

Archaeological evaluation at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9JT

February 2016



by **Ben Holloway and Laura Pooley**
illustrations by **Chris Lister and Emma Holloway**

fieldwork by **Ben Holloway and Robin Mathieson**

on behalf of **Lidl UK**
commissioned by **Mike Kalam of Lapworth Architects**

Planning reference: 151781

CAT project ref.: 16/011

NGR: TL 9752 2284

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.13

UAD ref: ECC3674

OASIS reference: colchest3-240767



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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CAT Report 914
February 2016

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of a new Lidl store and associated infrastructure. Despite being located close to the important Late Iron Age and Romano-British site at Gosbecks, no archaeological features or finds were identified. Modern disturbance was recorded across the entire site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 4th February 2016. The work was commissioned by Mike Kalam of Lapworth Architects, on behalf of Lidl UK, in advance of the construction of a new Lidl store, access road and car parking, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), 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 Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016)

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 adjacent to, but outside of, the scheduled ancient monument area of Gosbecks Iron Age & Romano-British site (NHLE no.1002180). During the Late Iron Age Gosbecks was the focus of a native tribal centre, with an enclosed farmstead connected to the corresponding field systems by a network of droveways. It was also protected by a series of earthwork fortifications or dykes. The site is thought to contain a funerary enclosure which after the Roman invasion saw the construction of a Romano-Celtic temple complex (EHER 11649), along with other large public buildings including a theatre (EHER 11646, 11647).

Further to the west of the proposed site was the Stanway burial complex (EHER 12552). Located here was a series of five enclosures consisting of an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high status individuals (Crummy et al, 2007).

Excavations following evaluation in 1994 south of Gosbecks Road and north of Cunobelin Way (on the housing estate opposite the redevelopment site) revealed

various features of the prehistoric and Roman landscape (CAT Report 127). A full discussion of Gosbecks can be found in Hawkes & Crummy, (1995). A Roman road running north-south from Colchester to Gosbecks is recorded some 85m west of the site.

No archaeological features or finds were identified in trial-trenches T1-T2 on the redevelopment site in 2013 (CAT Report 682).

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Prior to evaluation the buildings and associated hard standing on the site had been demolished and removed. During this work ground level had been reduced by approximately 500mm (Photograph 1).

Five trial-trenches (T3-T7) were excavated across the development site (trenches T1-T2 were opened during the 2013 evaluation). Two layers were identified. A horizon of modern demolition debris (L1, 220-500mm thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L2). Crushed concrete and brick, and pieces of steel re-bar timber and plastic, were identified within L1 but not retained.



Photograph 1 Ground reduction prior to evaluation



Photograph 2 Trench 3

Trench 3 (T3), 25m long by 1.8m wide

Substantial areas of modern disturbance were observed across T3. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

Trench 4 (T4), 20m long by 1.8m wide

Substantial areas of modern disturbance were observed across T4 and a single natural feature (F1) was recorded. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

Trench 5 (T5), 20m long by 1.8m wide

Substantial areas of modern disturbance were observed in the north end of T5. No archaeological features or finds were identified.



Photograph 3 Trench 4



Photograph 4 Trench 5

Trench 6 (T6), 15m long by 1.8m wide

Substantial areas of modern disturbance were observed across T6. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

Trench 7 (T7), 20m long by 1.8m wide

Substantial areas of modern disturbance were observed across T7. No archaeological features or finds were identified.



Photograph 5 Trench 6



Photograph 6 Trench 7

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were identified.

6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological importance, no archaeological features or finds were identified during the evaluation. Instead modern disturbance was identified across all the evaluation trenches with a modern demolition layer sealing natural. This would suggest that in the recent past the whole site had been cleared and levelled, potentially removing any archaeological deposits that had existed on this site.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mike Kalam of Lapworth Architects for commissioning the project and Lidl UK for funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway and R Mathieson. Site plans were prepared by C Lister. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

8 References

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

CAR 11	1995	<i>Camulodunum 2</i> , by Hawke, CFC and Crummy, P
CBC	2016	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester, CO2 9JT</i> , by J Tipper
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 127	2008	<i>Excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex: 1995-1996</i>
CAT Report 682	2013	<i>Archaeological evaluation at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester, Essex: January 2013</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
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>
Crummy, et al	2007	<i>Stanway: An Elite Burial Site at Camulodunum</i> . Britannia Monograph Series 24 .
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
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)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CM	Colchester Museum
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 914)

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 2016.13.

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Distribution list

Mike Kalam
Lidl UK
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

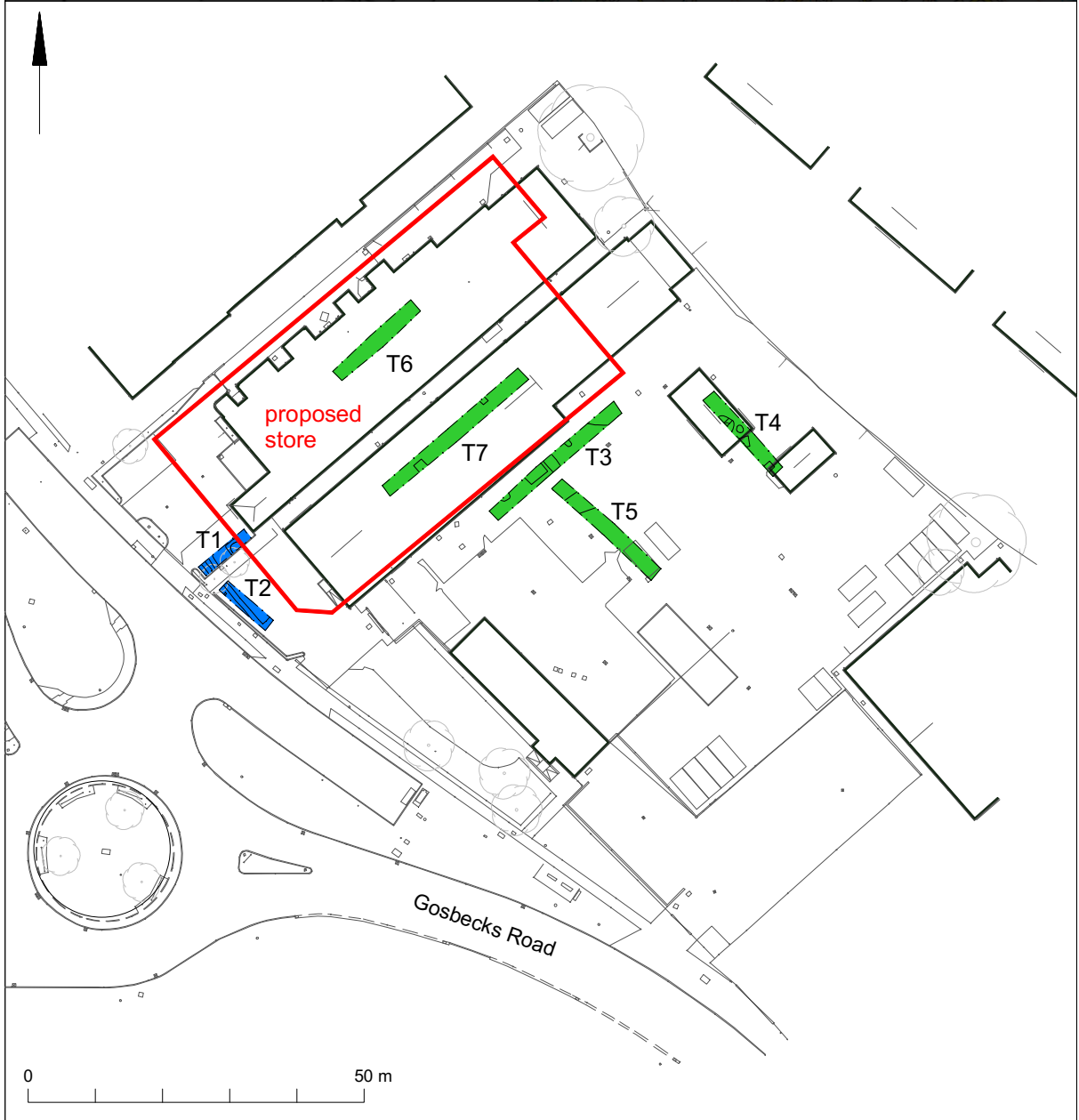
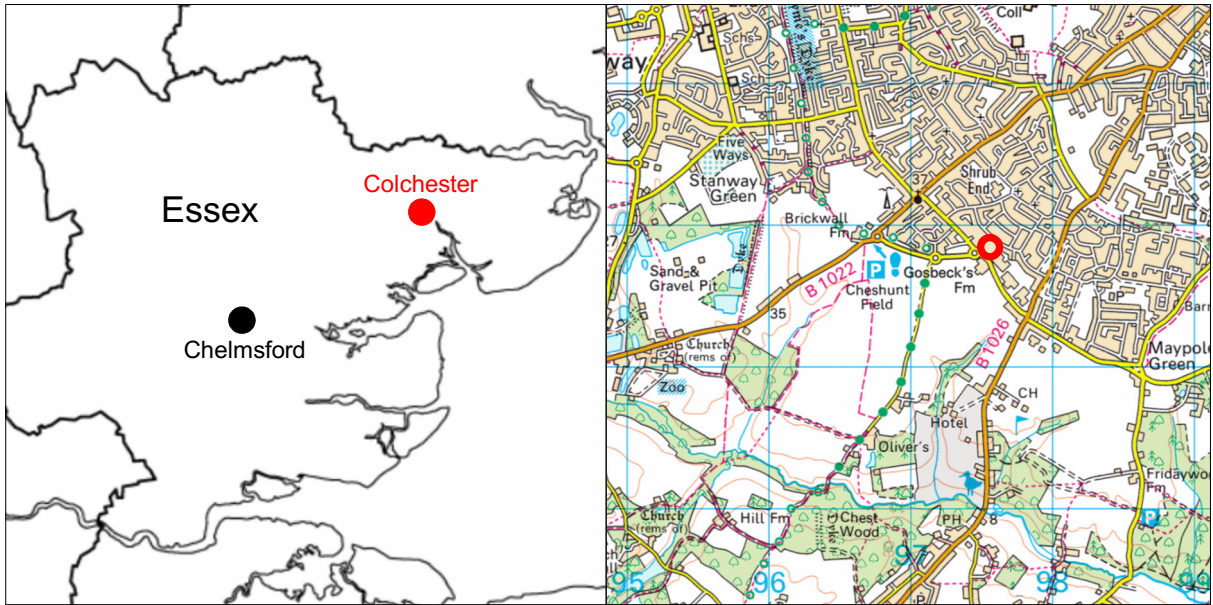
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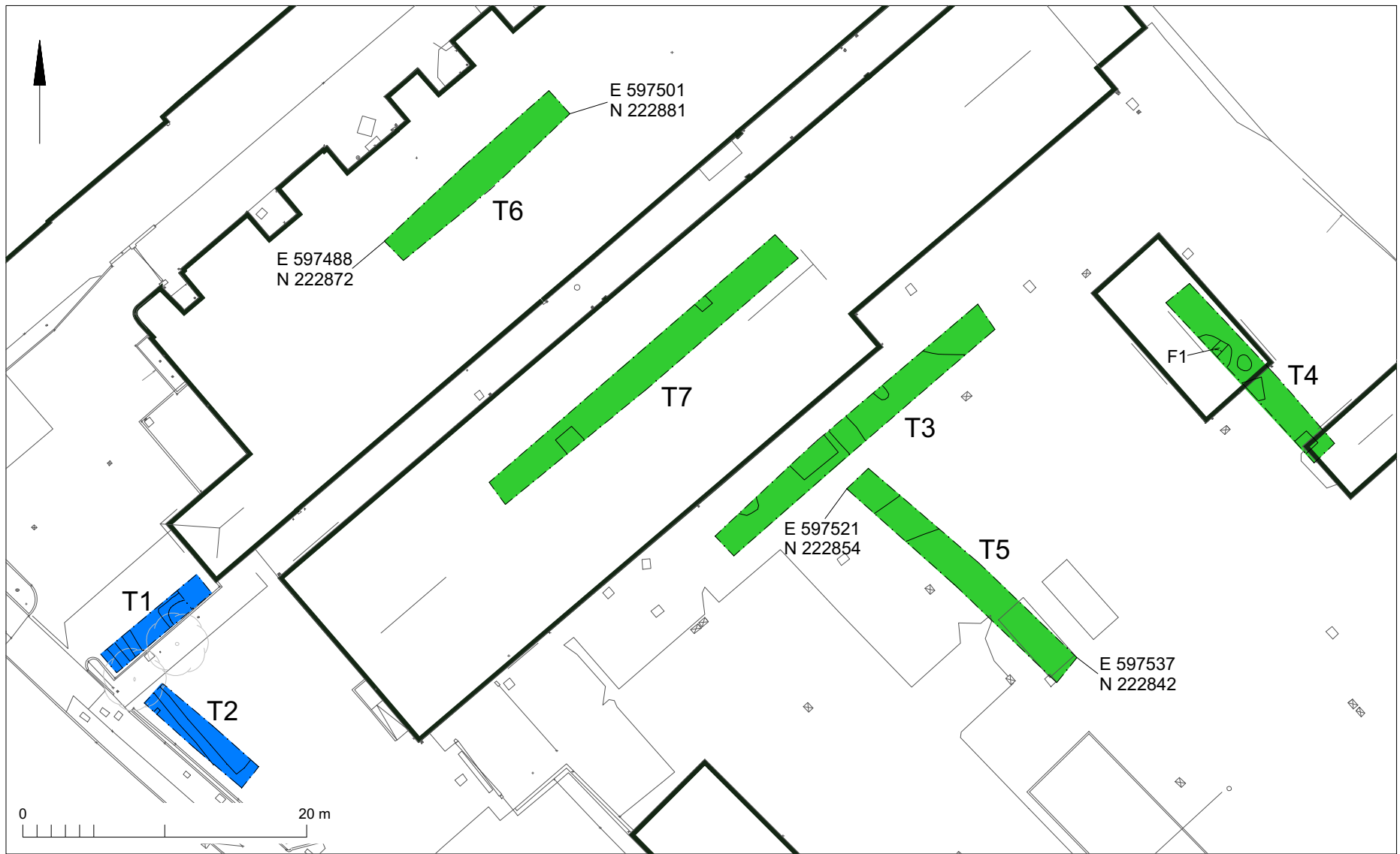
Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 8/2/2016



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Fig 1 Site location showing proposed store, 2013 trenches (in blue) and 2016 trenches (in green).



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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

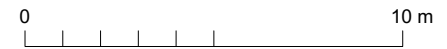
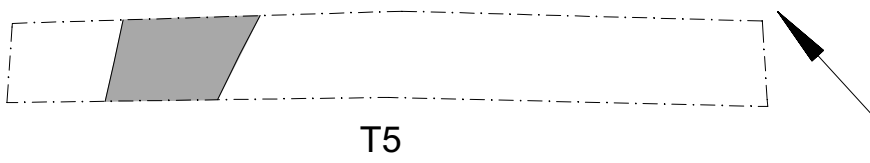
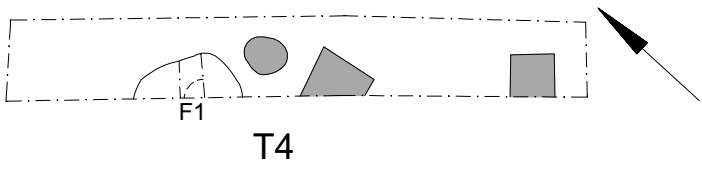
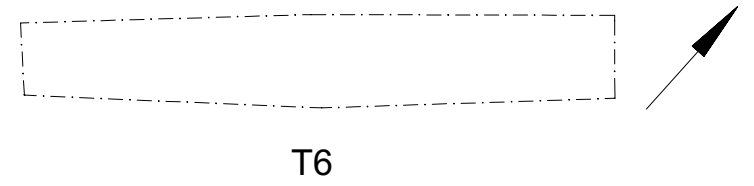
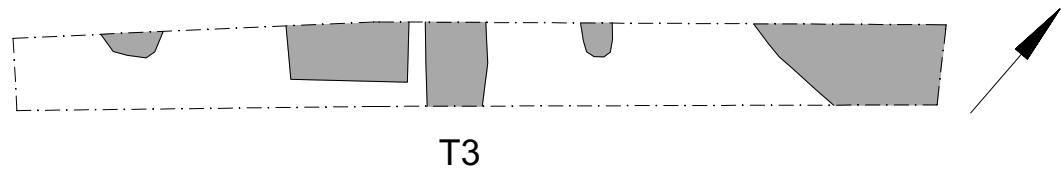


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans.

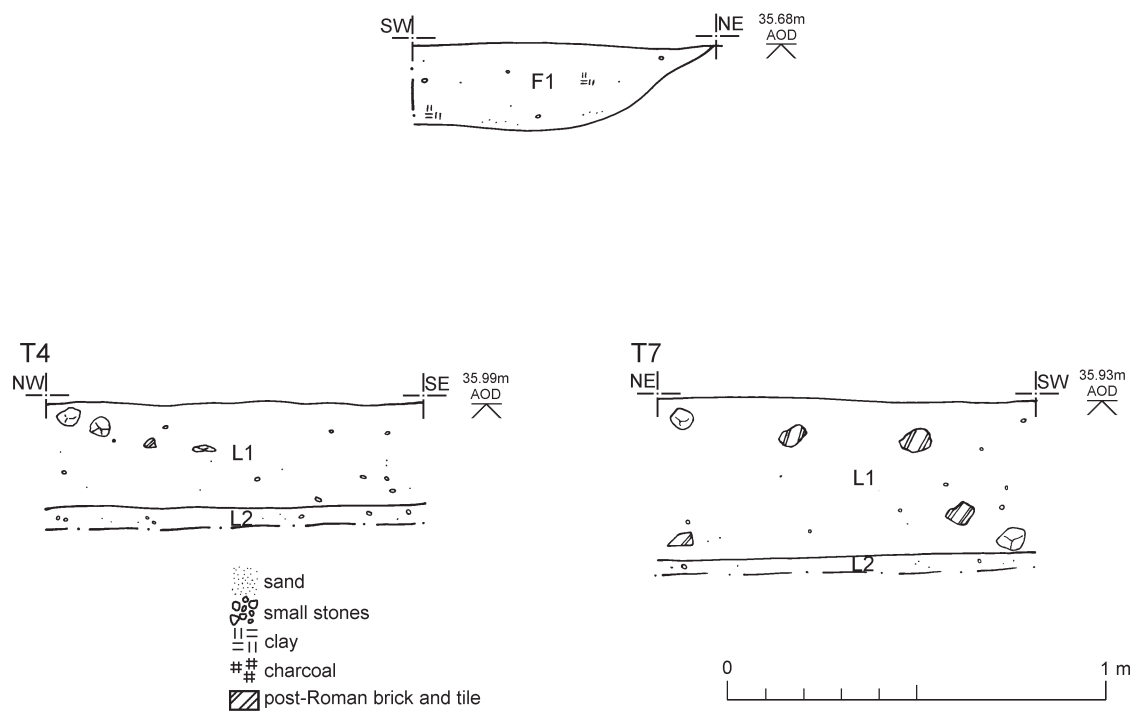


Fig 4 Feature section (F1) and representative trench sections (T4 and T7).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9JT	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9752 2284	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/011 UAD ref: ECC3674 OASIS ref: colchest3-240767
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 4th February 2016	Size of area investigated: Total size of trenches 180m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.13	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 11646, 11647, 11649, 12552
Final report: CAT Report 914	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of a new Lidl store and associated infrastructure. Despite being located close to the important Late Iron Age and Romano-British site at Gosbecks, no archaeological features or finds were identified. Modern disturbance was recorded across the entire site.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: February 2016

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-240767

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9JT
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester in advance of the construction of a new Lidl store and associated infrastructure. Despite being located close to the important Late Iron Age and Romano-British site at Gosbecks, no archaeological features or finds were identified. Modern disturbance was recorded across the entire site.
Project dates	Start: 04-02-2016 End: 04-02-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/01I - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	151781 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3674 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2016.13 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the	Not known / Not recorded

planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 117-123 Gosbecks Road
Postcode	CO2 9JT
Study area	180 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9752 2284 51.868587426712 0.869354520152 51 52 06 N 000 52 09 E Point

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2016.13
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2016.13
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological evaluation at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9JT:
February 2016

Author(s)/Editor(s) Holloway, B. Pooley, L.

Other bibliographic details CAT Report 914

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=241933> for this page

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for an archaeological evaluation at
117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester,
Essex, CO2 9JT

NGR: TL 9752 2284 (centre)

Planning reference: 151781

Client: Lidl

Agent: Mike Kalam

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2016.13

UAD Event number: ECC3674

CAT Project code: 16/011

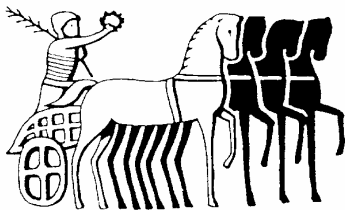
OASIS Project id: colchest3-240767

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 28.01.2015

Revised: 28.01.15



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
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Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies within the grounds of 117-123 Gosbecks Road close to the important Late Iron Age and Romano-British site of Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument 1002180). The site is centred on NGR TL9752 2284.

Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the erection of a new Lidl store, car parking and associated works (following demolition of existing).

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The site is located adjacent to, but outside of, the scheduled ancient monument area of Gosbecks Iron Age & Romano-British site (NHLE no.1002180). During the Late Iron Age Gosbecks was the focus of a native tribal centre, with an enclosed farmstead connected to the corresponding field systems by a network of droeways. It was also protected by a series of earthwork fortifications or dykes. The site is thought to contain a funerary enclosure which after the Roman invasion saw the construction of a Romano-Celtic temple complex (EHER 11649), along with other large public buildings including a theatre (EHER 11646, 11647).

Further to the west of the proposed site was the Stanway burial complex (EHER 12552). Located here was a series of five enclosures consisting of an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high status individuals (Crummy et al, 2007).

Excavations following evaluation in 1994 south of Gosbecks Road and north of Cunobelin Way (on the housing estate opposite the redevelopment site) revealed various features of the prehistoric and Roman landscape (CAT Report 127). A full discussion of Gosbecks can be found in Hawkes & Crummy, (1995). A Roman road running north-south from Colchester to Gosbecks is recorded some 85m west of the site.

No archaeological features or finds were identified in trial-trenches on the redevelopment site in 2013 (CAT Report 682).

Planning Background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in August 2015 (application No.151781) proposing a residential development.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / UAD as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work is for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically, five trenches will be positioned to cover the area of the current hardstanding to the east of the current buildings and site of the new store, and positioned in areas of new groundworks (ie for services). Three of these trenches will measure 25m long by 1.8m wide and two will measure 12.5m by long by 1.8m wide (totalling 100m linear; 2% sample).

The trial-trenches will:

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

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)
- 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.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor and two site assistants for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Adam Wightman

Evaluation methodology

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

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

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) 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.

Samples will be taken if palaeo-environmental and/or geoarchaeological remains are encountered (ie waterlogged deposits).

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

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

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. 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. 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.

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.

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.

Results

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

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

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

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

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

Archive Deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

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

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

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

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

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

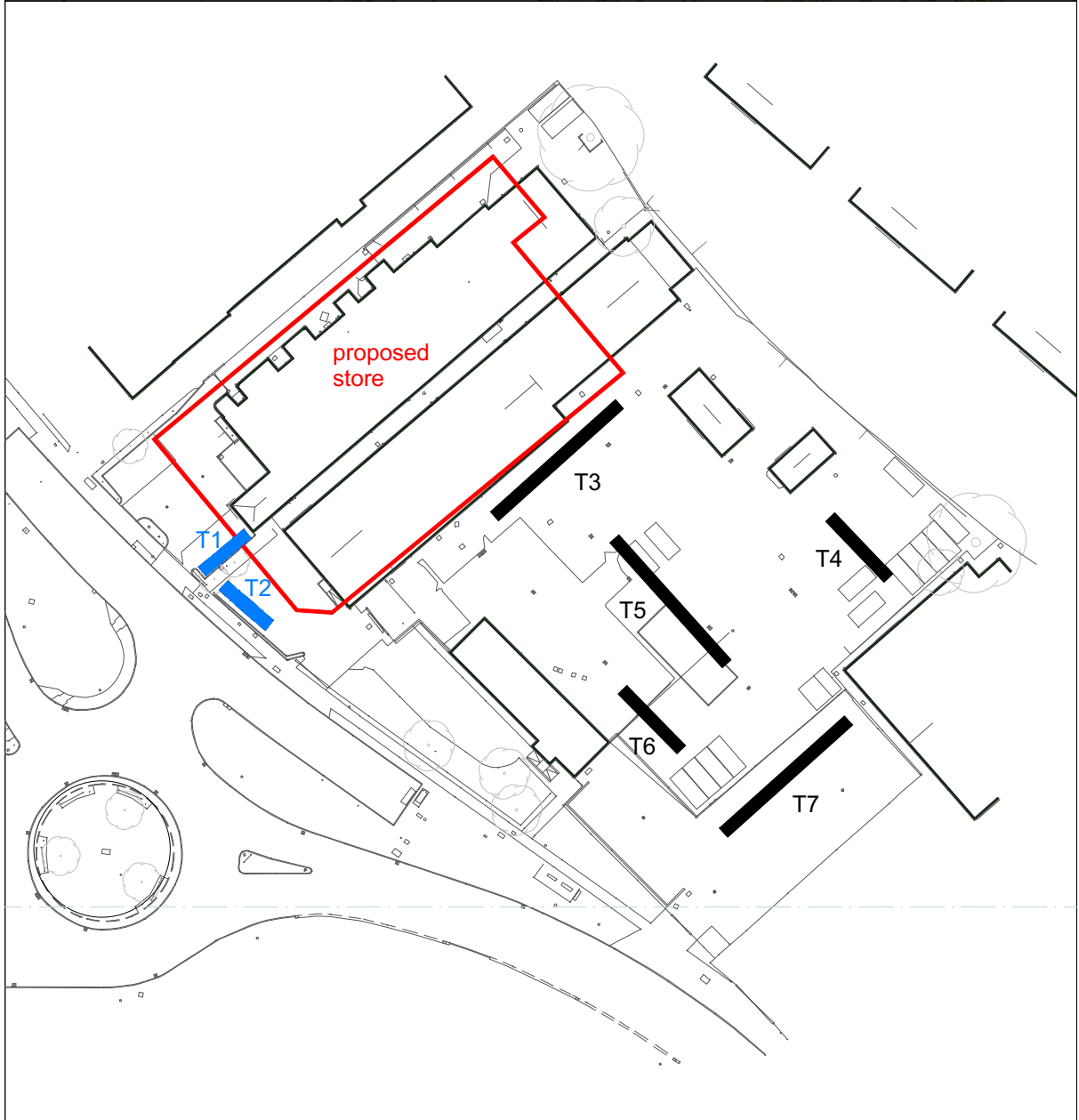
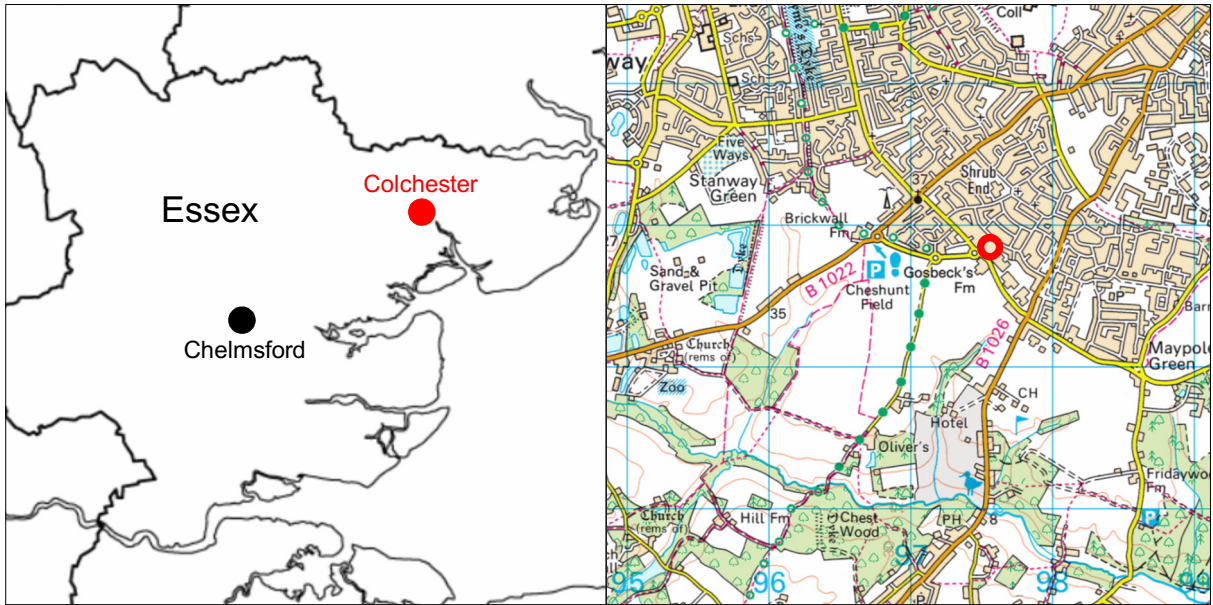
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| CBC | 2016 | <i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 117-123 Gosbecks Road, Colchester, CO2 9JT</i> , by J Tipper |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
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Fig 1 Site location showing proposed store (in red) and 2013 trenches (in blue).