

Archaeological monitoring and recording at Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ND

August-November 2015



by Laura Pooley

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**commissioned by David MacDougall (Inkpen Downey)
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1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a new teaching block and gym extension at Colchester Royal Grammar School. The school is located within an extensive Roman cemetery area and is at the junction of several Roman roads. Much of the site had suffered from modern disturbance, but four archaeological features were identified. Two areas of gravel surface can be identified as the Roman Gosbecks Road (F5) and the Roman London Road (F1). A pit and posthole were possibly also Roman. Residual finds within areas of modern disturbance included a Roman cremation urn and piece of Jacobean worked stone.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out between August-November 2015. The work was commissioned by David MacDougall (Inkpen Downey) of behalf of T J Evers Ltd, in advance of the erection of a new teaching block and gym extension, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2015), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 watching brief* (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 major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The site is located within an extensive Roman cemetery area. Large parts of this area have been excavated since the mid 19th century. The grounds of the school were trenched in the 1930s-1950s by Mr A F Hall, an enthusiastic teacher at the school who discovered the course of the main Roman road to London, and other roads of lesser importance, and also confirmed that the area was an important focus of Roman funerary activity.

In the vicinity of the school, a number of Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered (Hull 1958). This includes the rectangular walled cemetery with its indications of high-status cremations and inhumations which lay immediately north of and adjacent to the Roman road (Hall 1946). A full discussion of all cemetery areas can be found in *CAR 9*. In 2005, CAT excavated the remains of a

Roman temple-tomb ahead of the building of an extension for a science laboratory (CAT Report 345). CAT also conducted evaluation work and recording in 2010/11 during the construction of an extension to the sixth form block and a new building on the site of the former 'boarders hut' (CAT Reports 538 & 590). In August 2012, prior to the construction of a new performing arts block two trenches were evaluated which revealed a north-west south-east orientated Roman road at a depth of between 1.3m and 1.6m below modern ground level (CAT Report 662).

4 Results (Figs 2-4)

Service Trenches

The service trenches measured 450mm wide and 450mm deep. They were excavated through modern tarmac and hogging (L1, 200mm thick) onto made ground (L2, modern, 250mm thick) which sealed modern topsoil (L3). Modern brick and concrete fragments were noted in L2 but not retained. There was a lot of modern disturbance across the site from existing service trenches and no significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photographs 1-2 Sections across the service trenches

Foundation Trenches - New Teaching Block

Foundation trenches and foundation pads were dug across the footprint of the new teaching block. Both the foundations and pads were dug to a depth of approximately 1m. Most of the trenches and pads were dug through modern topsoil (L3, 400-600mm thick) sealing an accumulation horizon of dark brown silty-clay (L4, 400-600 thick, post-Roman), which in turn sealed natural brown sand (L5).

The whole area had been largely disturbed by modern activity associated with the previous building and its infrastructure. Unless stated below, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.

Water tank and brick cisterns - A brick water tank and two brick cisterns were found during excavations of the foundation trenches. The water tank measured approximately 6.7m long, 3m wide and 3.7m deep to a solid base. It was made of frogged bricks so probably dated to the late 19th century or later.



Photograph 3 Water tank

Disturbed Roman cremation urn - The remains of a disturbed Roman cremation urn were recovered from modern backfill in the far eastern foundation trench. It is likely to have been disturbed during groundworks in the recent past. The greyware jar probably dated from the mid 1st-early 2nd century and analysis of the bone revealed a minimum of two adults, one positively identified as female.



Photograph 4 Roman cremation urn

Roman road surface (F1) - The remains of a Roman road were identified along the foundation trenches and pads in the northern-most quarter of the new building. It was sealed by 400-600mm of topsoil (L3) and was itself 450-650mm thick. The road surface was made of hard compacted gravel. The uppermost road was made up of 60-80% stone set into a pale brown silty-sand. It had a very hard, almost concrete, appearance. The lower road was made up of 30-40% stone set into a mid brown silty-sand. The lower road sealed natural brown sand (L5).



Photograph 5 Section through road surface F1



Photograph 6 Section through road surface F1

Pit (F2) and post-hole (F3) - A small Roman pit and post-hole were identified in a foundation pad to the south of the Roman road.



Photograph 7 Pit F2 and posthole F3

Foundation Trenches - Gym Extension

Foundation trenches and foundation pads were dug across the footprint for the new gym extension. Both the foundations and pads were dug to a depth of approximately 1m. The whole area had been largely disturbed by modern activity, mainly service trenches. Most of the trenches and pads were dug through modern tarmac and hogging (L1, 400mm thick) sealing modern made ground and topsoil (L2-L3, 600mm thick). Unless stated below, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 8 Foundation trenches for gym extension

Roman road surface (F5) - The remains of a Roman road were identified in small sections across the foundation trenches and pads on the eastern side of the extension. Where the road surface had survived it was sealed beneath 200mm of L2-L3. The road was a hard compacted gravel surface. The uppermost road was made up of 60-80% stone set into an orangey-brown silty-sand. The lower road was made up of 30-40% stone set into a mid brown silty-sand.



Photograph 9 Section through road surface F5

5 Finds

5.1 The finds

by Stephen Benfield

Finds, consisting primarily of Roman pottery, Roman ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone, were recovered. The finds come from the fill of one feature (F3), from

soil layers (L3 & L4) and as unstratified finds (US). Almost all of the finds were recovered from one soil layer (L4) or are unstratified. All of the find types are listed and quantified in Table 1 and are quantified by context in the finds appendix (Appendix 1).

Finds type	No.	Wt/g.
Pottery	47	2071
CBM	12	8878
Stone	2	387
Nails (iron)	1	18
Animal bone	31	934
Shell (oyster)	1	4

Table 1 Types of find

The pottery was recorded (quantified) by fabric and is listed in Table 2. The pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester Roman fabric series (*CAR 10*) and to the post-Roman fabric series (*CAR 7*). Pottery vessel forms refer to the Camulodunum Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947, Hull 1958). All of the pottery is listed by context in the finds appendix (Appendix 2).

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	Wt/g.
<i>LIA & Roman</i>			
AJ	Amphorae, Dressel 20	1	77
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian	2	90
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	1	3
BSW	Black surface wares	5	181
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated wares	2	125
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	7	313
GA	BB1: Black-burnished ware, category 1	3	110
GB	BB2: Black-burnished ware, category 2	5	35
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	15	267
HZ	Large storage jars in heavily-tempered fabrics	1	19
TE	Nene Valley white ware mortaria	1	119
TK	Oxford white ware mortaria	1	172
TZ	Mortaria, buff fabric mortaria primarily from Colchester	3	560
<i>LIA & Roman Total</i>		47	2071
<i>Post Roman</i>			
51B	Modern flower pot	1	12
<i>Pottery total</i>			

Table 2 Pottery fabrics

Pottery

The more closely datable finds recovered from L4 (pottery & CBM) are almost entirely of Roman date, although one sherd is probably from the body of a modern flowerpot. The pottery includes a sherd of South Gaulish samian (BASG) that has been burnt, but most of the pottery is datable to the 2nd-3rd century or could be accommodated within that period. The assemblage includes a small quantity of finewares (BACG & CZ) and regionally important coarsewares (GA & GB), while the majority is made up of coarsewares that are predominantly local products (BSW, DJ & GX). There are also sherds from mortaria of both local (Colchester) production (TZ) dating to the 2nd-3rd century and from the Nene Valley (TE) and the Oxford region (TK) dating to the 3rd-4th century. Vessel forms recognised are Dr 36 bowl (BACG) dated 2nd century/late 2nd century, Cam 279C jar (GA) dated mid 3rd-4th century, Cam 155 flagon (DJ) dated mid/late 1st-early 2nd century and Cam 156 flagon (DJ) dated 2nd century. Other vessels include a late 2nd or 3rd century beaker (CZ) and an open bowl in Dorset Black-burnished wares (GA). A small quantity of unstratified pottery from the site includes a rim from a local mortarium with a herringbone potters stamp (dating to the Antonine period) and a large sherd from a samian dish of form Dr 18 (BASG) of mid-late 1st century date. There is a very low proportion of sherds from heavily tempered

storage jars (HZ), which are usually common among local assemblages, however, the overall assemblage from the site is relatively small.

Disturbed urned cremation

U/S (9) Cremation urn. Base and lower-mid wall only of greyware jar (4 joining sherds, wt 534 g), lower wall burnished, black/grey surface and sandy, red-brown fabric core (Fabric GX) (Roman - probably mid 1st-early 2nd century)

Other finds

The Roman ceramic building material (CBM) includes pieces of Roman brick and roofing tiles. The lower cut-away forms Warry C5 (tile base 20-25 mm thick) and C5/C56 (tile base 16 mm thick) (Warry 2006) were recorded on two pieces of *tegula* tiles - both from L4. All of the CBM is in orange/red coloured fabrics.

Only one feature produced finds (F2). These consisted of a corroded iron nail and animal bone. The nail had a flat head and the point is broken away, the surviving overall length being 65 mm. The single piece of animal bone was from a medium-large mammal. The nail is most probably Roman, but the finds are of little use in dating the feature.

Jacobean worked stone (by Laura Pooley)

A fragment of carved limestone was found within modern disturbance and identified by Martin Henig of Oxford University. He stated that

“...it looks like strapwork on either side of a cherub(?) head, I would have thought Jacobean (early 17th century) and presumably part of a frieze from quite a swish house.” (pers com)

Anthony Beeson, an expert in art and architecture, agreed that the strapwork and bosses meant that it was probably Jacobean in date, and reminded him of ‘the great fireplace surrounds that were fashionable in the 16th and 17th century’ (pers com).



Photograph 10 Fragment of Jacobean worked stone

The Colchester Royal Grammar School was built on the development site in 1853 in ‘a field situated betwixt the hospital and Beverley Lodge’ (estimated to have been built in 1813) and was built in a ‘late Tudor style of architecture’ (Martin 1947; Hearn 2014). So

where did this Jacobean stone come from? It may have come from a Jacobean house somewhere near to the development site. However, CRGS had been in existence since 1539 and before its move to Lexden Road had been located in premises in Culver Street, Colchester since 1585. It is possible that this decorative piece was taken from the old premises (known as Westons) to the new school when it moved.

5.2 Cremated human bone from the disturbed cremation urn

by Julie Curl

Methodology

Two bags of burnt bone were submitted for recording and analysis. The contents were dry-sieved through a stack of 10, 5, 2 and 1mm sized mesh to ensure maximum recovery and assess the degree of fragmentation. Fragments measuring over 5mm were manually separated for analysis, those below 5mm were scanned, but not fully sorted and examined in greater depth for this report. Greatest lengths were measured for the larger pieces in each bag.

Quantification, provenance and preservation

The cremated material from this assemblage totals 574g and consists of a minimum of 479 pieces of bone. Some of the material was found inside the base of the pot, while other disturbed material was lying around the pot. The material from inside the pot weighs 335g, higher than the 239g found around the pot.

Preservation is good, with many large fragments of bone surviving. Many small fragments and bone dust are present, at least some of these may have been from previous cremations and collected with the bone to be placed in the pot.

Analysis results and discussion

Size of Cremation

The size of a cremation depends on the individual (age, sex, body mass, bone density), maintenance of the pyre, the extent of bone recovery from the pyre site and during excavation, as well as on the rate of bone preservation (McKinley, 1993).

The weight for the cremation in this assemblage is on the low end of the weight range in comparison to average archaeological cremations (range: 57 – 3000 g) (McKinley, 2000) and substantially incomplete in comparison to a modern cremation (1000 – 3600 g) (McKinley, 2000).

Cremations in containers are normally larger than cremations in pits and finely crushed cremations tend to be smaller due to poor preservation. The smaller size of this cremations may be due to a range of factors including loss of some of the bone of bone before burial as well as post-depositional bone decay. There was also clearly some damage to the pot and disturbance of the bone, and some bone may have been lost when the remains were disturbed.

Fragmentation

The fragmentation of bone resulting from the cremation process may be increased by funerary practices such as raking and tending of the pyre, collection of bone at the pyre site, deliberate crushing prior to burial, as well as a result of post-depositional processes, excavation and processing (McKinley, 1989).

There is quite a lot of variation in fragment size with the largest fragment in the assemblage coming from within the urn, measuring 95mm and numerous fragments around 80-90mm. The material around the pot produced a fragment of 92mm, with several other smaller fragments measuring 70-80mm.

The overall degree of bone fragmentation is less than that generally seen in archaeological cremations where an average of 50% of bone fragments are over 10 mm in size (McKinley, 1994).

The fragmentation is likely to have been affected by the protection of the urn and the degree of burning seen, leaving several parts reasonably unaffected.

Colour

The colour of cremated bone depends on a range of factors including the maximum temperature reached, the length of the cremation process, the type and amount of fuel, the quantity of oxygen, the amount of body fat as well as on the degree of uniformity of exposure to the heat across the body. A correlation has been found between the temperature attained and colour changes. Cremated bone can exhibit a large range of heat-induced colour variation from normal coloured (unburnt), to black (charred: c.300°C), through hues of blue and grey (incompletely incinerated: up to c.600°) to fully oxidised white (> c.600°C) (McKinley, 2004).

While a small percentage of the bone, 10% from inside the pot and 20% from the bone around the pot, was fully oxidised, much of the bone was not fully cremated. A few fragments of blue-grey bone were recorded and many that were relatively unburnt.

Surface Changes

Surface changes such as warping, cracking and fissuring were seen on the few fragments that were burnt at higher temperature and fully oxidised. These are characteristics of cremated bone and are produced during the process of dehydration undergone by bone exposed to heat. The pattern of heat-induced bone changes in colour and texture can be exploited to infer the technological aspects of the ritual, the condition of the body at the time when the cremation process took place and the nature of post-depositional disturbance (Shipman et al.1984).

Elements and species identified

The material inside the pot produced a femur head, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic fragments, tibia, and other limb fragments along with numerous unidentifiable pieces. All of the bone identified is human.

The bone around the pot produced two femur heads, other femur fragments, pelvis, skull and limb fragments and smaller, unidentifiable fragments.

No positive identifications of animal bone were made.

Age, sex and pathologies

The bones seen are all fully fused, indicating adult.

Measurements from a complete femur head in (9), from around the pot, show a diameter of 41.4, this would normally suggest a female, but given the shrinkage of bone in cremated material, the original diameter would normally be greater. However, the femur fragments in this assemblage is not completely incinerated and has not undergone the shrinkage of fully oxidised bone, which would indicate the bones are from a female.

The complete femur head from inside the pot measures 41.8mm, again, suggesting a female.

No pathologies were observed on any of the bone, which might suggest the adult was young and had not developed any pathologies.

Additional finds

A piece of charcoal was found from the material inside the pot, which could be part of the pyre fuel.

Conclusion

The presence of the three femur heads clearly indicates two individuals. However, the femur head from inside the pot and one from outside the pot have almost identical measurements, suggesting the same individual and disturbance of the material. The third femur head may have been residual, but could be from a relative or partner.

The incomplete cremation and higher number of larger fragments may be due to any or a combination of several factors, such as adverse weather conditions or lack of tending the remains.

6 Discussion (Fig 5)

Despite being located in an area of known archaeological importance, the development site has been largely disturbed by excavations carried out in the 1930s-1970s, and by modern buildings and their associated infrastructures. This means that little of archaeological significance has survived.

The main point of interest is the survival of two areas of Roman road surface. The small patches of Roman road identified in the foundations of the gym extension correspond with the line of the SSW to NNE Roman Gosbecks Road (Fig 5). Excavations across the Roman Gosbecks Road in 1997 (CAT Report 127) revealed that the main carriageway was 7m wide, flanked by a 2m-wide footway on each side. Sections of this road were also identified in CAT excavations in 2005 where a roadside ditch was also identified along the western edge (CAT Report 345).

The Roman road identified in the foundations for the new teaching block corresponds with the line of the NW to SE Roman London Road (Fig 5). Excavations in 2005 also revealed a roadside ditch to the south of the road (CAT Report 345) but this was not apparent during the present groundworks. Dating evidence from 2005 revealed that the road must have been functional within a few years of the Claudian conquest.

Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered across the CRGS site, including a rectangular walled, and possibly high-status, cemetery immediately north of and adjacent to the London road (Hall 1946, Hull 1958). Excavations at CRGS in 2005 revealed six Roman cremations buried within a 3rd-4th century temple-tomb (CAR Report 345). The disturbed urned cremation from these groundworks probably belongs to this burial group.

The fragment of Jacobean worked stone may have been brought to the current site from CRGS's old premises at Westons, Culver Street (occupied since 1585) when the school moved to Lexden Road in 1853.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks David MacDougall (Inkpen Downey) for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by CL, H Brooks, B Holloway and E Sanford. Figures were prepared by MB and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

CAT would also like to thank Anthony Beeson, Martin Henig and Ralph Jackson for their help in identifying the Jacobean stone.

8 References

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

- | | | |
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| CAR 10 | 1999 | Colchester Archaeological Report 10: <i>Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds and S Wade |
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9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Jacobean	period from AD 1567-1625
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: one box and one large piece of worked stone

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 909)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2015.21

Distribution list

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Appendix 1

General finds catalogue

RBT=Roman brick and tile (general), RB=Roman brick, RT=Roman tegula, RI=Roman imbrex, PT=peg-tile, BR=brick, LSJ=large storage jar

ctxt no.	Find no	Type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Ab	Spot date
F002	2	animal bone		animal bone, surface piece from one side of bone, medium-large mammal			1	9		
F002	2	nail	Rom?	corroded iron nail, point broken away rounded flat head, surviving length 65 mm	fe		1	18		
F003	3	pot	Rom	small sherds of greyware	GX		4	7		Rom (poss residual?)
L003	8	pot	Rom		DJ	Cam 156	1	119		E/M2-L2/E3C
L004	10	CBM	Rom	thin tile prob RT (1) with finger wipe signature; RBT (1); RB? (2) 30 & 38 mm thick; RB end of a brick 220 mm wide, 50 mm thick	RS		5	6000		Rom
L004	7	stone	Rom	small piece of purbeck marble veneer (70x50x18 mm)			1	122		Rom
L004	6	pot	Rom	RT two with lower cut-aways Warry C5 (base 20-25 mm) & Warry C5/C56 - shape cut with no indication of corner block (base 16 mm) - (the Warry dated types here are M2-M3C)	RS		3	1223		Rom
L004	6	pot	Rom		BSW		1	37		Rom
L004	6	pot	Rom	inc complete base, wall removed all round but not further modified/ smoothed	GX		3	86		Rom
L004	6	pot	Rom	broad flange with turned-under edge and slightly raised rounded bead rim, flint gritting	TZ		1	314		2-3C
L004	6	pot	Rom	handled sherd from a large flagon	DJ	(flagon)	1	51	(*)	M1-2C
L004	6	pot	Rom	burnished surfaces (part oxidised fabric) prob GB	GB		3	10		
L004	6	pot	Rom	lattice decorated beaker GB/GX	GB		1	19		E2-L2/E3C
L004	6	pot	Rom	thick base, burnt back with grey fabric	BASG		1	48		
L004	6	pot	Rom	tall beaker with firing line around base wall (prob Colchester rather than Nene Valley)	CZ	(beaker)	1	83		L2-3C
L004	6	pot	Rom	base sherd, ironstone gritting	TE		1	119		E/M3-4C
L004	5	animal bone	Rom?	antler, tine tip broken (joining pieces) , antler stem is sawn through above and below tine			1	126		
L004	5	pot	Rom	Oxford mortarium rim inc part of spout	TK		1	172		M/L3-4C
L004	5	pot	Rom	base from beaker	CZ		1	42		E2-3C

ctxt no.	Find no	Type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Ab	Spot date
L004	5	pot	Rom		GA	Cam 279C	1	50		M/L3-4C
L004	4	stone	Rom?	piece of septaria			1	265		
L004	4	animal bone	Rom?	Quantity, almost all piece of cow bone, one or two pieces medium-large size mammal bone, a few pieces split when fresh prob for marrow extraction			24	696		
L004	4	CBM	Rom	RT back corner with upper cut away, white mortar on surface, base thickness 22 mm	RS		1	400		Rom
L004	4	shell		piece from an oyster shell			1	4		
L004	4	pot	mod	sherd probably from a flower pot	51B		1	12		19-20C
L004	4	pot	Rom		HZ		1	19		M1-2C
L004	4	pot	Rom		TZ		1	48		M/L1-2/E3C
L004	4	pot	Rom	misc sherds	BSW		3	29		Rom
L004	4	pot	Rom	misc body sherds	GX		6	66		Rom
L004	4	pot	Rom	sherd from a bowl	GB		1	6		2-3C
L004	4	pot	Rom	sherds from a bowl dec with lattice pattern	GA		2	60		2-3C
L004	4	pot	Rom	inc sherd with part of flagon handle	DJ	(flagon)	3	43		M/L1-2C
L004	4	pot	Rom		AJ		1	77		M1-E3C
L004	4	pot	Rom	large sherd flake from rim	BACG	Dr 36	1	3		2C/L2C
L004	10	CBM	Rom	face of flue tile, combed, edge stripe with union jack-type central pattern, some mortar in comb lines (used) (17 mm thick)	R FS	RFT	2	1043		Rom (L1/E2C+)
L004	10	CBM	Rom	tile with signature wipe and part hobnail boot/shoe print, prob. tegula (15 mm thick)	R FS	RT	1	212		Rom
L004	10	Pot	Rom	sherd (flagon?) (M1-2C)	DJ		1	20		M1-2C
L004	10	Pot	Rom	Cam 155 (expanded top ring) (L1/E-M2C)	DJ	Cam 155	1	80	*	L1/E-M2C
US	9	animal bone	Rom?	small quantity of teeth and bones from large mammal, cow			5	103		
US	9	pot	Rom		GX		2	108		Rom
US	9	pot	Rom		BSW		1	115		Rom
US	9	pot	Rom		BASG	Dr 18	1	42		M-L1C
US	9	pot	Rom	herringbone stamp	TZ		1	198		E/M2-L2/E3C
US (Crem)	9	pot	Rom	cremation urn - broken (4 sherds) - base and lower-mid wall only of greyware jar, lower wall burnished, sandy fabric- black/grey surface, brown fabric core GX/BSW (possibly M1-E2C)	GX	jar	1	534		Rom (M1-E2C?)

Human bone catalogue

Summary catalogue of the cremated/burnt bone from Colchester Royal Grammar School, 2015.21.

Context	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Elements Present	Comments
9	Bone around pot	Min 219	239	Femur – two heads and fragments, pelvic fragments, skull, limb fragments	<p>Femur head diameter = 41.4. Fragment greater lengths: 92mm, 78mm,</p> <p>Fragments sizes: >10mm = 112 5-9mm = 107 <5mm = present</p> <p>Low burning, few fragments blue-grey, 20% white</p> <p>Plate 1</p>
9	Bone inside pot	Min 260	335	Femur head, shaft fragments, pelvis, tibia, lumbar vertebrae	<p>Femur head diameter = 41.8 Fragment greater lengths: 95mm, 89mm, 80mm,</p> <p>Fragments sizes: >10mm = 123 5-9mm = 137 <5mm = present</p> <p>Low burning, 2 black, few fragments blue-grey, 10% white</p> <p>Plate 2</p> <p>1 fragment of charcoal</p>

Photographs



Photograph 11 Some of the human bone from around the pot, including two femur heads at top. Finds no 9.



Photograph 12 Some of the human bone from inside the pot, including another femur head in the centre of the picture. Finds no 9.

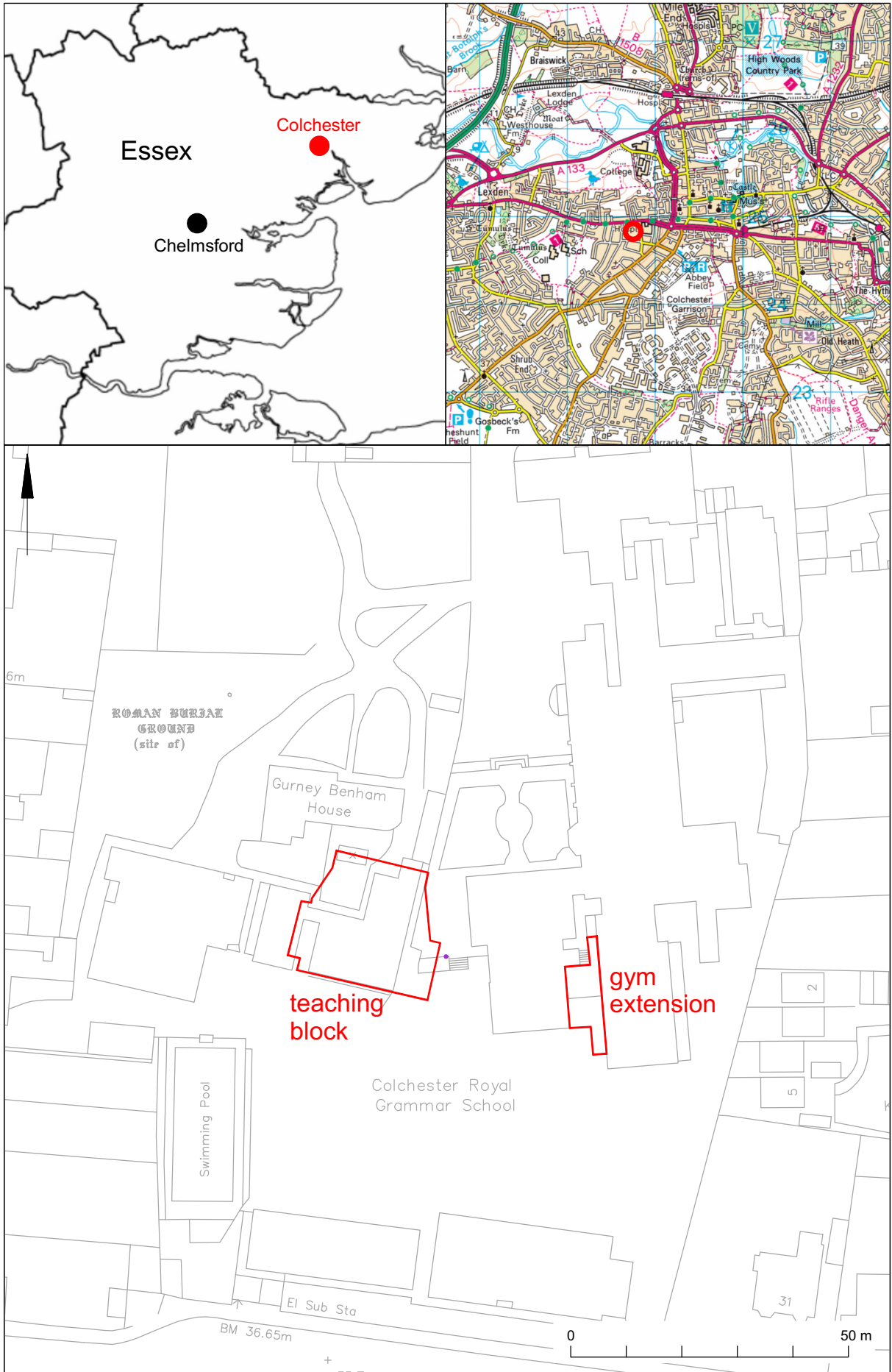


Fig 1 Site location.

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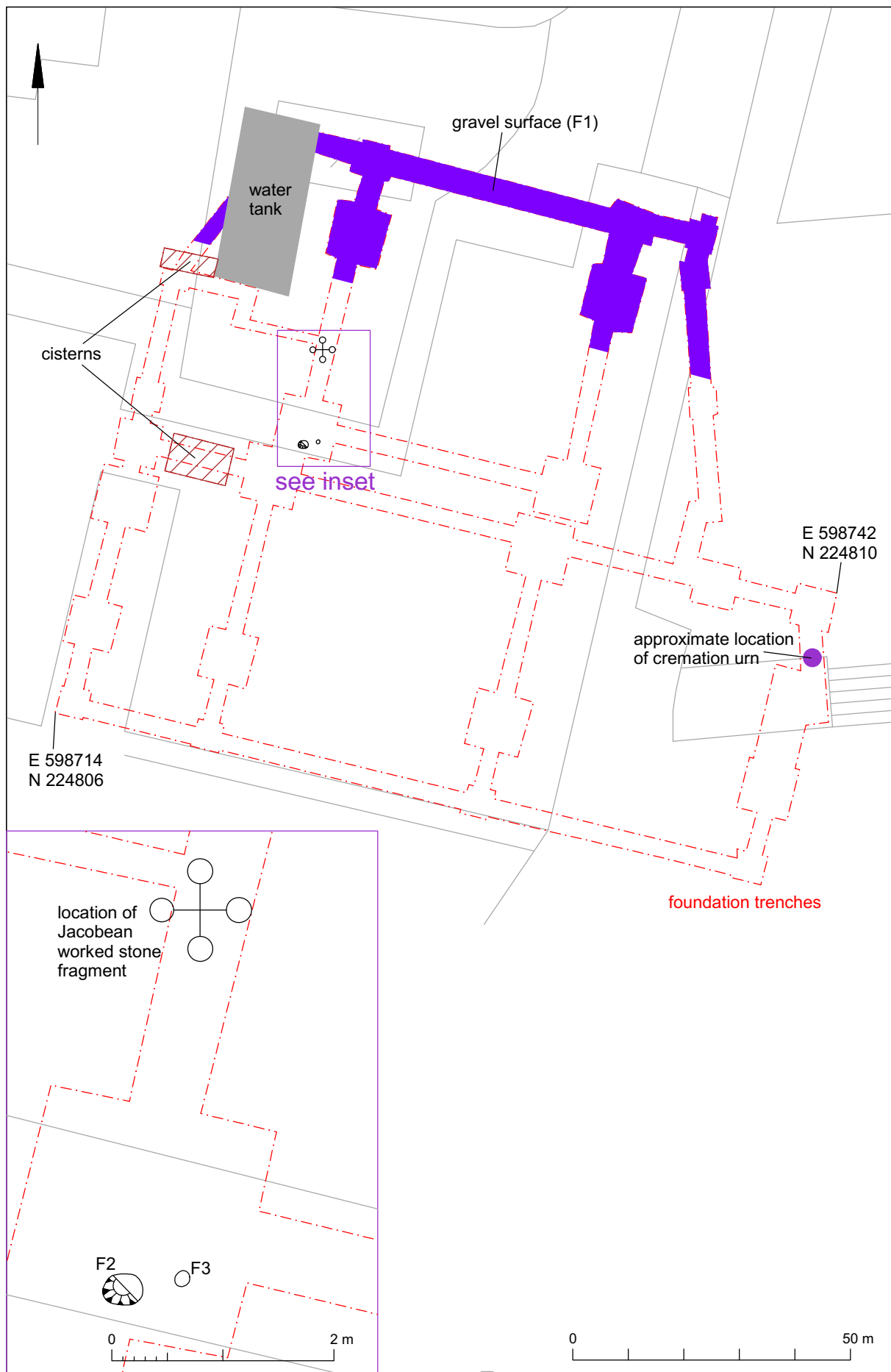
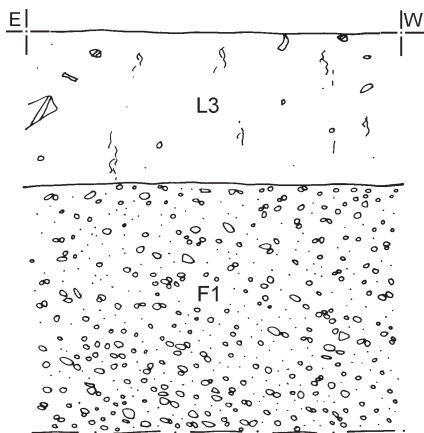
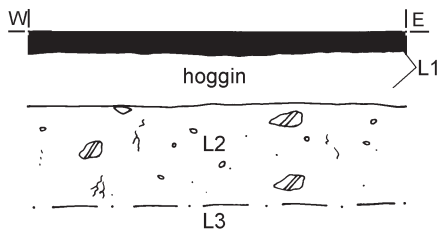


Fig 2 Teaching block monitoring results.

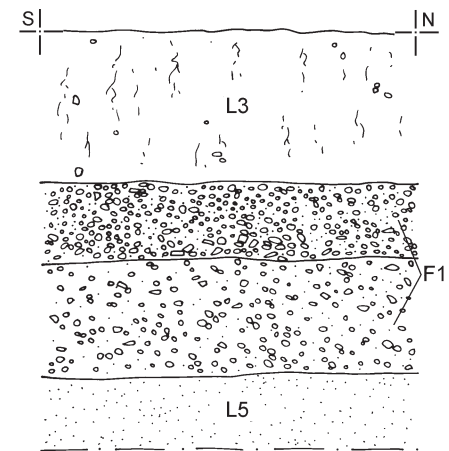
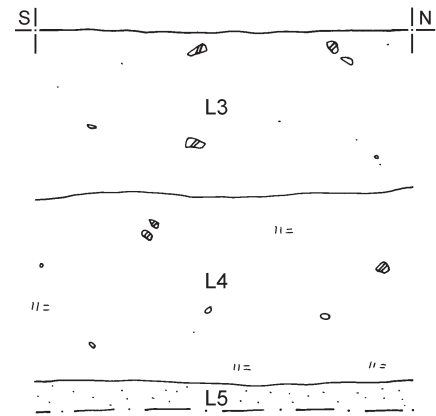


Fig 3 Gym extension monitoring results.

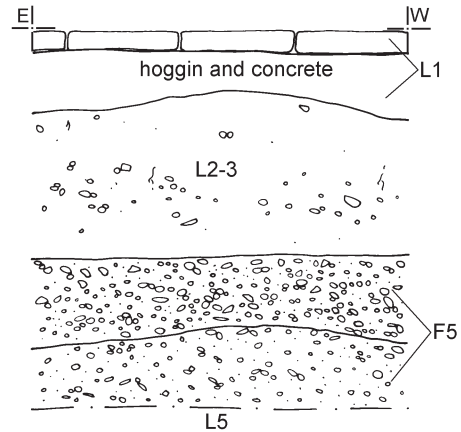
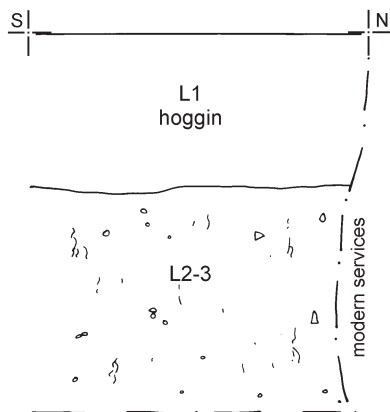
service trench



foundation trenches - teaching block



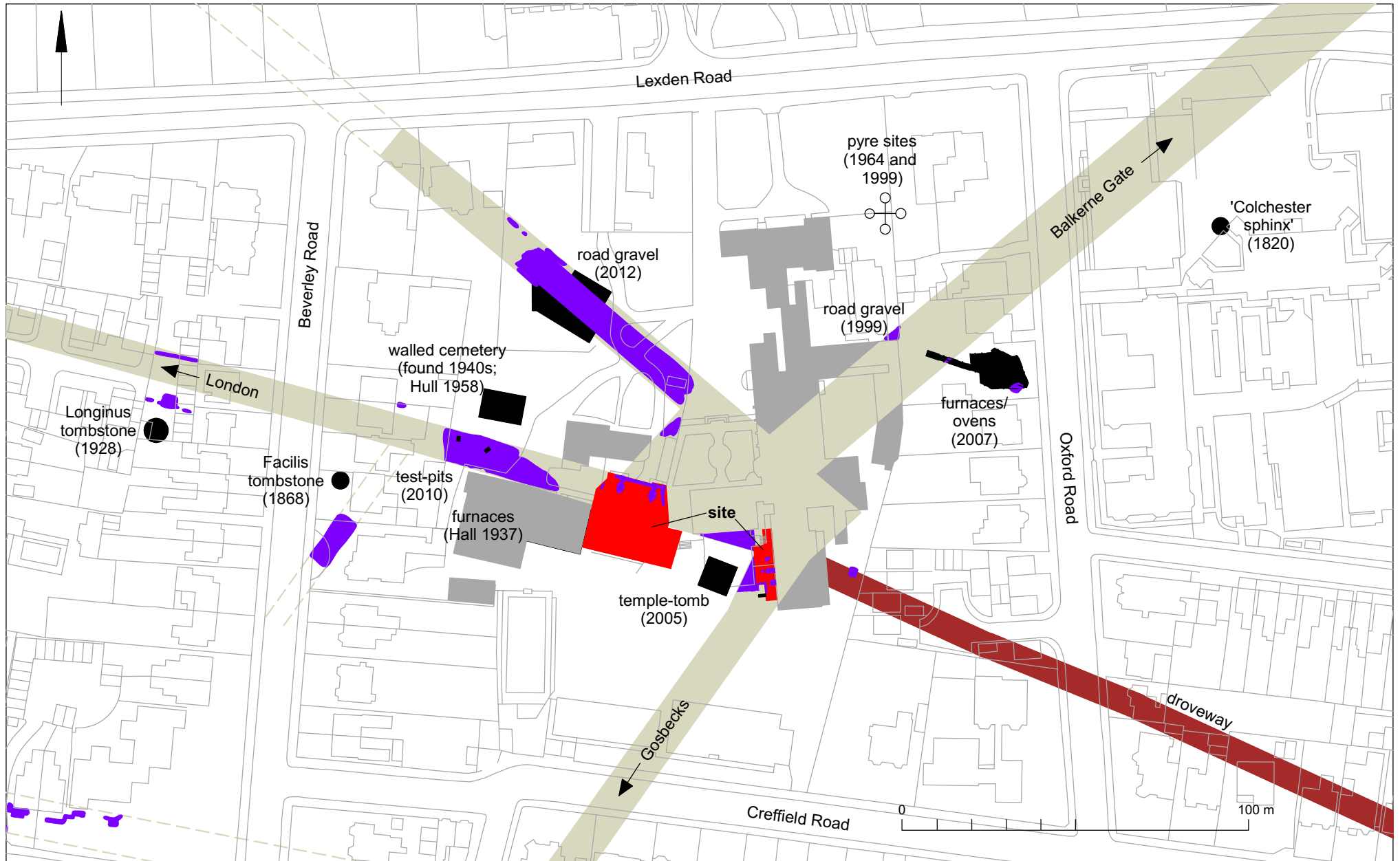
foundation trenches



- sand
- small stones
- clay
- charcoal
- post-Roman brick and tile
- roots
- tarmac



Fig 4 Sections.



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Fig 5 Site location in relation to previous discoveries of Roman roads and funerary monuments.

Key: ■ projected droveway ■ school buildings ■ observed gravel ■ key sites ■ projected roads

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ND	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9873 2480	Site code: CAT project ref.: 15/03g UAD ref: ECC2929 OASIS ref: colchest3-208508
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: August-November 2015	Size of area investigated:
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2015.21	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER
Final report: CAT Report 909	
Periods represented: Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a new teaching block and gym extension at Colchester Royal Grammar School. The school is located within an extensive Roman cemetery area and is at the junction of several Roman roads. Much of the site had suffered from modern disturbance, but four archaeological features were identified. Two areas of gravel surface can be identified as the Roman Gosbecks Road (F5) and the Roman London Road (F1). A pit and posthole were possibly also Roman. Residual finds within areas of modern disturbance included a Roman cremation urn and piece of Jacobean worked stone.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports:	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: Gosbecks Road, London Road, cemetery	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: March 2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for continuous archaeological recording
at Colchester Royal Grammar School,
Colchester, Essex

NGR: TL 9873 2480 (centre)

Planning reference: 144569

Client: Colchester Borough Council

Agent: David MacDougall, Inkpen Downie

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2015.21

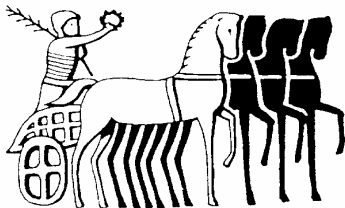
ECC Project code: n/a

CAT Project code: 15/03g

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 17-03-2015



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester,
Essex, C02 7GZ
tel: 07436 273 304
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Site Location and Description

The site is located to the west of Colchester town centre, immediately adjacent to and south of Lexden Road and within the grounds of the Colchester Royal Grammar School. The site is centred at TL 9873 2480 (Fig 1).

Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of an existing building followed by the construction of a new teaching block (734 sq. m) and an extension to the gymnasium (134 sq. m).

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, *Roman Colchester* by M R Hull and Colchester Archaeological Reports **345** and **662**.

The site is located within an extensive Roman cemetery area. Large parts of this area have been excavated since the mid 19th century. The grounds of the school were trenched in the 1930s-1950s by Mr A F Hall, an enthusiastic teacher at the school who discovered the course of the main Roman road to London and other roads of lesser importance and also confirmed that the area was an important focus of Roman funerary activity.

In the vicinity of the school, a number of Roman cremations, inhumations and tombstones have been discovered (Hull 1958). This includes the rectangular walled cemetery with its indications of high-status cremations and inhumations which lay immediately north of and adjacent to the Roman road (Hall 1946). A full discussion of all cemetery areas can be found in *CAR 9*. In 2005, CAT excavated the remains of a Roman temple-tomb 85m south-east of the proposed development site, ahead of the building of an extension for a science laboratory (CAT Report 345). CAT also conducted evaluation work and recording in 2010/11 during the construction of an extension to the sixth form block and a new building on the site of the former 'boarders hut' (CAT Reports 538 & 590). In August 2012, prior to the construction of a new performing arts block two trenches were evaluated which uncovered a north-west south-east orientated Roman road was uncovered at a depth of between 1.3m and 1.6m below modern ground level (CAT Report 662).

Planning Background

A planning application is in the process of being submitted to Colchester Borough Council for the proposed work (above: Planning reference 144569). As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and states:

"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work is for the monitoring of the groundworks undertaken by the building contractor. All groundworks will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at Royal Grammar School, Lexden Road, Colchester, - CBC 2015).

It is anticipated that this work will comprise the observation the removal of the foundations of the existing building and monitoring of any groundworks (including landscaping and work on services) ensued as part of the new build.

Specific research aims are:

- To identify the nature of Roman activity on the site
- To preserve by record any archaeological remains that may be destroyed by the development.

General Methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

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.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Written Scheme of Investigation

Prior to start of work, a Written Scheme of Investigation will be submitted to CBCAA. The WSI will describe in appropriate detail how the *Brief* from CBCAA will be implemented in fieldwork, post-excitation, reporting and publication stages.

The WSI shall be submitted to CBCAA, and fieldwork will not commence prior to approval of WSI from CBCAA.

The WSI will include a location plan of the development site showing area of proposed excavation or trench layout.

OASIS Record

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to CBCAA and EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows – one archaeologist to continually monitor the groundworks.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

Continuous archaeological recording (watching brief) methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground reduction, footings work, service trench digging, and all related works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction, which will be done with a toothless bucket should a mechanical excavator be employed.

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) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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 the site, 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Site surveying

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

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

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming 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 (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

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

Human remains

Policy depends on the age of the burial. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed.

If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Allowance will be made in the budget and timetable to allow a human bone specialist to visit site to advise on recording and lifting human remains (inhumations), and for an experienced conservator to visit site and advise on recording and lifting of fragile grave goods.

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.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASiS website.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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.

End of Fieldwork, and Report

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate report will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by CBCAA.

Final report will normally be submitted to CBCAA as PDF, but printed copy can be provided on request.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methodology adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of site and excavated area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench / excavated area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Detailed archaeologists results including list of sites resulting from an EHER/UAD search, and historic maps to show changes and development of site, with 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.
- As Appendices, the OASIS entry and the WSI.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and attached as Appendix to the site report, which will be emailed as PDF 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

Archive Deposition

A site archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards given in CM 2008, ClfA 2014b, and MoRPHE (EH 2006).

The requirements for archive storage shall 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 the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

A Drawing Interchange File (.dxf) will be supplied to for integration in the UAD/HER. AutoCAD files will also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo.

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

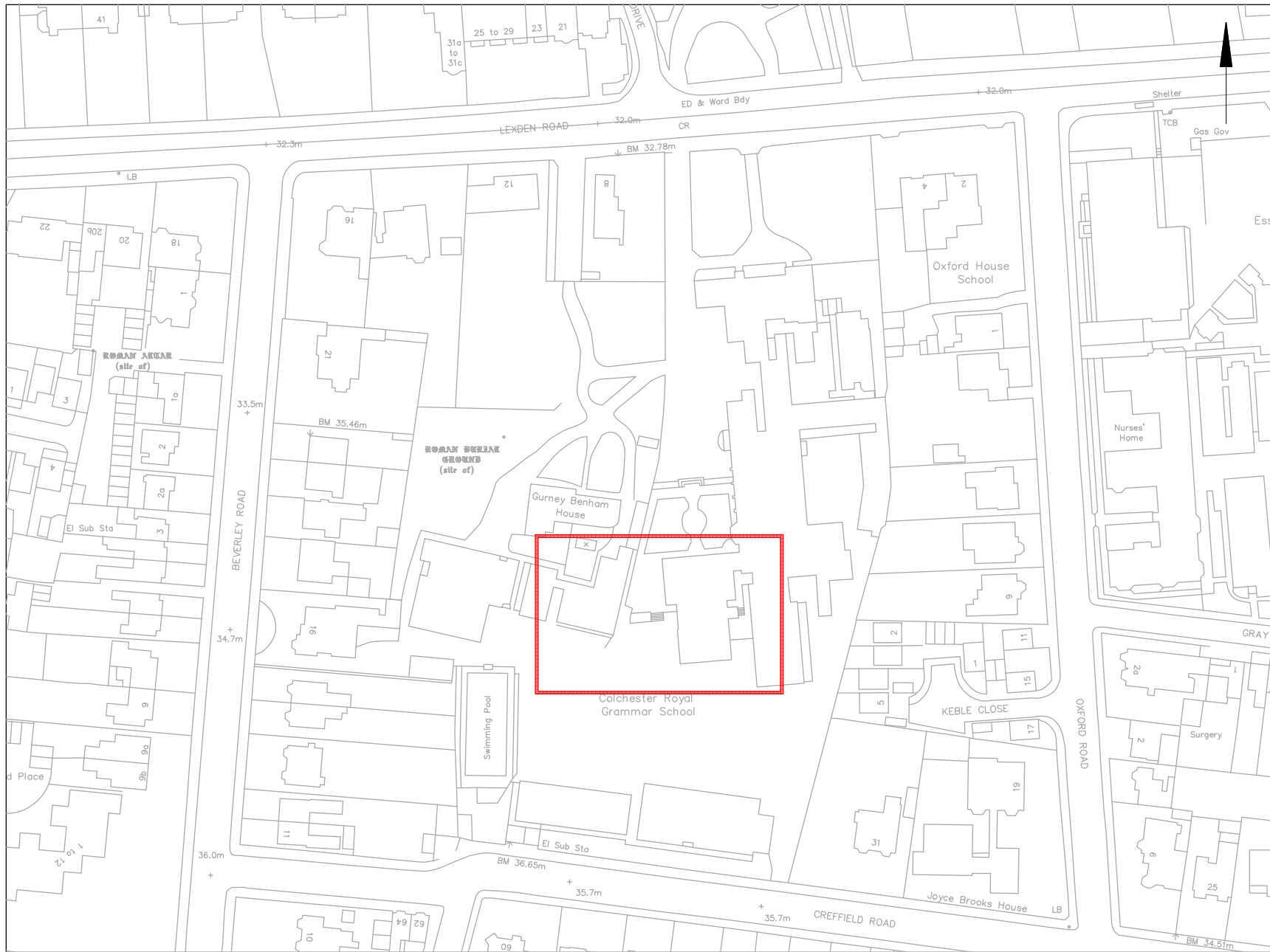
CAR 9	1993	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88</i> , by N Crummy, P Crummy and C Crossan
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 345	2005	<i>A Roman temple-tomb at Colchester Royal Grammar School, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: August-September 2005</i> , unpublished CAT archive report, by H Brooks
CAT report 538	2010	<i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2010</i> , unpublished CAT archive by B Holloway & H Brooks
CAT Report 590	2011	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: January-March and July 2011</i> , unpublished CAT archive report, by A Wightman
CAT Report 662	2012	<i>CAT Report 662: An archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed performing arts block, Colchester Royal Grammar School, 6 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex: August 2012</i> , unpublished CAT archive report, by A Wightman
CBCAA	2015	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at Royal Grammar School, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</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>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hall, A F	1946	'A Roman walled cemetery at Colchester', <i>Archaeological Journal</i> , CI
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, 20
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)

Emma Holloway



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Fig 1 Site location.



OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-208508

Project details

Project name	Archaeological watching brief at Colchester Royal Grammar School, Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3ND
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a new teaching block and gym extension at Colchester Royal Grammar School. The school is located within an extensive Roman cemetery area and is at the junction of several Roman roads. Much of the site had suffered from modern disturbance, but four archaeological features were identified. Two areas of gravel surface can be identified as the Roman Gosbecks Road (F5) and the Roman London Road (F1). A pit and posthole were possibly also Roman. Residual finds within areas of modern disturbance included a Roman cremation urn and piece of Jacobean worked stone.
Project dates	Start: 04-07-2015 End: 13-11-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	144569 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2015.21 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	15/03g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC2929 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	ROAD Roman
Monument type	CREMATION Roman

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman
 Significant Finds CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
 Significant Finds WORKED STONE Post Medieval
 Investigation type ""Watching Brief""
 Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England
 Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Colchester Royal Grammar School
 Postcode CO3 3ND
 Site coordinates TL 9873 2480 51.885757304208 0.888036531117 51 53 08 N 000 53 16 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer
 Project design originator Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project director/manager Chris Lister
 Project supervisor Ben Holloway
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Inkpen Downey

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2015.21
 Physical Contents "Human Bones","Worked stone/lithics","Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2015.21
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2015.21
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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