic core of Colchester at The former Norfolk PH, 132 North Station Road Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on national grid reference (NGR) TL 99366 25664.

The development area is located within Colchester Conservation Area no. 4: North Station and Environs (DCC26090). The proposed new building is to be built within the now disused car park to the rear of the former public house. The ground surface is currently tarmac.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a new office block with revised car park including a sheltered bike store 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 numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)).

The site is close to the location of a number of Roman burials including; a grave group found at 22 Mercers Way in 1939 during the construction of an air-raid shelter; at the junction of Serpentine Road and Margaret Road there are three recorded burials on the HER, including an urned cremation (MCC2516), tile tomb (MCC2515) and a burial with 11 beads (MCC2517); A scatter of Roman urned cremations is recorded between Kings Meadow and the railway (MCC7690).

Between 1996-8CAT carried out multiphased fieldwork projects approximately 360m to the northeast of the current site at Turner Rise prior to the creation of the Asda supermarket and adjacent housing development. Sixty Roman cremation burials and pits with pyre debris were excavated in 1996-7. A range of burial types were recorded including both urned and unurned examples, with several of the latter being large and regularly shaped. The cremation burials and pyre-related features were mainly of late 1st-2nd century date, and many lay in a circular cluster/ring towards the southern end of the cemetery area. The cemetery extended to the west of a possible Roman road (projects 96/4e & 98/2e CAT Report 1000 and CAT Report 322, MCC4940).

Work carried out by CAT nearby include an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in the car-park of the Globe Hotel on North Station Road in 2003 (CAT Report 248 and 355, MCC5427). Two phases of Roman building were recorded. The later Roman phase featured a large building, the evidence for which was four robbed-out walls running on a NNW-SSE and a SSW-NNE alignment, which appear to match up with other Roman buildings excavated along North Station Road. The exceptionally great width (at least 2.2m) and depth (at least 1.2m) of one of the robber trenches suggests that it was an exterior wall to a Roman public building of at least two storeys. Both buildings appeared to have been of high status, having evidence of tiled roofs, heating systems and painted walls. The watching brief was required to locate more of these features, particularly the robbed-out walls and also the course of the Roman road.

Nearby find spots include a Roman coins found at 1 Mercers Way (MCC1208), 18 Cowdray Avenue (MCC1252) and at the old Swimming baths (MCC1216). A quantity of Roman pot was recorded from around the junction of Serpentine Walk and Margaret Road, this is thought to be from a site Hull refers to as a possible pottery kiln site (MCC1341). Roman pottery has been found between Margaret Road and Catchpool Road (MCC1899) and at the Colchester Fire Station on Cowdray Avenue (MCC1332) and two civil war cannon balls were found in the garden at 14 Mercer Way (MCC2524).

## **Project background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in August 2021 (application No. 212350) for the proposed *commercial office block (resubmission of application 211722)*.

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 (Fig 1)**

The required archaeological work as stated in the Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022) was for an archaeological evaluation.

One linear trench, 8m long by 1.8m wide, will be positioned within the footprint of the proposed new building.

The work is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. It is also required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival, condition and significance of environmental evidence.
- Establish the potential for the survival and condition of environmental evidence.
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Contingencies will be included for scientific analysis of significant deposits such as absolute dating, soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits.

Further archaeological investigation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

## **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 & c)
- 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 2022).

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 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 CHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

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

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus two archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furness/Nigel Rayner.

## **Evaluation methodology**

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

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

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), at least a 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible (see human remains section below).

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

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

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

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

### **Site surveying**

The excavation area and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of the evaluation 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 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 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.

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.

### **Human remains**

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

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following Historic England guidance (2018), if the human remains are not to be lifted the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

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

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

## 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 (Historic England 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: Tom Lawrence  
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 three months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

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

An 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 if there are any artefacts that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum. If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

If there are no archaeological finds retained from the evaluation the full digital archive will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The 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: 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 Edition
CAT	2021	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 248	2003	<i>An archaeological evaluation at the Globe Hotel, North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, October 2003</i> . By Kate Orr
CAT Report 322	forthcoming	<i>A Roman cremation cemetery at Turner Rise, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5TU February 1996 - February 1998</i> . By D Shimmin
CAT Report 355	2006	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 71 North Station Road (the former Globe Hotel), Colchester, Essex</i> . By K Orr
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997)</i> . By H Brooks
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at The Norfolk, North Station Road, Colchester</i> , by Simon Wood
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</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 and 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

2019

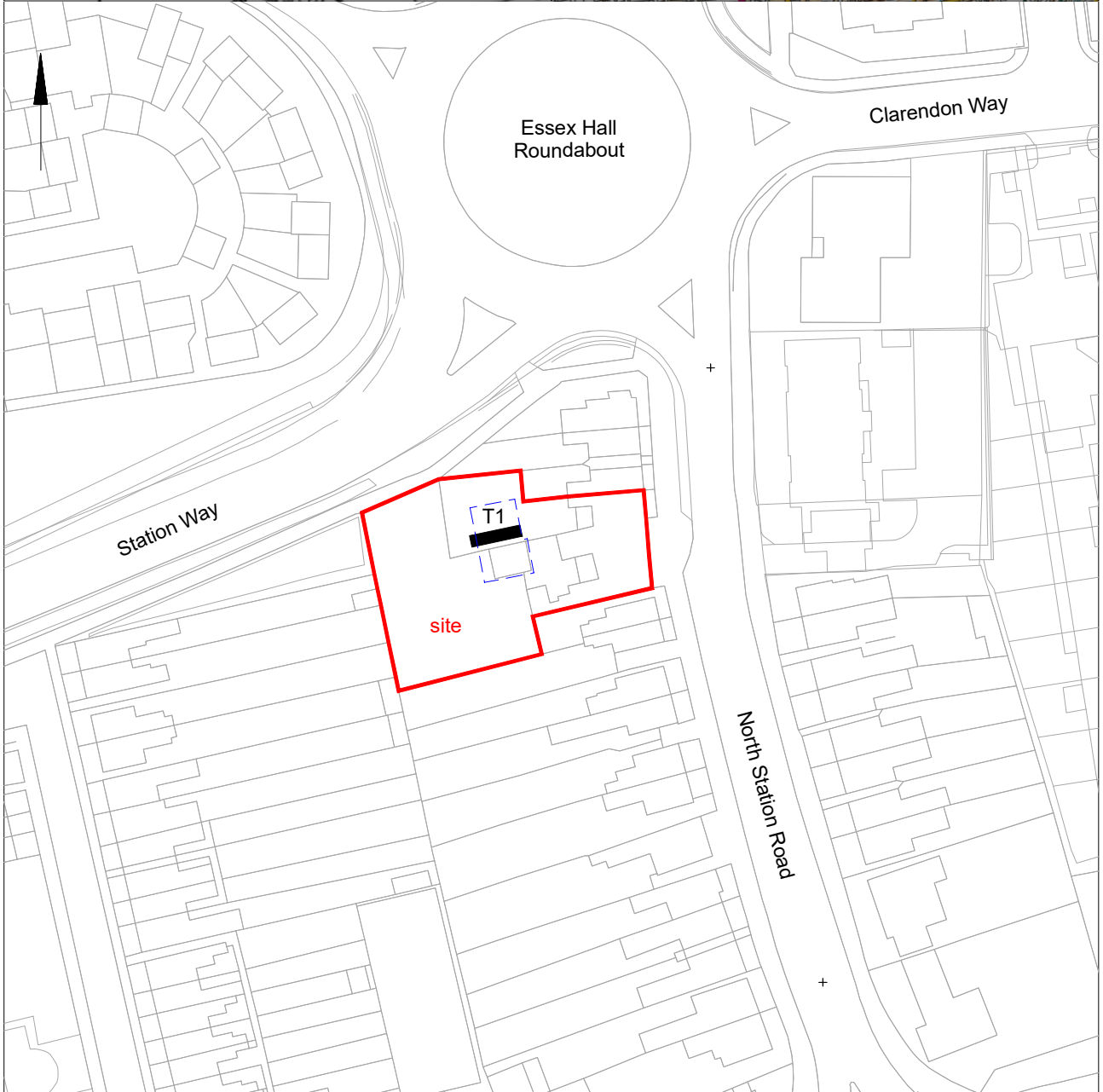
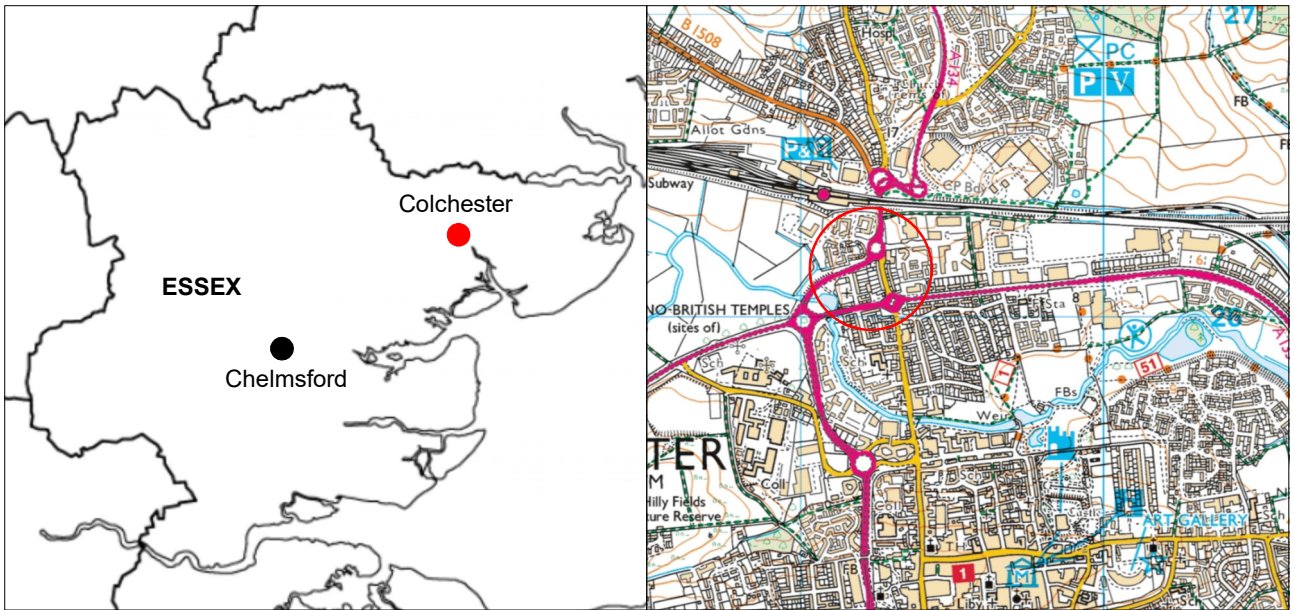
*National Planning Policy Framework.* Ministry of Housing,  
Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway



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

tel: 01206 501785 option 4  
email: [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



## Summary for colchest3-504986

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-504986
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land at the former Norfolk Public House, 132 North Station Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 1UZ - April 2022
Sitename	
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/02b
Planning Id	212350
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	12-Jun-2022 - 12-Jun-2022
Location	land at the Former Norfolk Public House, 132 North Station Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UZ NGR : TL 99259 26159 LL : 51.8983386262345, 0.894757050778345 12 Fig : 599259,226159
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	<p>An evaluation advance of the construction of a new office block with revised car parking and a sheltered bike store. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Simon Wood (CBCAA 2022), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the Brief and agreed with the CBCAA (CAT 2022). One trial-trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.</p> <p>As per the Brief and WSI, trench T1 was 8m long by 1.8m wide. Due to site constraints which included the existing building, a new boundary fence and a timber smoking shelter, it was only possible to locate approximately two-thirds of the evaluation trench through the footprint of the proposed building.</p> <p>In addition to the Brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's 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 evaluation (ClfA 2014a) and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b).</p>



Project Results	<p>Archaeological evaluation on land at the rear of the former Norfolk Public House, North Station Road identified only modern archaeological contexts. The trench was cut through modern turf and topsoil (L1, 0.15m thick) overlying subsoil (L2, 0.3m thick) which sealed a layer of disturbed natural (L3 c 0.35m thick) which in turn sealed natural (L4, encountered at a depth of c 0.8m below current ground level, c 12.64m AOD). Modern pitting with inclusions of frogged brick, slate, pottery (predominantly flowerpot), wood and black plastic sacks cut each of these layers but no significant archaeological features were identified</p> <p>None of the evidence recovered from the evaluation indicates any association with the sites recorded on the HER.</p> <p>Although truncation caused by the modern contexts may have destroyed earlier, more significant archaeological contexts there is no obvious evidence to indicate the presence of such contexts in the immediate area of the evaluation trench.</p>
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	C, Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4703
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

## Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

AT

The Norfolk, North Station Road, Colchester

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:** 212350

**GRID REFERENCE:** TL 99366 25664

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:** Proposed two storey side extension, new porch and new detached double garage.

**THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:** Simon Wood  
Archaeological Advisor  
Tel: 01206 282913  
E-mail: simon.wood@colchester.gov.uk

**Date:** 25 February 2022

### Archaeological Background

- 1.1 While smaller in scale than previous application 211722, this has similar archaeological implications. It is a development proposal of relatively large scale in an area that has some potential for Roman remains, specifically human remains. Cremation burials have been found in the vicinity of Colchester North railway station, and along Serpentine Walk to the south east. Roman remains, including pottery kilns, were situated adjacent to the River Colne just over 200m to the south west.

### Planning Background

- 2.1 In accordance with paragraph 205 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority will recommend the following planning condition relating to archaeological investigation, should planning consent be granted:

No works shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been previously submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment.

- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.
- d. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
- e. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works.
- f. The site investigation shall thereafter be completed as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development, in accordance Adopted Development Policy DP14 (2010, Revised 2014) and the Colchester Borough Adopted Guidance titled Managing Archaeology in Development (2015).

- 2.2 In order to comply with this proposed condition the archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council (CBC/AA).
- 2.3 Following acceptance by the Archaeological Advisor, it is the commissioning body's responsibility to submit the WSI to the LPA for formal approval. No fieldwork should be undertaken on site without the written approval of the LPA.
- 2.4 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 2.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition (if planning consent is granted) will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.
- 2.6 The trial trenched evaluation, and any subsequent archaeological mitigation, must be completed before any below-ground works on the site, unless agreed in writing by the LPA.
- 2.7 Please note that further stages of archaeological work may be needed. A decision on the need for any further archaeological investigation will be based on the results of the evaluation.

### **Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Trial-trenched Evaluation**

- 3.1 The following archaeological evaluation work is required prior to development commencing to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 Trial trenched evaluation is required to:
  - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should provide

for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating (radiocarbon and/or archaeomagnetic dating).

- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits. The WSI should provide for a contingency for soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits. In addition, particular attention should be given to the collection of micro-remains preserved within and/or directly over floors.
  - Establish the potential for the survival and condition of environmental evidence.
  - Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site.
  - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 3.3 One 8m trench (at 1.8m wide) should be positioned to provide an appropriate sample of the proposed development area, and excavated under archaeological control with a flat-bladed, back acting ditching bucket. The trench may need to be widened in localised areas to facilitate excavation of deep archaeological features (if encountered).
- 3.4 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed design must be approved by CBC before fieldwork begins.
- 3.5 Further archaeological investigation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.

### **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by CBC, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences
- 4.2 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and ecological considerations) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.
- 4.4 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Archaeological Officer one week in advance of its commencement, to ensure the scheme of archaeological investigation can

be adequately monitored. Monitoring will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

### **Reporting and Archival Requirements**

- 5.1 The project manager must obtain a Colchester HER Event number must be obtained from CBC's Archaeological Officer for the fieldwork; this will be the unique reference number for the work in the Colchester HER.
- 5.2 The report should present the results of the investigation in the spatial and temporal context, relating the site to the information recorded on historic maps held in the Essex Record Office. The WSI should also provide for a contingency in the event of the need for scientific analysis, including environmental studies, absolute dating and conservation of artefacts.
- 5.3 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository (Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service; [collections@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:collections@colchester.gov.uk)) before the WSI is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition; agreement in principle for deposition should be obtained prior to approval of the WSI. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI. The WSI should include a Selection Strategy (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit>). An inventory of the site archive should be included in the report.
- 5.4 It is a policy of CBC 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. It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from the Institute of Conservation (ICON). CBC's Archaeological Advisor should be notified when the archive has been deposited Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service.
- 5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository with expertise in curating digital archaeological archives, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>). CBC's Archaeological Advisor should be notified when the archive has been deposited with the preferred digital archive repository. The WSI should also include a Data Management Plan.
- 5.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE, must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 3, 8 and 24, 1997, 2000 and 2011). Reporting should be commensurate with results. Where positive results are drawn from

the project, the results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Colchester Historic Environment Record. When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: location (grid ref., parish, ward, address), planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development (a digital vector plan when possible), depth of ground disturbance and soil profile in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation, etc.), recorder and organisation, date of report.

- 5.7 A copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to CBC for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a .pdf digital copy (in PDF/A or PDF/Archive format) should be presented to the Colchester HER.
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Colchester HER. AutoCAD files should also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).
- 5.9 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version (in PDF/A or PDF/Archive format) of the entire report should be uploaded.
- 5.10 A copy of the WSI should be appended to the report.
- 5.11 This brief remains valid for six months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised 2014) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## Notes

The Chartered Institute of Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors ([www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net) or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in Colchester Borough and the archaeological advisor will provide advice on request. CBC does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.



Site: Colchester The Norfolk EVAL

Site code: ECC4703

Layer No.

Interpretation Turf/topsoil

Period Modern

1

Location

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black  
✓ ✓ ✓

Soil sand silt clay loam clay silt sand  
Type ✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

2 2

**RECORDING**

Plan nos

Section nos

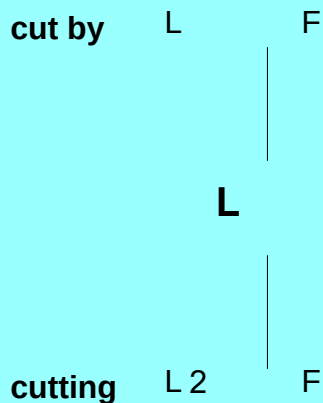
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

**FINDS** Modern brick, slate, wood, flower pot - none retained

Find Nos:

**NOTES** 100-150mm thick lawn surface



By CL

Date 12/04/22

Site: Colchester The Norfolk EVAL

Site code: ECC4703

Layer No.

Interpretation Subsoil

Period Modern

**2**

Location

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black  
✓ ✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand  
✓ ✓

Inclusions: flecks charcoal oyster daub brick tile  
✓ ✓

Inclusions: pieces gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %  
2

**RECORDING**

Plan nos

Section nos

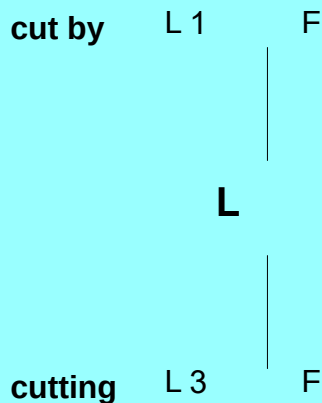
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Photos taken

**FINDS** Slate, modern brick - not retained

Find Nos:

**NOTES** Undulating layer of subsoil cut by modern pitting and concrete post bases, c 300mm thick.



By CL Date 12/04/22

Site: Colchester The Norfolk EVAL

Site code: ECC4703

Layer No.

Interpretation Disturbed natural  
Period Modern

**3**

Location

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

<b>Consistence</b>	very loose	soft	friable	firm	hard	dry	moist	wet	
				✓			✓		
<b>Colour</b>	very light	medium	dark	yellow	orange	green	grey	brown	black
		✓			✓			✓	

<b>Soil Type</b>	sand	silt	clay	loam	clay	silt	sand
		✓			✓		

<b>Inclusions: flecks</b>	charcoal	oyster	daub	brick	tile
				✓	

<b>Inclusions: pieces</b>	gravel %	stone %	tile/brick %	pot %
	50			

**RECORDING**

Plan nos

Section nos

pre-exc ex post-ex

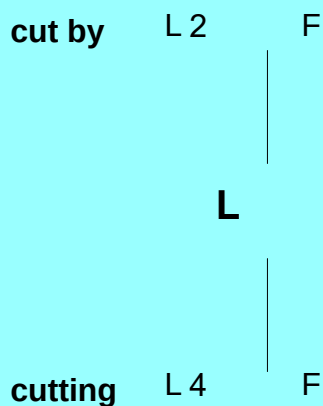
Photos taken

**FINDS** Modern brick, slate, modern pot

Find Nos:

1

**NOTES** c 350mm thick layer of disturbed/redeposited natural with abundant small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Cut by the modern pits but there are modern finds throughout the layer including clinker.



By CL Date 12/04/22

Site: Colchester The Norfolk EVAL

Site code: ECC4703

Layer No.

Interpretation Natural

Period Post-glacial

**4**

Location

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black  
✓ ✓ ✓

Soil sand silt clay loam clay silt sand  
Type ✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces 50

**RECORDING**

Plan nos

Section nos

pre-exc ex post-ex

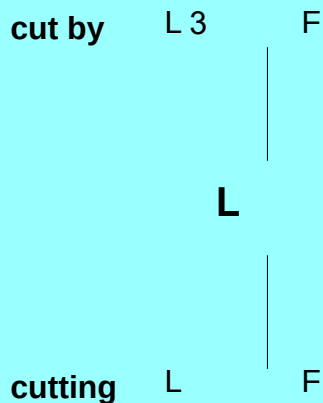
Photos taken

**FINDS**

Find Nos:

**NOTES** Coarse orange sand with abundant small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones and frequent yellowish grey clay inclusions.

Cut by the modern pitting in places.



By CL Date 12/04/22

Site: Colchester The Norfolk EVAL

Site code: ECC4703

Feature No. Layer No.

u/s

Find No.

CONTEXT

3

1

upper fill

middle fill

lower fill

?

good

poor

?

✓

✓

Notes From interface with L4

Pottery

whole

frags

✓

prehis Roman

Saxon

Med

Post-med

Mod

✓

?

CBM

R Brick

R Tile

box tile

tessera

P-R Brick

unfrogged

frogged

Peg tile

Organics

Animal bone

Human bone

shell

leather

wood

other

flint

fe nail

R glass

P-R glass

painted plaster

mortar

slate

clay pipe

burnt stone

Small Find?

Small Find No.

Small Find type

Sample?

Sample No.

Sample type





001



002





003



004  
2/





005

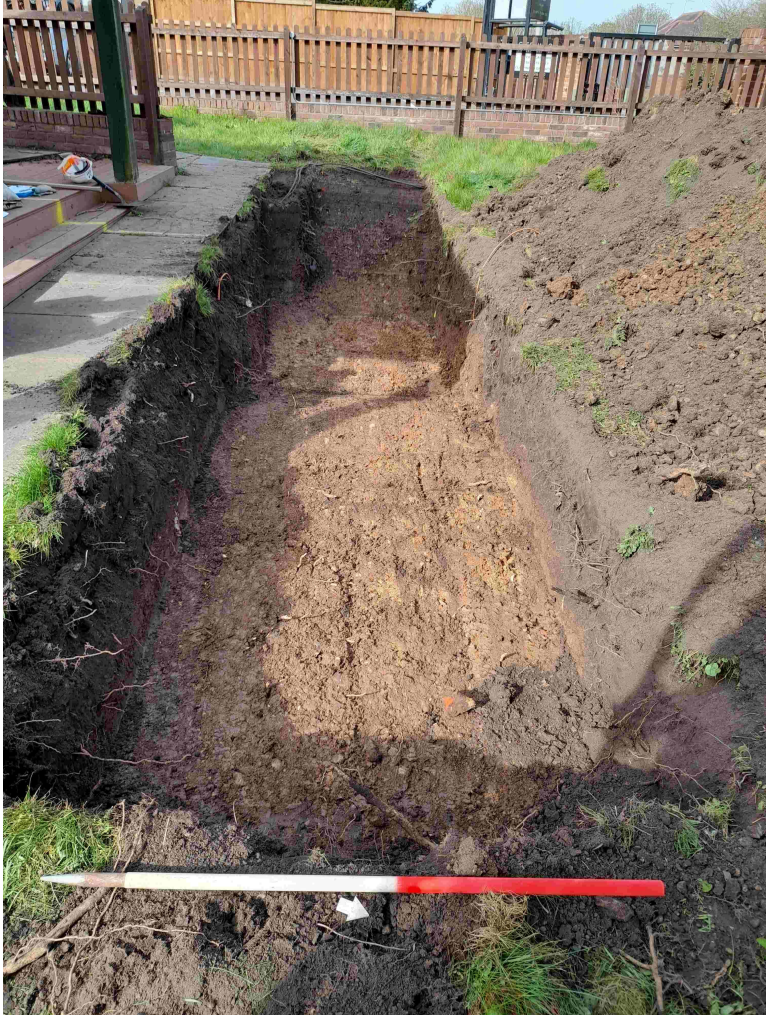


006





007



008

Land at the former Norfolk Public House, 132 North Station Road, Colchester, Essex Evaluation

Photographic Log

ECC4703_Photo	Representative section - view north-west.
ECC4703_Photo	Representative section - view north-west.
ECC4703_Photo	Representative section - view north-west.
ECC4703_Photo	Representative section - view north-west.
ECC4703_Photo	General trench shot - view north-east.
ECC4703_Photo	General trench shot - view north-east.
ECC4703_Photo	General trench shot - view south-west.
ECC4703_Photo	General trench shot - view south-west.