

Archaeological monitoring at Portal Precinct, Sir Isaacs Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JJ

December 2018-March 2019



by Laura Pooley & Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Alec Wade
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fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

**commissioned by Jason Hopkins, Livermore
on behalf of Equa SSAS Limited**

NGR: TL 9957 2503 (centre)

Planning reference: 181633

CAT project ref.: 18/10d

Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2018.98

CHER ref: ECC4269

OASIS reference: colchest3-331251



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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Portal Precinct, Sir Issacs Walk, Colchester during groundworks associated with the conversion of existing buildings. The development site is located within the southeastern corner of the Roman fortress and Insula 35 of the Roman walled town. Most of the groundworks occurred through 1.4m of modern paving/make-up, post-medieval dark earth and medieval/post-medieval accumulation. No significant Roman archaeological remains were exposed.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at Portal Precinct, Sir Issacs Walk, Colchester, Essex, which was carried out between 3rd December 2018 and 20th March 2019. The work was commissioned by Jason Hopkins of Livermore on behalf of Equa SSAS Ltd and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). Archaeological monitoring took place during groundworks for the conversion of existing buildings. All groundworks were carried out by the contractors under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

As the site lies within an area identified by the Colchester Historical Environment Record (CHER) as possessing a high potential for archaeological deposits, following 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, written by Jess Tipper and detailing the required archaeological work (CBCPS 2018). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was subsequently prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2018).

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 briefs* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site lies in an extremely rich area of archaeological remains along the lower edge of the main historic core of the Roman and later walled town (CHER MCC9314). It is located within the southeastern corner of the fortress which later became part of Insula 35 in the Roman town. The site sits just to the north of a main Roman street (*Via Sagularis*) running east-west and to the north of the Roman town wall.

Directly to the west of the site CAT undertook large-scale excavations in advance of the Culver Square shopping precinct development, carried out between 1981-2 and 1984-5 (CHER ECC337). The excavations yielded a vast amount of information on the development of the town, especially the Roman military fortress and its transition into a Roman colony (see *CAR 3*, 3-9 and *CAR 6*, 7-20). Excavation 'Area K' was located closest to the proposed development site.

Within Area K the earliest activity was traces of a building (Building 85) largely destroyed by post-Boudican cultivation and during the fortress phase it was within an area of tribune houses. These were the larger houses for military officers subdivided by gravel roads. After the fortress era there was a hiatus following which it became an area of open space used for cultivation between c 150-325 AD. CAT recorded that the area between Building 123 and the south side of Insula 35 appears to have been cultivated land for most of the Roman period. This was evidenced by a layer of well-mixed dark yellowish-brown sandy loam up to 0.8m thick across the site. The western limit was indicated by a number of shallow ditches (CAR 6 Fig 3.41) which line up with the drain on the western side of Building 123 and showed there was no footway between the cultivated land and the street running north-south (*via principalis*). To accompany the cultivated land, the upper part of Area K revealed the remains of a granary and a possible corn drying oven (building 125). Section drawings of Area K show that post-Roman remains comprise of approximately 0.8m of layers and some post-medieval and modern pits between modern ground level and the main Roman horizons. The uppermost Roman layers were overlain by an accumulation of 'dark earth' topsoil across the whole site (CAR 6, fiche sxs 3.36 and 3.37).

Archaeological work undertaken by CAT at the Portal Precinct during its construction in 1992 (CAT Report 1000) and at adjacent sites at 26 Trinity Street (CAT Report 1000), 25 Trinity Street (CAT Report 1000) and at Tymperlys (CAT Report 40 & 74) has shown that below modern ground level there is approximately 0.8-1.2m of post-medieval to modern topsoil.

The site is also surrounded by a number of historic buildings, such as: 18th-century buildings at 12-14 Sir Isaacs Walk (CHER MCC3624); 14th-century buildings at 14 Trinity Street (CHER MCC257 and CHER MCC3641), and 18th-century buildings at 18-21 Trinity Street (CHER MCC3643).

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

All groundworks were carried out by the contractors under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Test-pits

Two test-pits, TP1 and TP2, were dug to determine the depths of the existing building foundations. Each test-pit was 0.5m by 0.5m and was excavated to a depth of 1.1m below current ground level (bcgl) through a modern make-up layer (L1, c 0.8m thick) into post-medieval dark earth (L2, excavated to a depth of 0.3m).

Test-pit 3, TP3, was dug to established the depth of natural gravels. It was 0.9m long, 1.4m wide and excavated to a total depth of 1.4m bcgl. The test-pit was excavated through modern paving (L4, c 0.6m thick) and L2 (0.6m thick) into a medieval/post-medieval accumulation layer (L3). Roman pottery and ceramic building material was found in L3 along with two pieces of roof slate.

Service trench

Approximately 31m of service trench, c 0.6m wide and 0.7-0.8m deep, was excavated through modern block paving (L4), blocks of concrete and make-up (L1). Part of the trench (nearest to TP3) was excavated to a depth of 1m where dark earth (L3) was encountered. A brick manhole (F1) was located to the south of the site.

Piles and the ground beam

Four piles were driven (screwed) into the ground and a ground beam excavated between Pile 1 and 2. The piles were 0.3m in diameter and drilled to a depth of 10m. The identification of layers (see below) through which the piles had been driven was solely based on a visual inspection of the upcast soil, no measurements could be taken. All of the piles were driven into natural (L6), with Piles 1, 3 and 4 also revealing a silty-clay layer (L5) between L3 and L6.

Pile 1 (P1) – Driven through L2, L3, L5 and L6.

Pile 2 (P2) – Driven through L4, L2, L3 and L6.

Pile 3 (P3) – Driven through L4, L2, L3, L5 and L6.

Pile 4 (P4) – Driven through L4, L2, L3, L5 and L6.

The trench for the ground beam was 4m long, 0.75m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.85-0.9m bcgl through L4 (c 0.7m thick) and into L2.



Photograph 1 Test-pit 3, looking northeast



Photograph 2 Service trench, looking west



Photograph 3 Drilling of Pile 3



Photograph 4 Trench for the ground beam, looking west

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief produced a small assemblage of Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM), and medieval/post-medieval stone building material (henceforth SBM) (Table 1). All of this material was recovered from L3. The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999). Roman vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR 10*, 468-487). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVREP (estimated vessel representation) and rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

Material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	No. Rim	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
Roman Pottery	5	115	23	1	0.16	1
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	4	988	247	-	-	-
Stone Building Material (SBM)	2	94	47	-	-	-
All	11	1,197	109	1	0.16	1

Table 1 Details on the main types of finds

Roman pottery

There were five sherds of Roman pottery with a weight of 115g. Three wares are represented (Table 2) while there was one vessel (rim EVREP). Noteworthy sherds included a Samian base from a central Gaulish (Lezoux) Drag. 38, which dates to AD 150-200 (Webster 1996, 51) and a rim from a Cam 305B in black-burnished ware, category 2 (fabric GB), dating from AD 275 until the end of the Roman period.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BA	Plain Samian	Mid 1st-early 3rd century AD
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	2nd century AD
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman (primarily mid 1st-2nd century AD)
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	Early 2nd-3rd century AD
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	Early 2nd-4th century AD

Table 2 Roman pottery fabrics recorded

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

There were four pieces of Roman CBM, including *imbrex* and *tegula*, with a weight of 988g.

Stone Building Material (SBM)

There were two pieces of medieval/post-medieval roofing slate with a weight of 94g.

6.2 Animal bone by Alec Wade

A fragment of rib bone (19.8g) from a large mammal also came from L3 (finds no. 1).

7 Conclusion

Monitoring at Portal Precinct revealed c 0.6-1m of modern layers sealing c 0.3-0.6m of post-medieval dark earth. A medieval/post-medieval accumulation layer (L3) was identified at c 1-1.2m below current ground level in test-pit 3 and the service trench. In Piles 1, 3 and 4, L3 sealed another silty-clay layer (L5) but, due to the method of excavation, the depth of this layer below current ground level could not be established.

No significant Roman archaeological remains were exposed by the current groundworks as most occurred through later layers. Layer L5, as identified in the piles, could potentially be of Roman date but this could not be confirmed.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Jason Hopkins of Livermore and Equa SSAS Ltd for commissioning funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by S Carter and B Holloway. Figures were prepared by S Carter. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

9 References

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

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 3	1984	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 3: Excavations at Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane, and Middleborough, Colchester, Essex</i> by P Crummy. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the</i>

		<i>Gilbert School, and miscellaneous sites in Colchester 1971-1985</i> , by P Crummy. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds & S Wade (eds.). Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 40	1999	<i>A trial trench in the garden of Tymperleys House, Trinity Street, Colchester: August 1999.</i>
CAT Report 74	2000	<i>A trial trench in the garden of Tymperleys House, Trinity Street, Colchester: May 2000</i>
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006</i>
CAT Report 1000	forth-coming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</i> (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Reports or in the CAT Report Series from 1997)
CBCAA	2018	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Portal precinct, Sir Isaacs Walk, Colchester, CO1 1JJ</i> , by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</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>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
Crummy, P	2003	<i>'Colchester's town wall' in The archaeology of Roman towns: studies in honour of John S Wachter</i> , ed by P Wilson
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).
Hawkes, C F C & Hull, M R	1947	<i>Camulodunum. First Report on the Excavation at Colchester 1930-1939</i> (Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no. 14). Oxford: The Society of Antiquaries, London.
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> (Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no. 20). Oxford: The Society of Antiquaries, London.
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Webster, P	1996	<i>Roman Samian Pottery in Britain</i> (Practical Handbook in Archaeology no. 13). York: Council for British Archaeology.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
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'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the Index of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410

section (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: part of a box

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1413)

CBC brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, plans, sections)

Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1413)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Survey data

12 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: 2018.98.

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Distribution list

Jason Hopkins, Livermore

Equa SSAS Ltd

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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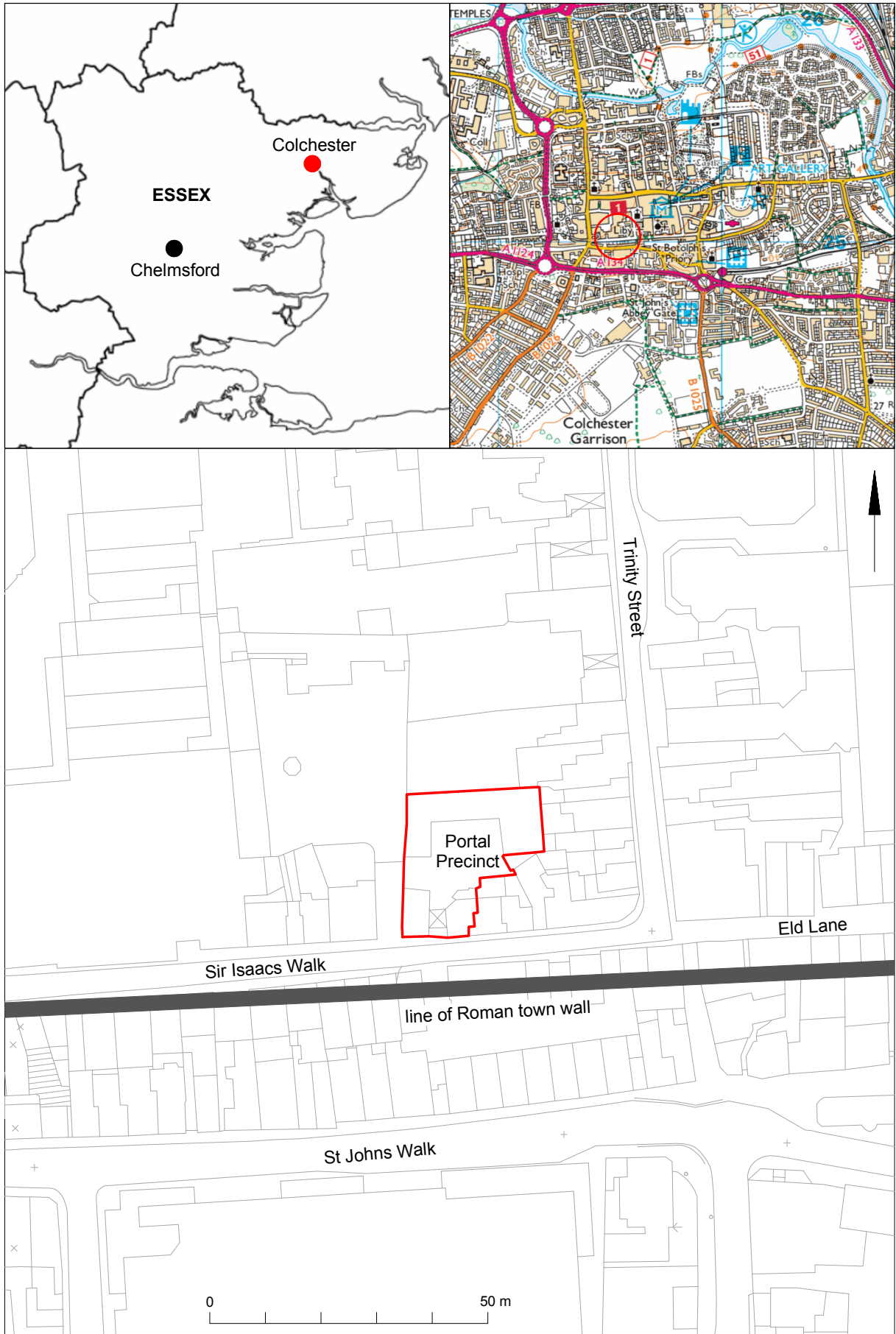
Date: 22.5.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context number	Finds number	Context	Description	Date
L1	-	Make-up	Friable, dry, medium brown sandy-silt containing fragments of modern brick and tile (not retained for post-excavation analysis)	Modern
L2	-	Dark earth	Friable, moist, medium-dark grey/brown silty-clay containing fragments of ceramic building material and oyster shell (not retained for post-excavation analysis)	Post-medieval
L3	1	Accumulation	Friable, moist, dark grey/brown silty-clay containing fragments of ceramic building material, mortar and oyster shell	Medieval/ post-medieval
L4	-	Paving	Block paving over a layer of yellow sand, Type 1 sub-base and cement	Modern
L5	-	?	Friable, moist, light-medium grey/brown silty-clay	Undated
L6	-	Natural	Natural sands and gravels	Post-glacial
F1	-	Manhole	Brick structure, probably a manhole	Modern

Appendix 2 Catalogue of all finds from L3 (finds number 1) (excluding animal bone)

Find Type	Fabric Group	No.	Wt g	Rim	Handle	Base	Form	Comments	Date
Pottery	KX	1	8	0	0	0			Early 2nd-4th century AD
Pottery	DJ	1	21	0	0	0			Roman (primarily mid 1st-2nd century AD)
Pottery	GB	1	8	1	0	0	Cam 305B		AD 275-end Roman
Pottery	BA	1	10	0	0	0		Heavily burnt	Roman
Pottery	BACG	1	68	0	0	1	Drag. 38		AD 150-200
CBM	-	2	207	-	-	-	RI		Roman
CBM	-	1	179	-	-	-	RI		Roman
CBM	-	1	602	-	-	-	RT		Roman
SBM	-	2	94	-	-	-	Slate	Roofing slate	19th-20th century



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Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Results

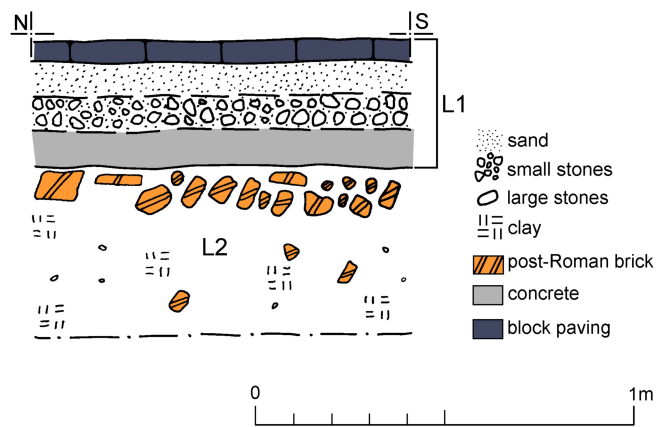


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Portal Precinct, Sir Issacs Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JJ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9957 2503 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2018/10d CHER ref: ECC4269 OASIS ref: colchest3-331251
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 3rd December 2018 – 20th March 2019	Size of area investigated: 0.05ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.98	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC257, MCC3624, MCC3641, MCC3643, MCC9314; ECC337
Final report: CAT Report 1413	
Periods represented: Modern, post-medieval, Roman	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Portal Precinct, Sir Issacs Walk, Colchester during groundworks associated with the conversion of existing buildings. The development site is located within the southeastern corner of the Roman fortress and Insula 35 of the Roman walled town. Most of the groundworks occurred through 1.4m of modern paving/make-up, post-medieval dark earth and medieval/post-medieval accumulation. No significant Roman archaeological remains were exposed.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 1000	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: May 2019

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at Portal Precinct, Sir Isaacs Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JJ

NGR: TL 9957 2503 (centre)

Planning references: 181633

Commissioned by: Jason Hopkins (Livermore)

Client: Equa SSAS Limited

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

CHER number: [tbc](#)

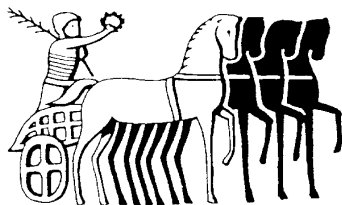
CAT project code: 2018/10d

OASIS project number: colchest3-331251

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 18/10/2018



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies along the southern edge of the core of the historic settlement within Colchester Town Centre at Portal Precinct, Sir Isaacs Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JJ (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 9957 2503.

Proposed work

The development comprises the conversion of first floor commercial units (A1) into three residential apartments and conversion of the ground floor rear units into a mixture of uses (A1, A2, B1 and D1). There will be the creation of a link building and gate across the entrance and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site lies in an extremely rich part of archaeology along the lower edge of the main historic core of the Roman and later walled town (CHER MCC9314). Directly to the west of the site CAT undertook large-scale excavations in advance of the Culver Square shopping precinct development in two phases between 1981-2 and 1984-5 (CHER ECC337). The excavations yielded a vast amount of information on the development of the town, especially the Roman military fortress (CHER MCC477) and the transition into a Roman colony (see CAR 3: 3-9 and CAR 6: 7-20). The site lies within the southeastern corner of the fortress which later became part of Insula 35 in the Roman town grid system. The site sits just to the north of a main Roman street (*Via Sagularis*) running east-west, just to the north of the Roman town wall. The closest area of the Culver excavations to the proposed was Area K. Due to financial constraints this area had less investigation than others, the earliest phases in particular were not fully excavated. Within Area K pre-fortress there was traces of a building (building 85) but this was largely destroyed by post-Boudican cultivation. During the fortress period excavations within Area K shows the development site falls within the area identified as tribune houses. These were the larger houses for military officers subdivided by gravel roads. After the fortress era there is a hiatus before becoming an area of open space used for cultivation between c 150-325 AD. CAT recorded that the area between building 123 and the south side of Insula 35 appears to have been cultivated land for most of the Roman period. This was evident by a layer of well mixed dark yellowish-brown sandy loam up to 0.8m across the site. The western limit was indicated by a number of shallow ditches (CAR 6 Fig 3.41) which line up with the drain on the western side of building 123 and showed there was no footway between the cultivated land and the street running north-south (*Via Principalis*). To accompany the cultivated land the upper part of Area K revealed the remains of a granary and ?corn drying oven (building 125). Section drawings of Area K show that post-Roman remains comprise of approximately 0.8m of layers and some post-medieval and modern pits between modern ground level to the main evidence of Roman occupation. The uppermost Roman layers were overlain by an accumulation of 'dark earth' topsoil across the whole site (CAR 6 Fiche Sxs 3.36 and 3.37).

Directly to the south of the site is the Roman town wall (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1003772, CHER MCC859). The Roman town wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered *septaria* and mortar faced with coursed *septaria* and tile. A recent study has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*). A hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide (Crummy 2003). Some previous work shows that the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6). Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 showed the stone foundations to be 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347), although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain their exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the

wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

The site is surrounded by historic buildings, including, 18th century buildings 12-14 Sir Isaacs Walk to the west (CHER MCC3624) 14th century buildings at 14 Trinity Street (MCC257 and CHER MCC3641) and 18th century building 18-21 Trinity Street (CHER MCC3643). Other archaeological work CAT has undertaken within this area has generally shown that below modern ground levels there is approximately between 0.8-1.2m of post-medieval to modern topsoil as where seen on watching briefs (rear of 26 Trinity Street 1989 (CAT Report 1000), rear of 25 Trinity Street in 1992 (CAT Report 1000) and Tymperlys test pits in 1999 (CAT Report 40) and 2000 (CAT Report 74) post-medieval finds were noted.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in June 2018 (application No.181633) proposing change of use of first floor rear units from A1/Commercial use to 3no. residential apartments and change of use of ground floor rear units from A1/ Commercial to a Mix of uses including A1, A2, B1 and D1. Creation of a link building and gate, alterations to window positions and alterations to window positions and alterations to external materials.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

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

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, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of 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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork alongside a project or site code from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify 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 CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring methodology

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

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), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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

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

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

Site surveying

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

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

Environmental sampling policy

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG 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.

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

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

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:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.

- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- 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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) 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

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

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 3	1984	Excavations at Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane, and Middleborough, Colchester, Essex
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and miscellaneous sites in Colchester 1971-1985</i> , by P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>

CAT Report 40	1999	<i>A trial trench in the garden of Tymperleys House, Trinity Street, Colchester – August 1999. B C Crossan</i>
CAT Report 74	2000	<i>A trial trench in the garden of Tymperleys House, Trinity Street, Colchester - May 2000. B C Crossan</i>
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006</i>
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997) by H Brooks</i>
CBCAA	2018	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Portal precinct, Sir Isaacs Walk, Colchester, CO1 1JJ. By J Tipper</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
Crummy, P	2003	<i>'Colchester's town wall' in The archaeology of Roman towns: studies in honour of John S Wacher, ed by P Wilson</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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Hull M,R.	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

E Holloway

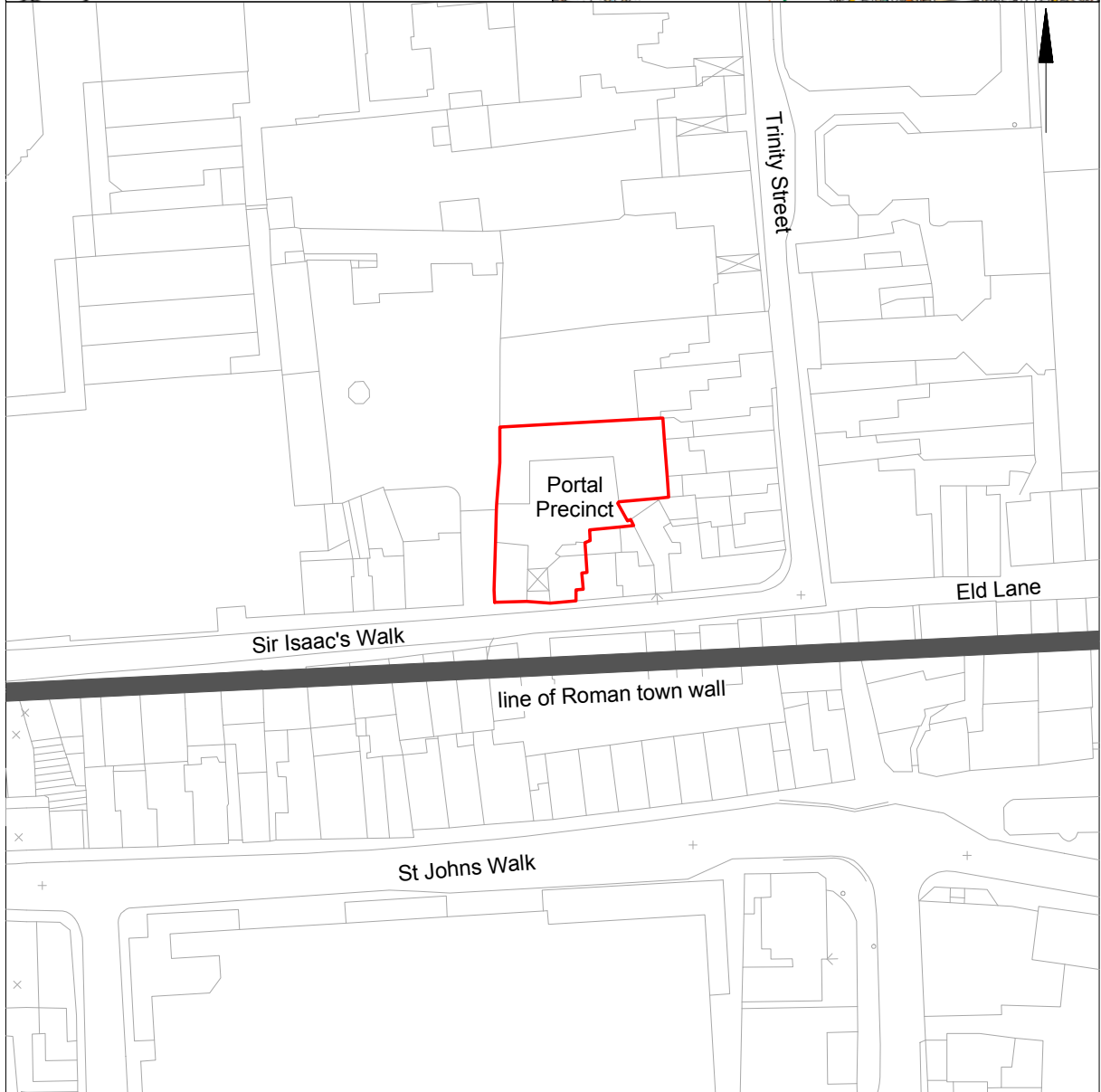
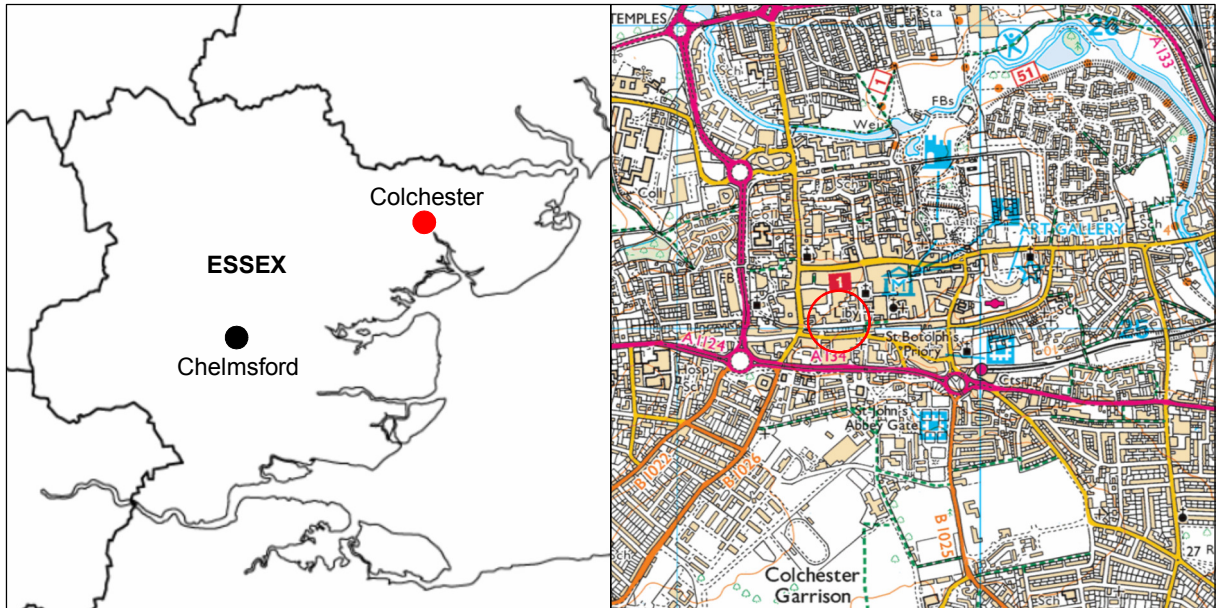


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Fig 1 Site location.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-331251

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Portal Precinct, Sir Isaacs Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JJ
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Portal Precinct, Sir Issacs Walk, Colchester during groundworks associated with the conversion of existing buildings. The development site is located within the southeastern corner of the Roman fortress and Insula 35 of the Roman walled town. Most of the groundworks occurred through 1.4m of modern paving/make-up, post-medieval dark earth and medieval/post-medieval accumulation. No significant Roman archaeological remains were exposed.
Project dates	Start: 03-12-2018 End: 20-03-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2018/10d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	181633 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4269 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.98 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Portal Precinct, Sir Isaacs Walk
Postcode	CO1 1JJ
Study area	0.05 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9957 2503 51.887521297254 0.90036001821 51 53 15 N 000 54 01 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Sarah Carter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.98
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.98

Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.98
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at Portal Precinct, Sir Isaccks Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JJ: December 2018-March 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1413
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ringbound loose-leaf
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	23 May 2019

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