

**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org

<b>CAT Report 1865</b>  <b>Archaeological monitoring at the Roman circus archaeological site, Flagstaff Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7NY: October 2022</b>	<b>CAT project code:</b> 2022/10f
	<b>Scheduled Monument no.:</b> NHLE 1021426
	<b>Scheduled Monument consent no.:</b> S00242258
	<b>Planning reference:</b> 221174
	<b>CHER Event no.:</b> ECC4757
	<b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-510203
	<b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 9963 2458 (centre)
	<b>Number of site visits:</b> 1
<b>Dates of visit:</b> 28th October 2022	
<b>Nature of the work</b> Observation of groundworks for the installation of a new interpretation panel.	
<b>Reason for condition</b> The site lies within the Roman circus scheduled ancient monument (NHLE 1021426)	
<b>% of total seen</b> 100% of the groundworks.	
<b>Results</b> The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to an archaeological brief written by Dr Simon Wood of Colchester Borough Council and scheduled monument consent from the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments Dr Jess Tipper.  The foundation pad for the new interpretation panel measured 0.5m <sup>2</sup> . Three horizons were observed, a modern ?imported topsoil (L1, c 0.2m thick) sealed a layer of modern material (L2, c 0.14m thick) which overlay a buried topsoil (L3, c 0.24m thick to base of pad).  L1, ?imported topsoil, soft, medium grey brown silty loam with 3% gravel. L2, modern material, very hard, mid yellowish brown ?building rubble. L3, buried topsoil, slightly hard mid grey brown silty loam with 3% gravel.  Large amounts of modern debris (wall plaster and bricks) were observed in L2 but none of this material was retained.	



**Photograph 1** The foundation pad, looking south-south-west

**Recorded by:** Bronagh Quinn ([bq@catuk.org](mailto:bq@catuk.org))

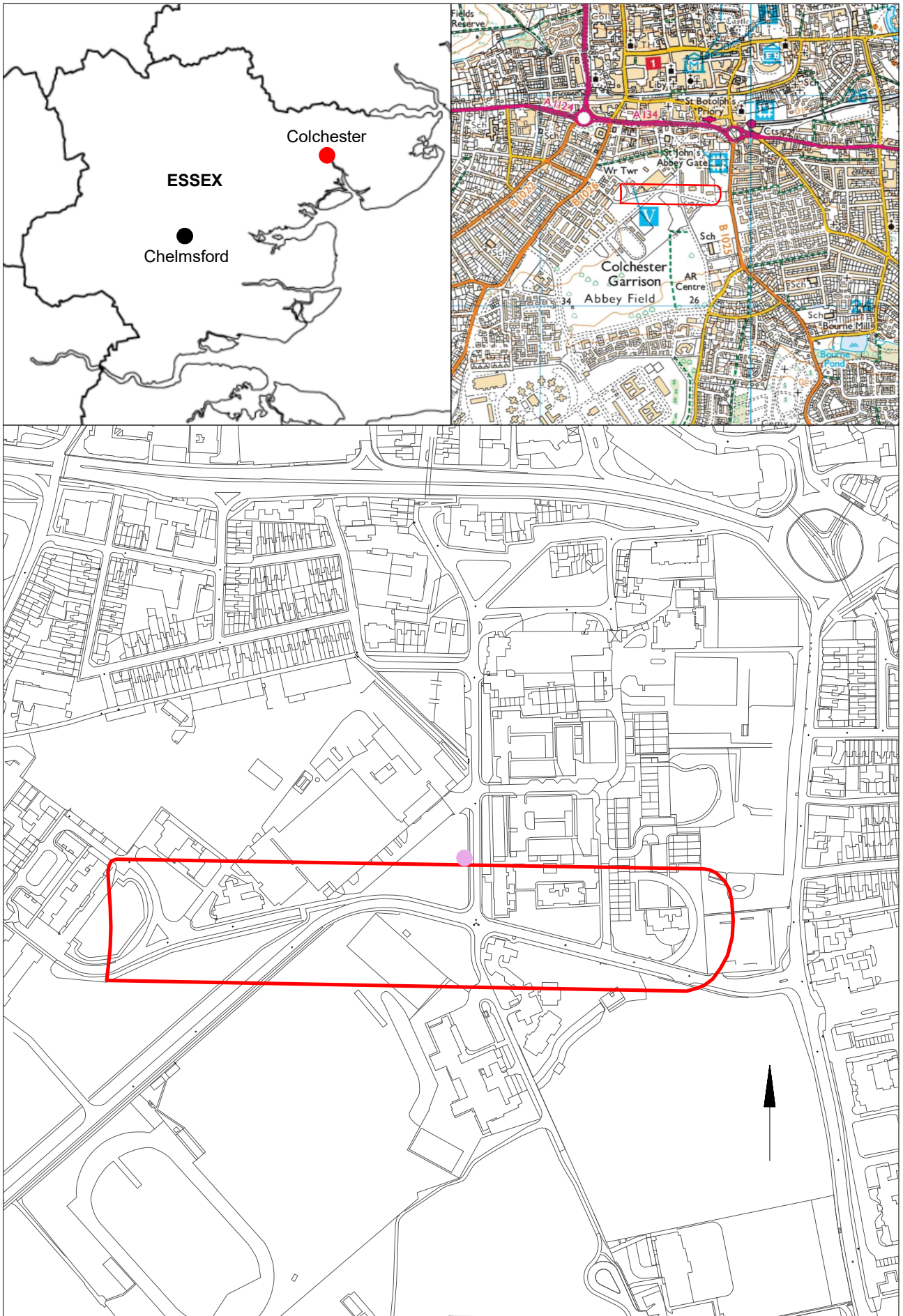
**Date:** 7/11/2022

**Reviewed by:** Laura Pooley

**Date:** 24/11/2022

**Reviewed and approved by:** Philip Crummy

**Date:** 25/11/2022

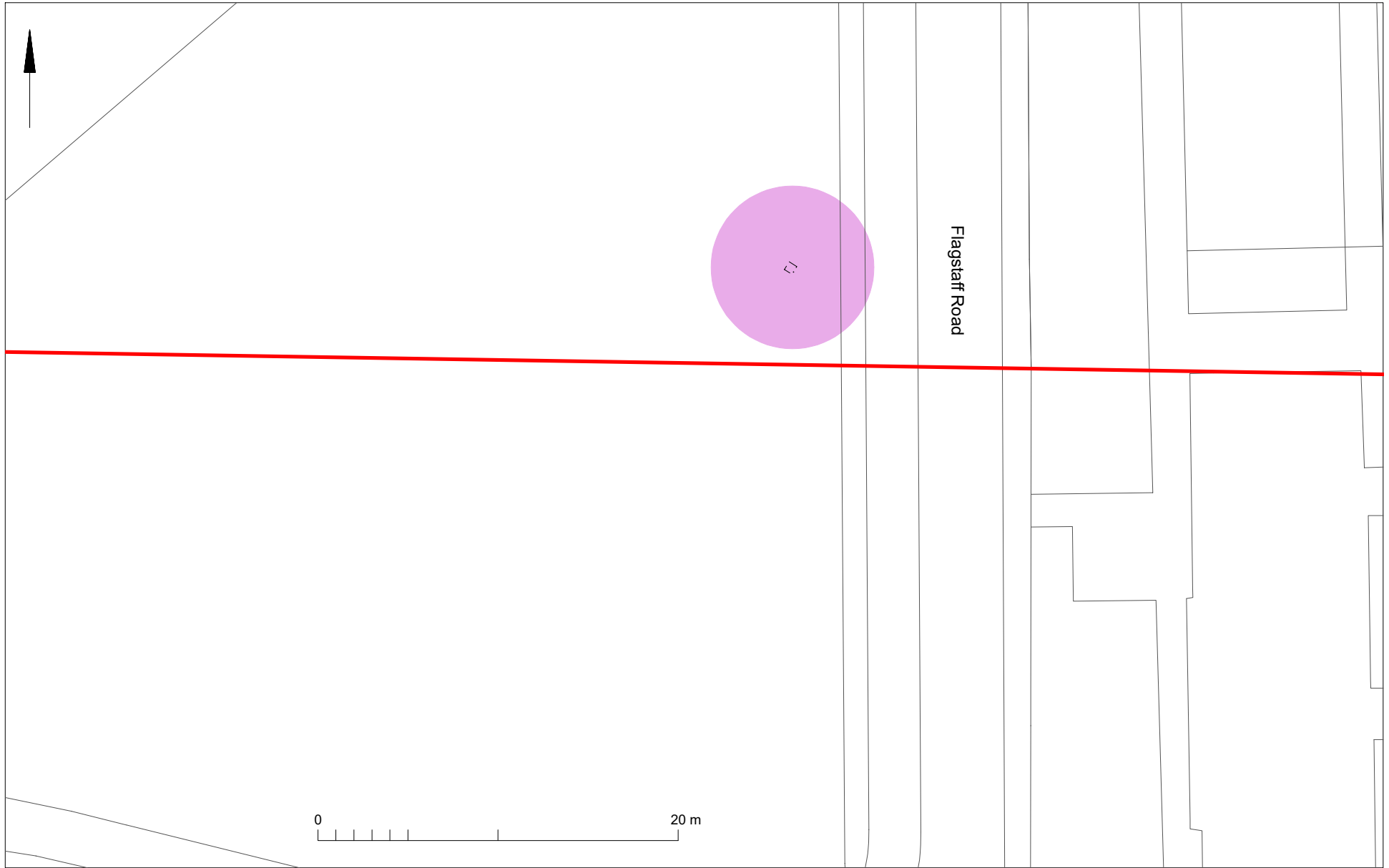


© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location with Roman Circus outlined in red and new interpretation panel highlighted in pink







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

Fig 2 Results



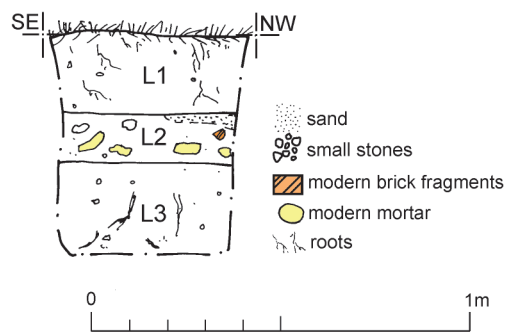


Fig 3 Representative section.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Roman circus archaeological site, Flagstaff Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7NY	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9963 2458 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2022/10f CHER ref: ECC4757 OASIS ref: colchest3-510203
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 28th October 2022	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.02ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Archaeological Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> Colchester Borough Council
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> Scheduled Monument number: SM EX 35614, NHLE 1021426
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1865	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the site of the Roman circus scheduled ancient monument, Flagstaff Road, Colchester, Essex, during groundworks for a new interpretation panel. No archaeological remains were impacted by the groundworks which did not go below buried topsoil.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Simon Wood <b>Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments:</b> Dr Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Bronagh Quinn	<b>Date of summary:</b> November 2022

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at Roman circus archaeological site, Flagstaff Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7NY**

**NGR:** TL 9963 2458 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** Colchester

**Planning reference:** 221174

**Scheduled Monument number:** SM EX 35614, HA 1021426

**Scheduled Monument Consent number:** S00242258

**Commissioned by:** Philip Wise (CBC)

**Client:** Colchester Borough Council

**Curating museum:** Colchester/ADS Archaeology

**CHER number:** tbc

**CAT project code:** 2022/10f

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-510203

**Contracts manager:** Chris Lister

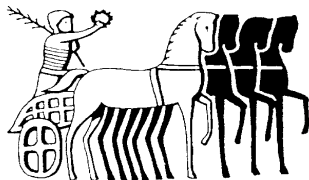
**Fieldwork manager:** Adam Wightman

**Post-excavation manager:** Laura Pooley

**Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments:** Dr Jess Tipper

**CBC monitor:** Dr Simon Wood

**This WSI written:** 25/10/2022



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

*tel:* 01206 501785 (option 1)

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



## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 435m south of the walled historic core of Colchester town centre at the Roman circus archaeological site, Flagstaff Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9963 2458 and located within the Abbey Field conservation area (DEX23000).

## Proposed work

The development will involve the erection of an interpretation panel containing historical information and graphics at the Roman Circus archaeological site. There will be two additional panels to add in later, this application only covers the initial one on Flagstaff Road.

## Archaeological background

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

The development site is situated within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which is defined by a dyke system (see CAR 11), and within the hinterland of the Roman town.

The proposed panel location is within land formerly part of Colchester Garrison. The archaeological and historical setting of the Garrison redevelopment area was comprehensively explored in an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the Colchester Garrison PFI site (CAT Report 97) before redevelopment began. Almost 20 years of archaeological investigations in the immediate surrounding areas have subsequently added to the information contained within that DBA. The redevelopment of the Garrison released approximately 80 hectares of land for residential use. CAT were commissioned to cover extensive investigations, evaluations and excavations as part of this project (key reports include CAT Reports 206, 361, 412, 652, 1033 and 1466).

Of particular significance to this site is Garrison area J1, located between Butt Road, Le Cateau Road, Circular Road North and the Cavalry Barracks (see CAT Report 412). The archaeological investigation of this area consisted of 17 evaluation trenches totalling 581m in length and four area excavations totalling 8,565m<sup>2</sup>. The northern part of the area was dominated by a large Roman cemetery (part of the Abbey Field Roman cemetery area MCC7954 and MCC2807). The eastern area was dominated by the remains of the large Roman circus, whilst a wide Roman road and smaller driveway were located in the southern area where a much smaller burial plot was also encountered. Other evidence included a small number of Late Bronze Age features, a series of post-medieval field boundary ditches and a road, and a number of modern/military features.

A stone built monumental Roman circus used for chariot racing, currently unique to Britain, has been discovered during archaeological investigations across GAL Areas C1, C2, H and J1, Circular Road North, Napier Road, the former Colchester Arena Club and at Roman Circus House (CAT Report 412 & 1142) (SM 1021426, MCC5549). It is located about 400m south of the walled town on effectively the nearest piece of flat land south of the town centre. Orientated east-west it is approximately 450m in length by 71.1-74.2m wide with a central '*spina*' barrier. Elements identified to date include the seating *cavea* with internal and external (buttressed) walls, entranceways through the *cavea*, a dirt surface racetrack, a segment of the semi-circular end of the circus, a fragment of the starting gates structures (demonstrating bays for eight chariots rather than twelve), a monument base on the line of the *spina* (for an obelisk?), and further elements of the *spina* including its western end and a fragment of a turning post pillar (*metae*).

The outer wall of the circus was apparently pulled down in the late Roman period, as represented by rubble spreads exterior to the outer wall noted in the excavations, whilst the inner (podium) wall fell forwards into the track in some areas (e.g. at Napier Road). This

evidence suggests a seating bank between the walls was still upstanding when the walls fell. In some areas (GAL Areas C1 and C2) a metalled surface representing a track has been identified around the circus (CAT Report 1466, 5-6).

The proposed fence post is to be located within Garrison Area C1, a wedge of land on the corner of Napier Road and Flagstaff Road. The archaeological investigation of this area consisted of three evaluation trenches totalling 74m in length and an area excavation totalling 292m<sup>2</sup>. The area included the remains of a short section of a large Roman circus also seen on Areas C2 and J1. Other archaeological activity included a series of Late Neolithic features, three undated ditches, a post-medieval ditch, and a number of modern/military features (CAT Report 412, 3).

## **Planning background**

A planning application (221174) was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 2022 proposing the *erection of an interpretation panel containing historical information and graphics at the Roman Circus archaeological site, Flagstaff Road. The panel is of the same design and specification as used elsewhere in the borough including around the circuit of the Roman (Town) Wall.*

As the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument and 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) and by the Historic England Inspector of ancient Monuments (HEIAM) as part of scheduled monument consent. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological monitoring of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022).

Specifically:

Monitoring of the hand excavation of a post-hole for the interpretation panel. The panel will be mounted on lecterns which require a single post to be set in the ground. The post will be set into a concrete slab measuring 300mm<sup>2</sup> and have a maximum depth of 750mm to include the 700mm of post below the ground.

The monitoring is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site, particularly remains related to the Roman circus.

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

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

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

## General methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument consent documents
- 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 HEIAM/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 EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

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

## Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT Officer for the duration of the groundworks.

## Monitoring methodology

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

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done by hand.

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

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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

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



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

### **Site surveying**

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to investigate 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 micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

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

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

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

### **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or the HEIAM/CBCAA.

HEIAM and CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the monitoring.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following Historic England guidance (2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the HEIAM/CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (2015a).

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton  
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/Pip Parmenter, 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): Megan 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 HEIAM and CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015b).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to HEIAM/CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- 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 HEIAM and CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). 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 HEIAM/CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to HEIAM/CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The HEIAM/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.



## Education and outreach

The CAT website ([www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk](http://www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk)) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. Staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works in partnership with Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785 (option 1).

## Monitoring

HEIAM and CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to HEIAM/CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

HEIAM/CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

## References

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

- |                 |        |  |
|-----------------|--------|--|
| Brown, D        | 2011   | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>   |
|                 | 2nd ed |  |
| CAR 11          | 1995   | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camunlodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy  |
| CAT             | 2022   | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT Report 97   | 2000   | <i>An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Colchester Garrison PFI site: October 2000.</i>  |
| CAT Report 206  | 2002   | <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on Areas A, B, D, GJ, H, J, N, V and YP at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex: June-July 2002.</i>   |
| CAT Report 412  | 2011   | <i>Archaeological investigations on the 'Alienated Land', Colchester Garrison, Colchester, Essex: May 2004-October 2007.</i>   |
| CAT Report 652  | 2014   | <i>Stages 2 &amp; 3 archaeological monitoring and excavation on the Napier Road car parks and footpath (GAL Area B1b and C2), Colchester Garrison, Essex: February 2011 – January 2013.</i>                          |
| CAT Report 1033 | 2017   | <i>Roman burials: Archaeological excavation (Stage 2) on Colchester Garrison 'Alienated Land' Area H, off Butt Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 2DL: September 2012 – February 2013.</i>                                 |
| CAT Reprt 1466  | 1466   | The Roman Circus and St John's Abbey: Stage 2 and 3 archaeological mitigation investigations on Colchester Garrison 'Alienated Land' Area B1b, off Napier Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7NU: July 2015 – October 2017 |
| CBCAA           | 2022   | <i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Roman Circus Archaeological Site, Flagstaff Road, Colchester.</i> By S Wood  |
| CIfA            | 2014a  | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Revised June 2020   |
| CIfA            | 2014b  | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020  |

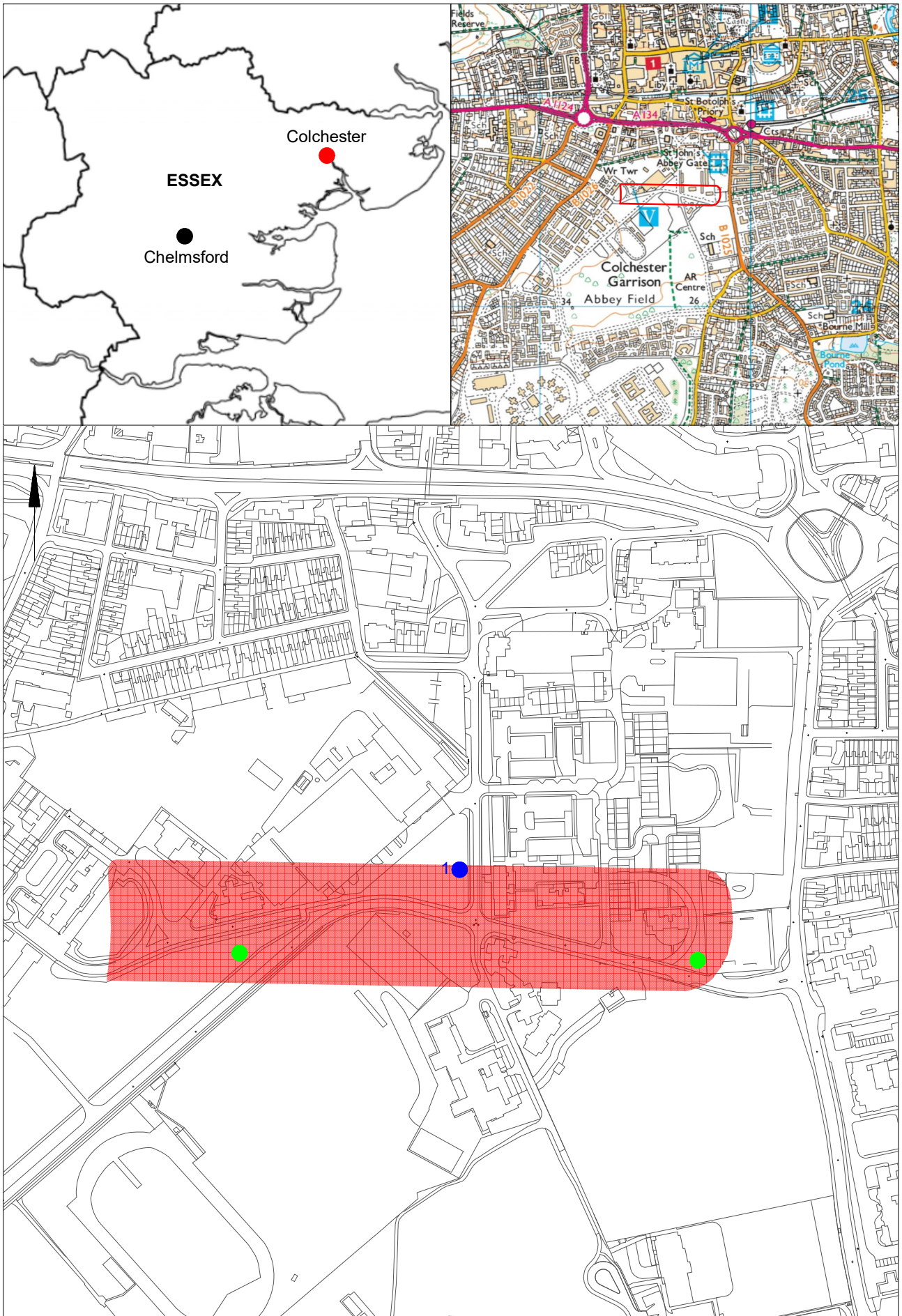
ClfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2022
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).
Historic England	2015a	<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 <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Emma 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)



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

Fig 1 Site location, Roman Circus 200m south of Abbey House with indicative location of the current interpretation panel (blue) and two due at a later date (green).



# Summary for colchest3-510203

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-510203
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at Roman circus archaeological site, Flagstaff Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7NY
Sitename	The Roman circus archaeological site, Flagstaff Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7NY
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/10f
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Scheduled monument consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	28-Oct-2022 - 28-Oct-2022
Location	The Roman circus archaeological site, Flagstaff Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7NY NGR : TL 99630 24580 LL : 51.8840275798413, 0.899228772564433 12 Fig : 599630,224580
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI, the Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and the Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic England.
Project Results	The foundation pad for the new interpretation panel measured 0.5m <sup>2</sup> . Three horizons were observed, a modern ?imported topsoil (L1, c 0.2m thick) sealed a layer of modern material (L2, c 0.14m thick) which overlay a buried topsoil (L3, c 0.24m thick to base of pad).
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Scheduled Monument Casework - unRev - STANDARD Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4757
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

**Place and Client Services**

**Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

**AT**

**Roman Circus Archaeological Site, Flagstaff Road, Colchester**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:** 221174

**GRID REFERENCE:** TL 99648 24583

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:** Erection of an interpretation panel containing historical information and graphics at the Roman Circus archaeological site, Flagstaff Road. The panel is of the same design and specification as used elsewhere in the borough including around the circuit of the Roman (Town) Wall.

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

**Date:** 25 October 2022

**Archaeological Background**

- 1.1 The proposed development is in an area of the highest archaeological potential, within the Scheduled Monument covering Colchester's Roman circus, but just outside the footprint of the circus itself. The proposed interpretation panel will cause ground impact over a circa 300mm x 300mm area at a depth where it is likely to disturb archaeological layers/features.

**Planning Background**

- 2.1 In accordance with paragraph 205 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Local Planning Authority has attached a planning condition relating to archaeological investigation:

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 that has been 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 publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
- e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
- f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works.

The site investigation shall thereafter be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall not be occupied or brought into use until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

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 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 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.
- 2.4 Following acceptance, the WSI should be submitted to the planning officer for formal consultation. The planning officer will be advised that an appropriate scheme of work is in place, and recommend partial discharge of the condition to allow work to commence. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the full discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme (completion of fieldwork and reporting), will enable the condition to be discharged.
- 2.5 The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

### **Requirement for Archaeological Investigation**

- 3.1 All groundworks related to the proposed development should be archaeologically monitored. Machinery (fitted with a back-acting ditching bucket) is to be under the supervision and guidance of the archaeological contractor stopping at the uppermost archaeological horizon, to ensure hand excavation and recording of archaeological deposits by the archaeological contractor. The WSI should detail the archaeological excavation, sampling and dating strategies.



- 3.2 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development permitted by the current planning consent. Adequate time is to be allowed for full archaeological excavation and recording of any archaeological deposits revealed during the investigations. The WSI should provide for a contingency for absolute dating (radiocarbon/archaeomagnetic). The WSI should also provide for a contingency for scientific analysis of human remains; CBC must be informed immediately if human remains are encountered during the fieldwork.
- 3.3 If unexpected remains are encountered Colchester BC's Archaeological Advisor must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief, and the WSI, may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.
- 3.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. Any variation to the approved WSI must be agreed with the Archaeological Officer before they are carried out.

#### **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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 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.



Historic England

██████████  
Colchester Borough Council  
Colchester and Ipswich Museums,  
Museum Resource Centre, 40 Heckworth Close  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO4 9TB

Direct Dial: ██████████

Our ref: S00242258

20 January 2022

Dear ██████████

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works**  
**Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**Roman Circus 200m south of Abbey House**  
**Scheduled Monument No: 1021426**  
**Our ref: S00242258**  
**Application on behalf of Colchester Borough Council**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent received 13 January 2022 of proposed works at the above scheduled monument to install three new interpretation panels, one each at the west end (location 1), middle (location 2) and east end (location 3) of the monument. The panels will be mounted on lecterns which will require a single post to be set into the ground. The posts will be set into a concrete slab which will be 300mm square and have a maximum depth of 750mm to include the 700mm of the post below ground level. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:

- AMAAA 1979 (as amended) Application for Scheduled Monument Consent form
- Location and Site Plans (Figures 1 – 4)
- Photographs of Locations 1, 2 and 3
- Lectern design (David Balcombe)
- Interpretation panel design specification
- Example of the interpretation panel artwork

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and



Historic England, Brooklands, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 8BU  
Telephone 01223 58 2749 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.







being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by Historic England and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. Historic England considers the effect of the proposed works would have a negligible impact on the significance of the monument and is, with arrangements for archaeological monitoring and recording to be carried out in accordance with an archaeological written scheme of investigation to be submitted to and approved in writing by Historic England prior to the commencement of works, deemed to be acceptable.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- i. The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Jess Tipper (Inspector of Ancient Monuments), Historic England, Brooklands, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 8BU in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- ii. No ground works / building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the excavation of the posts in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.
- iii. All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the applicant that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- iv. Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument or ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorized in this consent.
- v. A report on the archaeological monitoring and recording shall be sent to the Colchester Borough Historic Environment Record and to Sally Harper







at Historic England within three months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).

4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).

5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Jess Tipper**

Inspector of Ancient Monuments

E-mail: [jess.tipper@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:jess.tipper@historicengland.org.uk)

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport







001



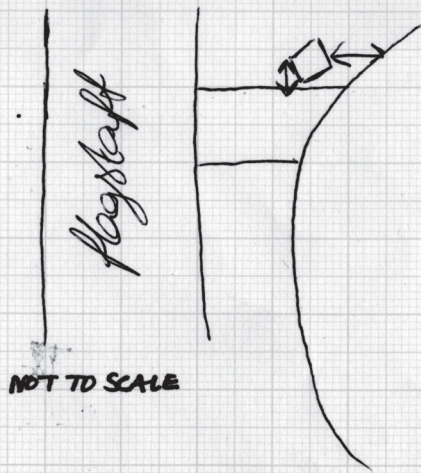
002



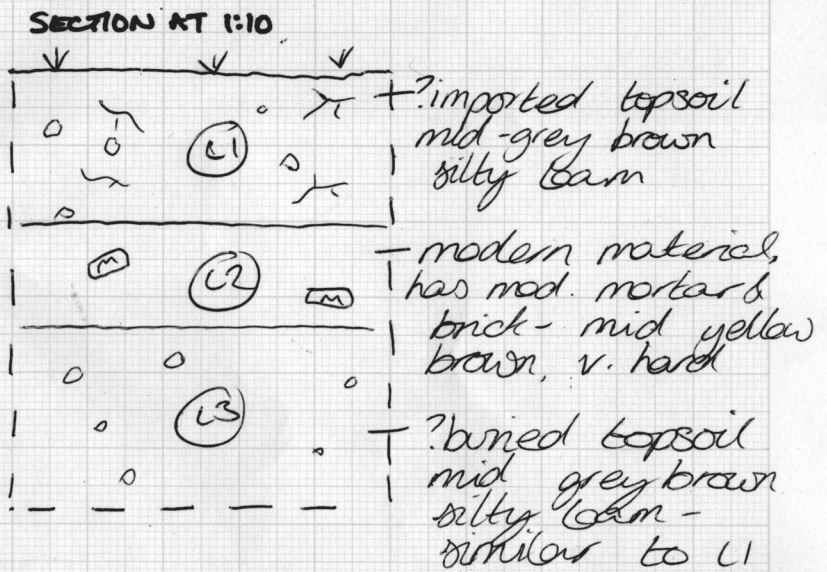
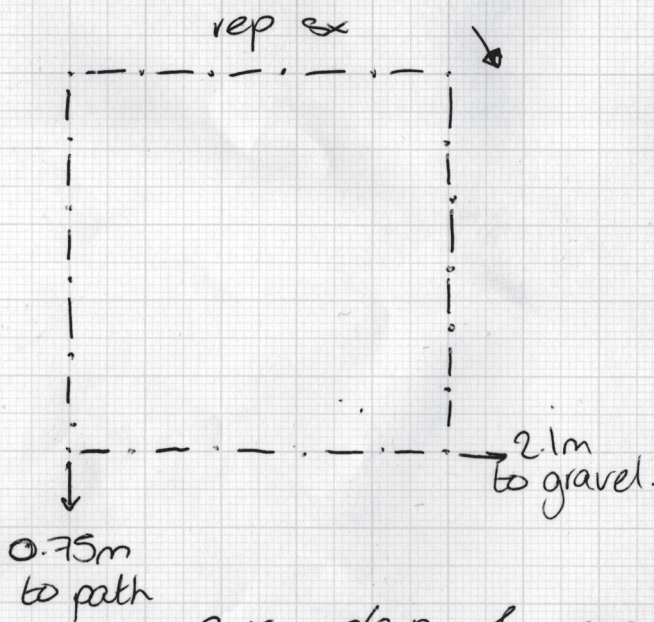
Filename	Description
ECC4757_PhotoGraph_001.jpg	Site shot of circus monument
ECC4757_PhotoGraph_002.jpg	Post ex shot of foundation pad, looking south south-west



22/10/22



NOT TO SCALE



p-x plan & rep ex 1:10 BQ 28.10.22