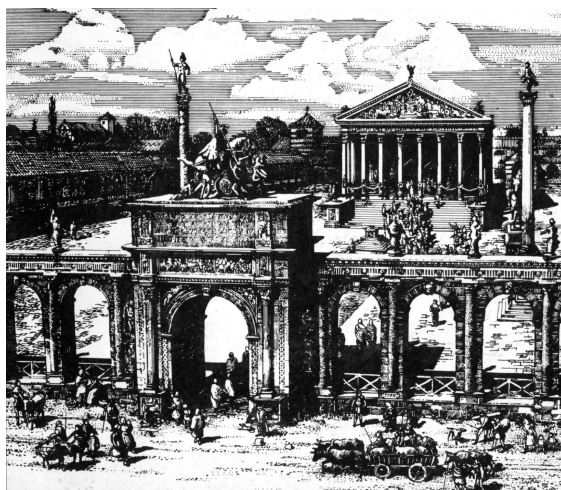


**An archaeological evaluation  
at 97 High Street, Colchester, Essex  
June 2012**

**report prepared by  
Donald Shimmin**

**commissioned by  
BDG Design on behalf of  
Flying Trade Group plc**



NGR: TL 9985 2524

CAT project ref.: 12/02j

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**CAT Report 701**  
December 2013

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## Summary

An archaeological evaluation took place at 97 High Street, Colchester, Essex in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Two narrow trial-trenches were dug by CAT in order to accurately record the position and depth of the south precinct wall of the Temple of Claudius. The northern edge of the foundation platform for the precinct wall was located in both trenches. The top of the foundation platform lay approximately 1 m below the modern yard surface. In one of the trial-trenches, the remains of a pier base, which formed part of the monumental arcade, was uncovered on top of the foundation platform. In the other trench, the foundation platform was sealed by part of a later Roman blocking wall.

## Introduction (Fig 1)

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 97 High Street, Colchester, Essex, prior to redevelopment. The evaluation was commissioned by BDG Design on behalf of Flying Trade Group plc and was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in June 2012.

The site is situated in Colchester town centre, at the rear of properties on the northern side of the High Street. It lies to the south of Castle Bailey and on the western side of a narrow lane known as Crowther's Entry. The property formerly consisted of a late 1960s' office block with car-parking on the ground floor and with a yard to the south. The redevelopment involves the demolition of the existing offices, followed by the construction of new ground-floor commercial premises, with nine flats above on three floors.

The evaluation followed an archaeological watching brief on the site by CAT during the excavation of a series of test-pits by the developer in March 2010 (CAT Report 587). This was in response to a brief written by Colchester Borough Council's Archaeological Officer (CBC 2010). The excavation and recording methods used during the evaluation were outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the site, which was produced by CAT in March 2012. The WSI also set out proposals for post-excavation work, the production of a report, an archive and (if necessary) publication texts.

This report follows the standards set out in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a), and also those in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006), and in the documents *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14), and *Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the Eastern Counties. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 24), was also followed.

## Archaeological background (Figs 1-2)

The site is located on the southern edge of Insula 22 of the Roman town and is in an area of outstanding archaeological interest. An excavation took place on the site in 1964 and revealed the well-preserved remains of a monumental arcade (Hebditch 1971). This extended along the south side of a large rectangular precinct within which stood the Temple of Claudius. The south precinct wall was probably constructed in the years after the Boudican revolt of AD 60/1. Even after the depredations of Norman stone robbers, the 'foundation platform' survived 15 feet wide (4.57 m). It was surmounted by the remains of pier bases for a large arcaded screen (*ibid*, 122), and also by a series of later Roman blocking walls (*ibid*, 122-3). The latter extended between the pier bases and probably date to some time after the late 2nd century (*ibid*, 129).

To the south of the precinct wall, in a trench dug in 1964 along the western side of the site, traces of several phases of west-east Roman drains were uncovered. The well-preserved northern side of one of these drains, constructed of brick set in *opus signinum*, was exposed in 2006 during rebuilding work along the southern edge of the site (CAT Report 440).

The 1964 excavations confirmed the results of work carried out nearby in 1931 and 1953 (Hull 1955; Hull 1958, 169-75). The 1931 excavation revealed, immediately to the east of the site, the remains of the western part of a monumental arch centrally-placed in the south precinct wall. Part of the archway was also uncovered by CAT in evaluation trenches at the rear of 95-96 High Street in 2006 (CAT Reports 360, 380).

One of the reasons why the south precinct wall was so well-preserved was because it was 'insulated' by the Norman inner bailey rampart which was piled up on top of it. The rampart was surmounted by a curtain wall, which was probably built in the 12th century and replaced an earlier timber palisade (VCHE 9, 244). The digging of the inner bailey ditch to the south of the rampart necessitated the diversion of the line of the High Street southwards, and the curve in the road is still visible today. As a result of later activity, the remains of the curtain wall and much of the rampart were destroyed, while the ditch was backfilled and built over (Hebditch 1971, 121; Drury 1983, 407-8).

An archaeological watching brief took place on the site in March 2010 during the machine-excavation of a series of test-pits by the developer (CAT Report 587). The remains of the south precinct wall of the Temple of Claudius were uncovered close to the modern ground-level in the southern part of the site. Little of archaeological significance was reached in the northern part of the site where the ground-level had been considerably made-up in modern times.

## Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate and accurately record the position and depth of the south precinct wall of the Temple of Claudius. Also it was hoped to establish and record the position of any pier bases and/or blocking walls on the foundation platform of the precinct wall. The evaluation was necessary because it was not possible to accurately relate the results of earlier archaeological excavations to the existing boundaries or to the other surviving features on the site.

## Methods (Figs 2 & 3)

The evaluation consisted of two narrow trial-trenches (T1, T2), each measuring 5 m long by 0.5 m wide; they were approximately 6 m apart. The trenches were dug on the 11th June 2012 using a mini-digger with a toothless trenching bucket.

Following the breaking-out of the existing concrete surfaces (L1), the deposits in the trenches were progressively stripped by the mini-digger under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Mechanical excavation continued until the remains of the south precinct wall of the Temple of Claudius were reached. There was then some limited excavation by hand of the overlying deposits, followed by the cleaning-up and recording of the archaeological remains uncovered.

Individual records of archaeological contexts, such as layers or features, as well as finds, were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. Plans were drawn at 1:20 and section drawings were made at 1:10. Standard record shots of the trial trenches were taken on a digital camera. Further details of the recording methods used can be found in the WSI (WSI 2012), and also in the CAT document *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2006).

## Results

The natural subsoil was not reached in the trial-trenches. Previous investigations in the southern part of the site indicated that it lies at approximately 1.7 m below the modern yard surface (23.55 m AOD), and that it consists of sand and gravel, sealed in places by shallow pockets of cover loam (CAT Report 440, fig 3).

### Roman south precinct wall (Figs 2-3)

The east-west foundation platform (F2) of the south precinct wall of the Temple of Claudius was located in both trial-trenches. The top of the foundation platform lay approximately 1 m below the modern yard surface. The northern edge of the foundation platform was exposed in both T1 and T2, although its southern edge lay beyond the limits of the trenches. The foundation platform was constructed of a hard, pale brown mortar containing fragments of stone (mainly septaria).

In T2, the remains of one of the pier bases (F3; Plate 2) for the monumental arcade was uncovered on the top of the foundation platform. It was of similar construction to F2 and formed the core of the pier base. The facing stones had been robbed out, probably in Norman times (Hebditch 1971, 118 & 121). Only the eastern part of the pier base was exposed, and this extended for approximately 900 mm north-south. The top of the pier base survived up to 730 mm above the level of the top of the foundation platform (Sx 2, Fig 3). The top of F3 was approximately 320 mm below the modern yard surface. The pier base extended out from the west section of T2 for approximately 220 mm.



**Plate 2 T2: pier base F3 on the foundation platform F2, viewed from the south-east.**

In T1, the remains of a later Roman east-west blocking wall (F4) rested on the foundation platform F2 (Plate 3). The top of the blocking wall survived up to 640 mm above the level of the top of F2 (Sx 1, Fig 3). The top of F4 was approximately 370 mm below the modern yard surface. The northern face of F4 was constructed of well-preserved courses of dressed stone and brick/tile (Plate 4). By contrast, the southern face was coated with a thick layer of *opus signinum*. The core of F4 consisted of pale brown mortar containing fragments of stone, mainly septaria. The maximum recorded width of F4 was 800 mm.



**Plate 3 T1: blocking wall F4 on the foundation platform F2, viewed from the north.**



**Plate 4 T1: detail of blocking wall F4, viewed from the north.**

The two lowest courses in the northern face of F4 were of dressed stone, mainly septaria. The lowest course sealed a thin layer of greyish-brown soil, approximately 60 mm thick. This had presumably accumulated on the foundation platform F2. The stone courses were sealed by four courses of

Roman brick and tile. These were offset by 60-70 mm to the south and were set in *opus signinum*. The brick/tile appeared to be reused fragments of varying sizes. On the uppermost brick/tile course lay a piece of stone, offset by a further 40 mm to the south. This was possibly all that remained of further stone courses (Hebditch 1971, 119).

The *opus signinum* coating on the southern face of F4 sloped inwards slightly and had possibly been burnt. The top of the foundation platform was not reached on the south side of F4, due to the limited area available for excavation. The *opus signinum* was presumably used for its strength and waterproofing qualities.

At the northern end of both trial-trenches, immediately to the north of the foundation platform F2, archaeological deposits were exposed. These deposits had been cut by the 1964 excavation trenches (F1). They lay at a higher level than the top of F2, and probably originally extended over it, before being dug away during the 1964 excavations. The deposits consisted mainly of light greyish-brown fill containing large quantities of mortar and rubble (ie fragments of stone and Roman brick/tile).

In T1, the rubbly deposit was at least 650 mm thick and was sealed by a dark reddish-brown deposit, approximately 100 mm thick, which appeared to have been burnt (Sx 1, Fig 3). In T2, the rubbly layer was at least 500 mm thick (Sx 2, Fig 3). These deposits remained unexcavated and no dating evidence was recovered from them. In the 1964 report, the equivalent deposits were up to 1 m thick. It is unclear whether the rubbly material derived from one or more episodes of robbing and/or demolition of the south precinct wall, or from its gradual dereliction. A firm date was not given for the deposits in the 1964 report. They were attributed to Period 6, interpreted as the 'progressive ruin of the arcade' in the 'Saxon' period (Hebditch 1971, 129). However, they could perhaps date from any time between the late Roman and early Norman periods.

#### **Post-Roman deposits** (Figs 2-3)

In both trial-trenches, the Roman remains were sealed by a dark greyish-brown deposit, up to 1 m thick. This contained large quantities of rubble, often in bands and including fragments of modern brick and concrete. This deposit was probably the backfill of the 1964 excavation trenches (F1). The northern edges of the 1964 trenches were observed in both T1 and T2 (Fig 3). Also, the western edge of the 1964 north-south trench was recorded in T1, south of F4. At the southern end of T2, several hard mortar spreads were uncovered within the lower backfill of F1. These were probably waste material dumped by the builders in 1964 into a partially backfilled trench; perhaps the contents of a cement-mixer at the end of a day. Among the finds recovered from F1 was a fragment of a Purbeck marble veneer slab (see below).

The existing yard surface (L1) was of reinforced concrete, 150-240 mm thick. In places this sat on a layer of modern rubbly make-up (L2), approximately 150 mm thick. In T2, a thin modern cable, had been laid, from north-west to south-east, on top of the Roman foundation platform (F2).

#### **Finds**

A quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation. Where appropriate the finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context, in line with the recommendations in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). A fragment of worked stone is described in this section. The remaining finds are listed by context in Table 1 in Appendix 2, and further details are available in the site archive.

#### **The worked stone**

A fragment of a Purbeck marble veneer slab was recovered from F1 in T2. It probably originally derived from the south precinct wall. Fragments of Purbeck marble were found in the 1964 excavation on the site, reused in an east-west drain (Hebditch 1971, 120 & 123). A fragment of Purbeck marble was found by

CAT on the site during the watching brief in 2010 (CAT Report 587, 4). Fragments of Purbeck marble were also discovered in the 1953 excavation a short distance to the west of the site (Hull 1955, 45-6, 49).

SF 1. (3) T2, F1. Purbeck marble. A fragment of a veneer slab. One side smooth; other left rough. Rough tool marks on one long edge. Other edges probably broken in antiquity. Maximum dimensions 130 by 85 mm, maximum thickness 28 mm. Weight 676 g.

## Conclusions

The site is located close to Colchester castle and the site of the Temple of Claudius, in the heart of the historic town. A large Roman arcaded screen formed the south front of the rectangular precinct within which the Temple of Claudius stood. The remains of this monumental arcade extend across the site from east to west, and the southern half of the proposed building will sit directly on top of it.

The archaeological evaluation in 2012 consisted of two small trial-trenches dug by CAT to accurately record the position and depth of the remains of the arcade. The position of the northern edge of the foundation platform, which supported the arcade, was exposed in both trial-trenches (Fig 2). Although its southern edge lay beyond the limits of the trenches, this could be estimated accurately as the width of the foundation platform (4.57 m) had been established in 1964. It lies approximately 1 m further south than had been shown on many recent plans.

The top of the foundation platform lay just over 1 m below the modern yard surface. In one of the trenches (T2), the remains of a pier base (F3) for the arcade was uncovered. This projected for 2.4 feet (730 mm) from the top of the foundation platform, and survived only a foot or so (320 mm) below the modern yard surface. In the other trial-trench (T1), the remains of a later Roman blocking wall (F4) sealed the foundation platform. This was 2.1 feet (640 mm) high, and survived 1.2 feet (370 mm) below the modern yard surface.

As a result of the evaluation, the impact of the proposed redevelopment on the remains of the Roman arcaded screen can be better assessed and minimised. This has resulted in changes to the plan and piling layout of the proposed building. The ground floor of the building is to be raised significantly above the existing yard surface. It is hoped, therefore, that the remains of the arcade will be largely unaffected by any ground reduction on the site. It is possible that some archaeological deposits to the north of the precinct wall may be disturbed and so, in this case, these deposits should be excavated and recorded in advance.

The redevelopment provides the opportunity to expose the remains of the arcade on permanent view under glass. Apart from the town wall and the collections in the Castle Museum, there is little for visitors and townspeople to see of Colchester's Roman heritage. Strategically-placed glass panels set in the ground floor of the proposed building would put genuine, well-preserved Roman remains on display, which must, in their day, have been a very impressive and imposing sight. Hopefully, this scheme would not only benefit the commercial premises on the ground floor of the proposed building, but would also enhance Colchester's tourism 'portfolio'.

## Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Survey datum point based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall
Boudican	dating to the time of the native uprising led by Boudica in AD 60/1
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAO	Colchester Borough Council's Archaeological Officer
CIMS	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made; usually a layer or a feature



cover loam	a natural, wind-blown deposit, probably formed towards the end of the last Ice Age
dark earth	post-Roman topsoil; probably the result of long-term cultivation, refuse disposal and pit-digging.
feature	an identifiable context, such as a pit, a wall or a posthole
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
<i>insula</i>	an area or block within the grid pattern of a Roman town (plural <i>insulae</i> )
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	period from c 1850 onwards to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
Norman	relating to the period from AD 1066 to c AD 1154
<i>opus signinum</i>	Roman 'concrete' with a pinkish appearance due to the addition of brick/tile fragments
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to c 1850
residual	finds that were deposited earlier than the context in which they were found
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
septaria	calcareous, clay concretions found on the Essex and Suffolk coast
<i>tegula</i>	flanged Roman roof tile (plural <i>tegulae</i> )
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, maintained by Colchester Museums
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## References

**Note: all fieldwork CAT reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>**

CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1985</i> , by John Cotter
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R P Symonds and S Wade, ed by P Bidwell and A Croom
CAT	2006	<i>Policies and procedures</i> , Colchester Archaeological Trust
CAT Report 360		An archaeological evaluation rear of 95-96 High Street, Colchester, Essex, January 2006, CAT archive report, by H Brooks, 2006
CAT Report 380		Stage 2 of an archaeological evaluation at the rear of 95-96 High Street, Colchester, Essex, July 2006, CAT archive report, by D Shimmin, 2006
CAT Report 440		An archaeological watching brief at 99 High Street, Colchester, Essex, December 2006, CAT archive report, by D Shimmin, 2007
CAT Report 587		An archaeological watching brief at 97 High Street, Colchester, Essex, March 2010, CAT archive report, by D Shimmin, 2011
CBC	2010	<i>Brief for an archaeological attendance and recording (a watching brief), 97 High Street, Colchester, Essex</i> , by Martin Winter
CIMS	2008a	<i>Guidelines on standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i> (CBC)
CIMS	2008b	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester &amp; Ipswich Museums</i> (CBC)
Drury, P	1983	'Aspects of the origins and development of Colchester Castle', in <i>Archaeol J</i> , <b>139</b> (1982), 302-419
EAA 3	1997	<i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. resource assessment</i> , ed by J Glazebrook
EAA 8	2000	<i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, 8, ed by N Brown and J Glazebrook
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, <b>14</b> , ed by D Gurney, ALGAO East
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the Eastern Counties. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, 24, ed by M Medlycott, ALGAO East
Hebditch, M	1971	'Excavations on the south side of the temple precinct at Colchester', <i>TEAS</i> , <b>3</b> (3rd series), part 1, 115-130

Hull, M R	1955	'The south wing of the Roman 'forum' at Colchester: recent discoveries', in <i>TEAS</i> , <b>25</b> , Part 1, 24-61
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, <b>20</b>
IfA	2007	<i>Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> , English Heritage
VCHE <b>9</b>	1994	<i>A history of the County of Essex, 9: the Borough of Colchester</i> , ed by J Cooper, The Victoria History of the Counties of England
WSI	2012	Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at 97 High Street, Colchester, Essex, March 2012, by D Shimmin

## Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Phil Bennington and his colleagues at BDG Design for commissioning and funding the evaluation on behalf of Flying Trade Group plc. We would also like to thank JDS Construction, especially Simon Cooke, for their help on site. The work was monitored by Martin Winter, Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer.

## Archive deposition

The archive from the evaluation, including the site records, photographs and finds, will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLEM 2012.23, in accordance with *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008b) and *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (IfA 2007).

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.2 Site plans provided by developer
- 1.3 Sundry papers

#### **2 Site archive**

- 2.1 Site digital photographic record on CD
- 2.2 Attendance register
- 2.3 Context sheets
- 2.4 Site plans and sections on 2 sheets of A3 drafting film
- 2.5 Finds register

#### **3 Research archive**

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report

#### **Not in wallet**

The finds (1 museum box)

## Appendix 2: list of finds by context

All weights are in grammes. Roman pottery fabric codes follow those used in *CAR 10*, and post-Roman pottery fabric codes follow those used in *CAR 7* (identifications by Stephen Benfield).

**Table 1: finds list.**

Context	Trench	Finds no	Qty	Description	Wt (g)	Comments
F1	T1	4	1	Roman pot sherd	9	late Roman shell-tempered ware, Fabric HD (late 3rd-4th century)
			1	brick/tile fragment	297	probable Roman brick fragment; slight traces of mortar adhering; poorly-fired
			1	animal bone fragment	186	cattle metacarpal
			1	slate fragment	2	
F1	T1	5	1	modern metal cigarette box	17	1960s; slightly crushed; 85 x 74 x 18 mm; 'Benson and Hedges, Super Virginia Cigarette, BEA, Twenty cigarettes'
F1	T2	2	1	Roman pot sherd	15	Oxford red colour-coated ware, Fabric MP, bowl rim (late 3rd-4th/early 5th century)
			3	animal bone fragments	26	
			1	Roman brick fragment	1,975	55 mm thick, with mortar adhering
			2	<i>tegula</i> fragments	829	both with flanges; one with cutaway, other in buff fabric
F1	T2	6	5	medieval pot sherds	31	1 x Fabric 13 (11th-12th century); 4 x Fabric 20 (12th-14th century), 1 rim sherd, 1 with 'kettle scale' deposit on internal surface
			2	animal bone fragments	22	
			1	glass fragment	8	probably modern window glass
			2	clay-pipe stem fragments	12	bore diameter: 2 x 2.75 mm
			1	Roman pot sherd	6	Fabric GX, rim sherd
U/S	T2	1	1	glass vessel sherd	9	post-medieval/modern
			1	clay-pipe stem fragment	2	bore diameter: 3 mm
			3	<i>tegula</i> fragments	1,730	all with flanges; 2 with mortar adhering; 1 with cutaway, paw-mark (probably dog) and signature
			1	large Roman brick fragment	approx 3,200	55-62 mm thick; with mortar adhering
			1	Roman brick fragment	481	36 mm thick
			1	Roman brick/tile fragment	665	24-27 mm thick
			1	small Roman brick	464	complete, 112-115 mm long x 55-7 mm wide x 37-38 mm thick; probably from herringbone floor ( <i>opus spicatum</i> )

**Distribution list:**

Flying Trade Group plc  
Phil Bennington, BDG Design  
Martin Winter, Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



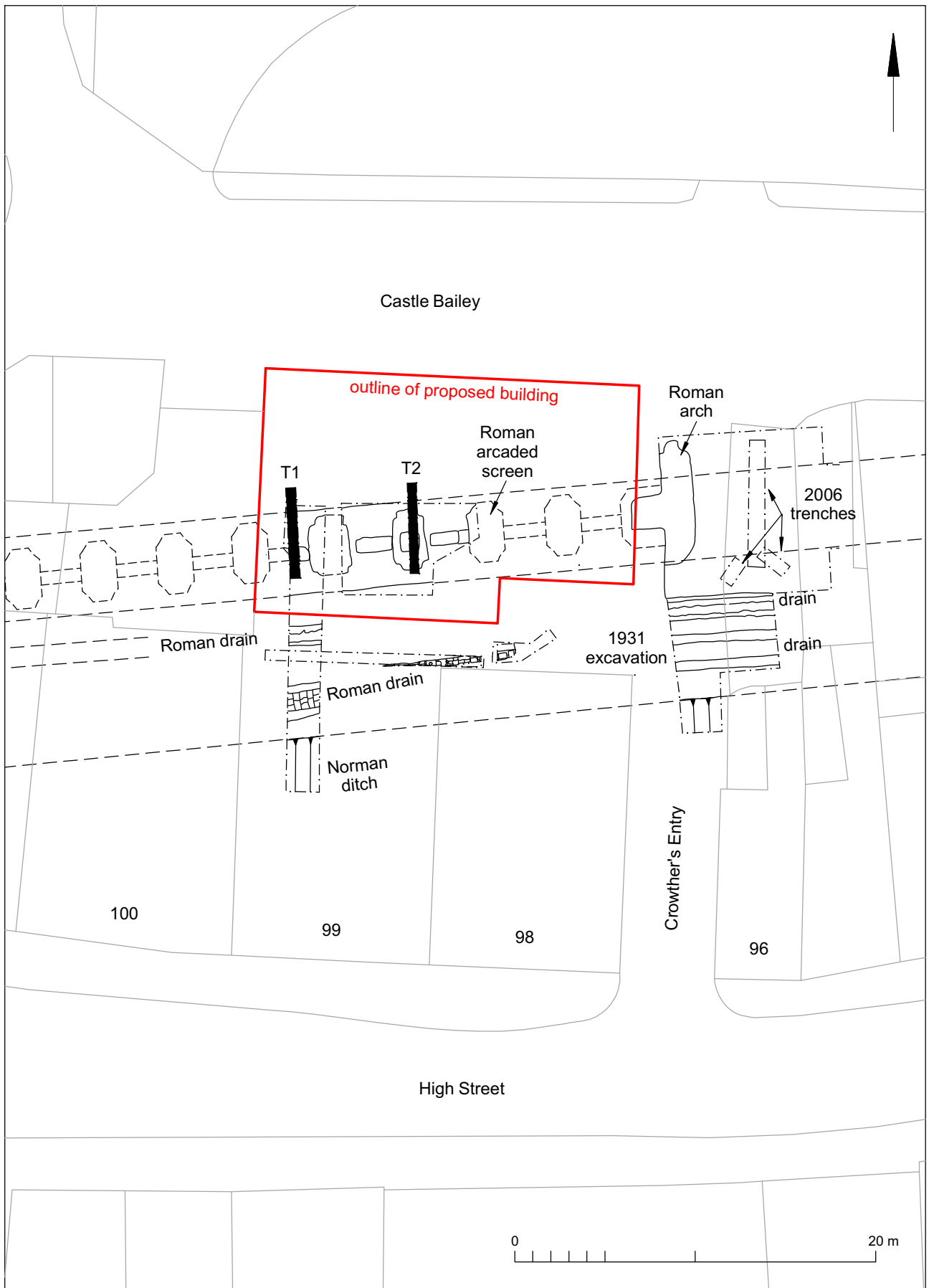
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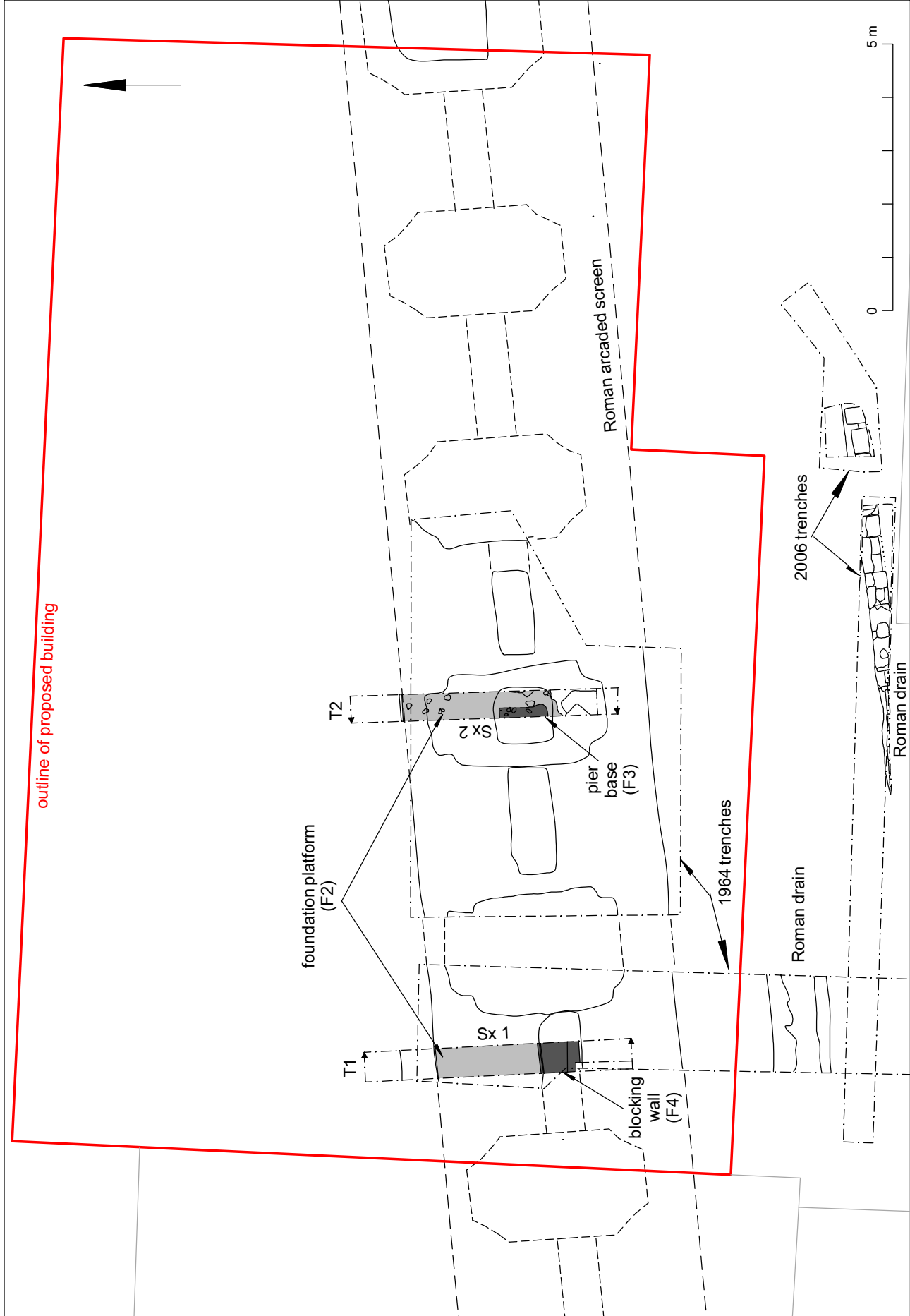
Checked by: *Philip Crummy*  
Date: 13.12.13

*Adams x c:/reports13/97 high st/report 701.doc*



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Fig 1 Site location plan, showing the position of the 2012 evaluation trenches (T1, T2).



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Fig 2 Site plan, showing the 2012 evaluation trenches (T1, T2) and the position of the Roman arched screen.

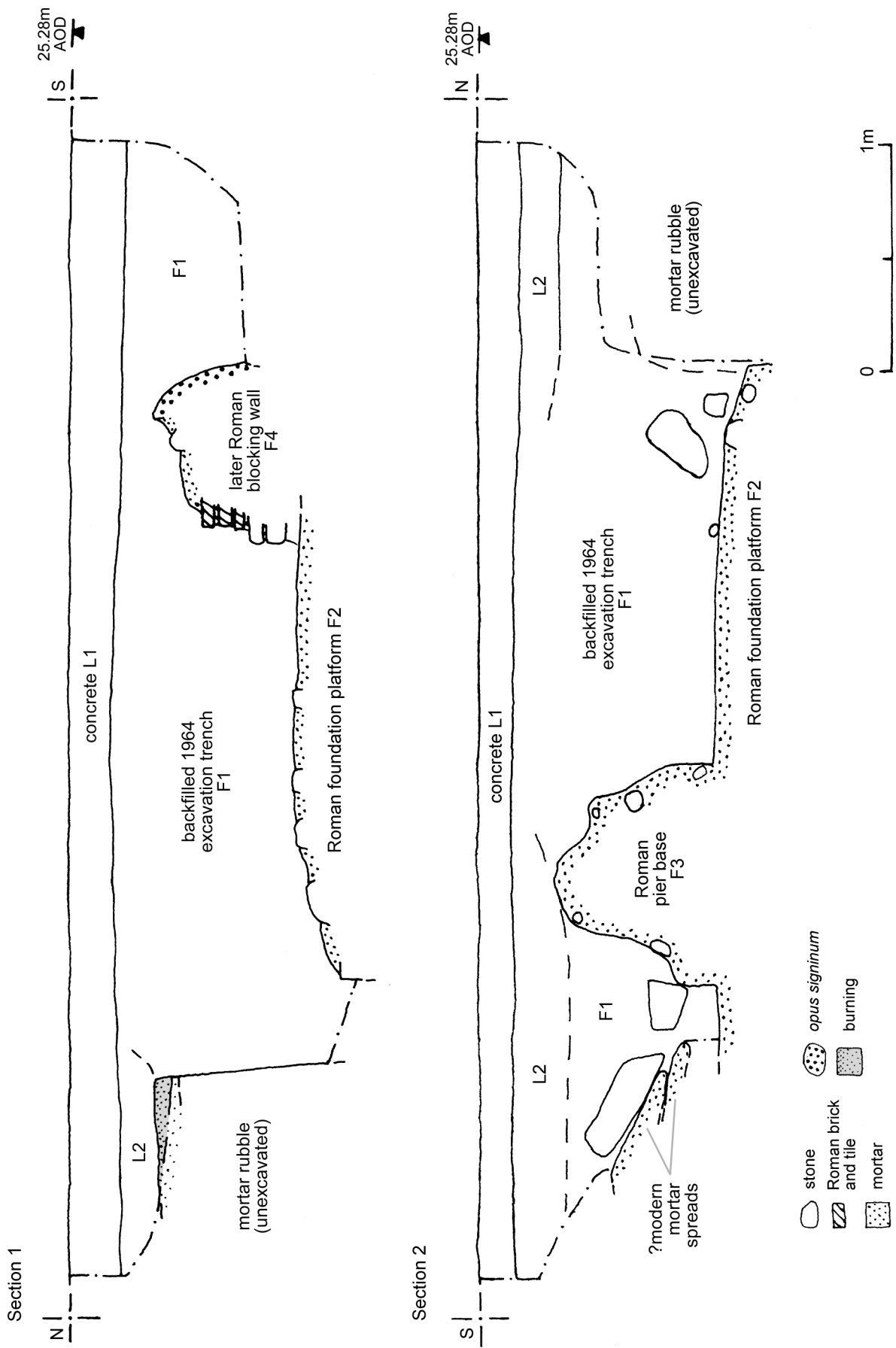


Fig 3 Sections 1-2.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Site address:</b> 97 High Street, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9985 2524	<b>Site codes:</b> Museum accession code: COLEM 2012.23 CAT project code: 12/02j
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> June 2012	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 5 sq m
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related EHER and UAD nos:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 701 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <i>An archaeological evaluation took place at 97 High Street, Colchester, Essex in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Two narrow trial-trenches were dug by CAT in order to accurately record the position and depth of the south precinct wall of the Temple of Claudius. The northern edge of the foundation platform for the precinct wall was located in both trenches. The top of the foundation platform lay approximately 1 m below the modern yard surface. In one of the trial-trenches, the remains of a pier base, which formed part of the monumental arcade, was uncovered on top of the foundation platform. In the other trench, the foundation platform was sealed by part of a later Roman blocking wall.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> Hebditch, M, 1971, 'Excavations on the south side of the temple precinct at Colchester', <i>TEAS</i> , 3 (3rd series), part 1, 115-30 CAT Report 587	
<b>Keywords:</b> Temple of Claudius, precinct wall	<b>Significance:</b> **
<b>Author of summary:</b> Donald Shimmin	<b>Date of summary:</b> December 2013