



Colchester
Archaeological
Trust

CAT Report 1428	Parish: Colchester
Archaeological monitoring at St Peter's Church, North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1DZ: May 2019	Planning reference: -
	CHER Event no.: ECC4336
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-351038
	Grid Reference: TL 99432 25238
	Number of site visits: 1
	Dates of visit: 20th May 2019

Nature of the work: Observation of auguring within the crypt to determine the extent of potential oil contamination caused by a leak from the feed line to the boiler.

Reason for condition: The church is a Grade II* listed building with its origins in the 14th century and is built on the presumed site of an Anglo-Saxon church.

% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.

Results: The excavation of a series of auger holes were archaeologically monitored in response to a brief set by Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

A CAT archaeologist supervised the excavation by hand of twenty-four auger holes in the floor of the crypt. The auger holes were excavated to a depth of 0.5-1m.

Four layers were recorded. A concrete floor (L1, c 0.15m thick) overlay a sandy-silt (L2, c 0.35m thick, soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silt with brick and mortar flecks). Beneath L2 lay a sandy-silty-clay (L3, c 0.25m thick, soft, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal, oyster, brick and mortar flecks), which in turn sealed a silty-clay (L4, soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal, oyster, daub and mortar flecks).

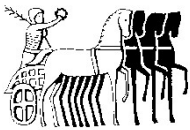


Photograph 1 Working shot

No significant archaeological remains were encountered, and there were no finds.

Recorded by: Dr Elliott Hicks

Date: June 2019



Colchester Archaeological Trust

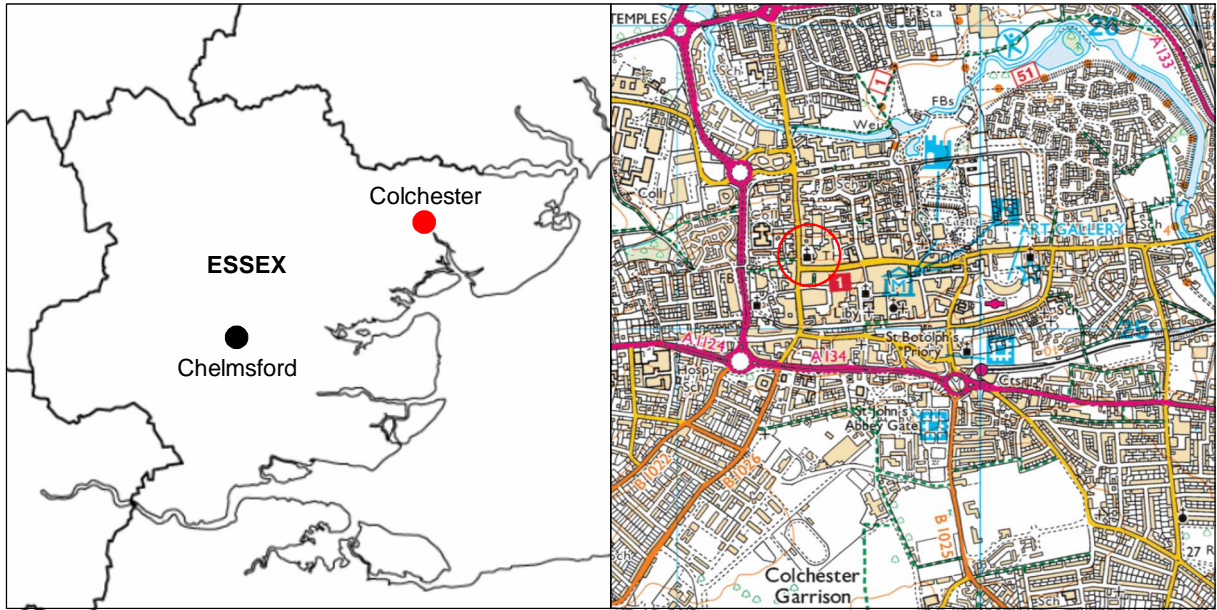
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 17.06.2019



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Fig 1 Site location.



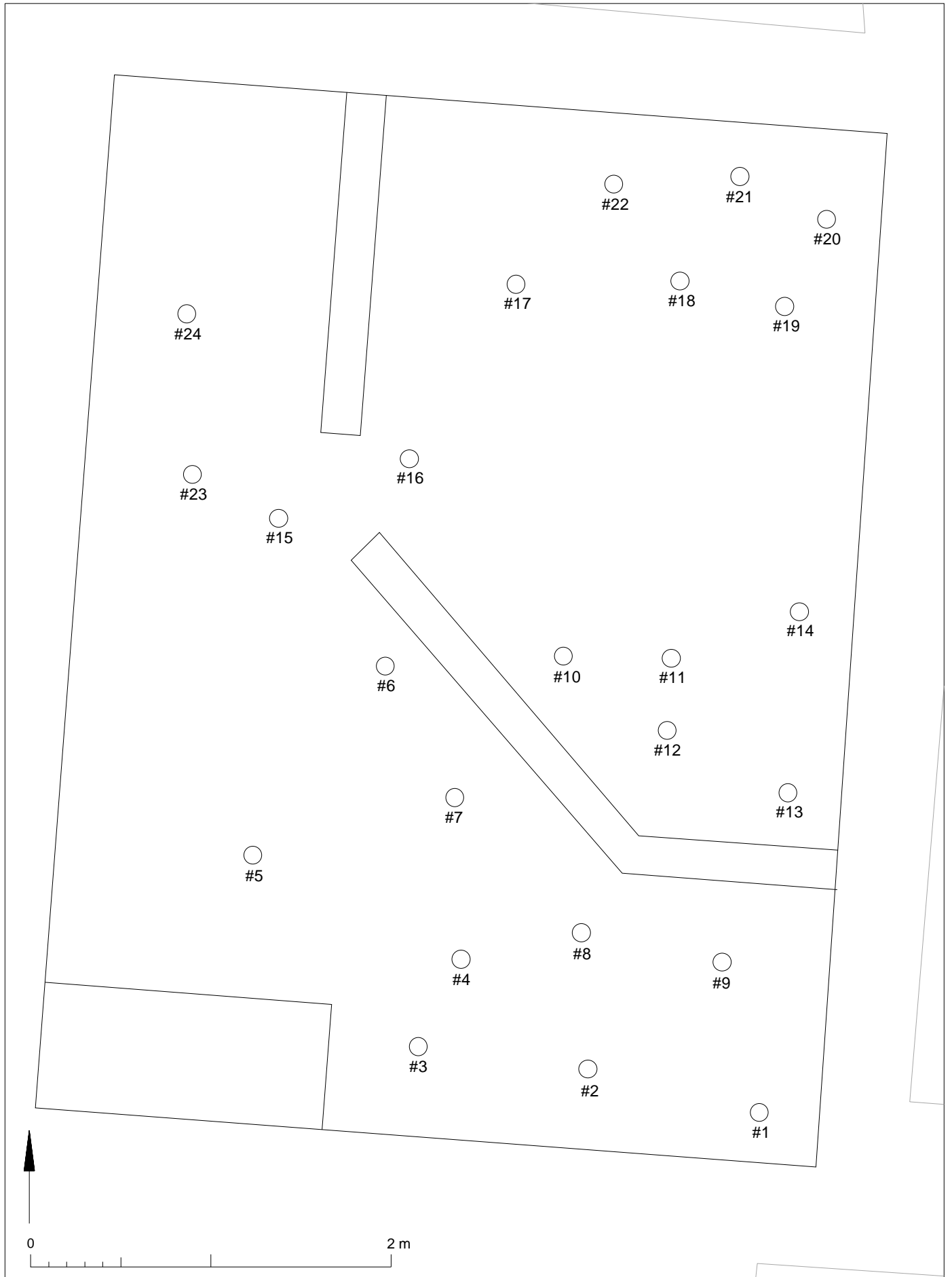


Fig 2 Results.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for Archaeological monitoring and recording at
the St Peter's Church, North Hill, Colchester,
Essex, CO1 1DZ.**

NGR: TL 99432 25238 (centre)

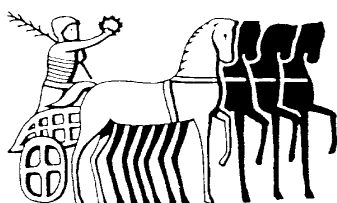
Commissioned by: Johnny Catchpole (OHES Environmental Ltd)
On behalf of: OHES Environmental Ltd
Diocese: Chelmsford

Curating museum: Colchester
CHER number: ECC4336

CAT project code: 2019/05g
OASIS project number: colchest3-351038

Site manager: Chris Lister
Diocesan Archaeological Advisor: Jess Tipper (CBC)

This WSI written: 13/05/2019 (revised)



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Site location and description

The Church is located within the main historic core of Colchester on the corner of North Hill and the western end of the High street at St Peter's Church, North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1DZ (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99432 25238.

Proposed work

The work involves the soil sampling below the floor of the basement/crypt area to check the extent of any potential contamination caused by an oil spillage from the feed line to the boiler.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer website (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk) and the history section of the church's website (www.stpeterscol.org.uk):

St Peter's is a large church, able to seat up to 600 people and is a key part of the Colchester Town Centre Parish churches. The church has Historic England Grade II* Listed Building status (no. 1123570, CHER MCC408 and MCC3487).

There has been a church on the site of St Peter's Church since at least the Anglo-Saxon period as church is referenced in the Domesday book. In 1086 the church must have been well established and considered of high importance as the Domesday book shows the church as having two priests. Little is known of the original church but considering it has the same name as the current church it is thought it was likely to have been on the same location. The current church dates in origin to the 14th century but was altered and widened in the 15th century and little is known about the original layout as the surviving illustrations are not very detailed.

During an earthquake in Colchester in 1692 the central tower sustained damage. In the mid-18th century the tower was declared unsafe and damaged. A new tower was built at the western end of the church in 1763, alongside other alterations.

Recent work includes the roofs of the north and south aisles being removed, repaired and replaced and internal plastering work in 2005-6, a disabled ramp being installed in 2008 and a new central heating boiler was installed in 2012.

The church is located in an area of considerable archaeological importance. It is located within Insula 18 of the Roman town and on the corner of the High Street of the later town, where settlement has been centred from the Anglo-Saxon period through to the modern day. There is a large corpus of published information on Colchester's archaeological and historical background (in particular Morant 1748, Hull 1958, CAR1, CAR3, CAR 6). In particular, the results of the extensive archaeological excavations in the town centre at Lion Walk (1971-4), Balkerne Lane (1973-6), and Culver Street (1981- 85), have provided us with a clear understanding of the sequence of archaeological deposits which exists in the centre of Colchester. Archaeological remains which were likely to be encountered may include the following based on previous sites and work at the Fenwick Department store on the High Street:

- the site of the 1st-century Roman fortress which was established in c AD 44 (CHER MCC477)
- buildings converted or replaced as the fortress became a *colonia* (c AD 49), as well as public buildings such as the *principia*
- the re-use of the *via principalis*
- the remains of the *colonia* buildings burnt and destroyed in the Boudiccan uprising (AD 61)
- the post-Boudiccan clearance and the rebuilding of the Roman town in the Flavian period.

- the 2nd century+ houses and public buildings built on stone and mortar foundations with tessellated and mosaic floors
- the decline of the town in the late 3rd century and the end of the Roman occupation in the 5th century

Project background

The Archaeological Advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAA) advised the PCC that as the proposed work lies in an area of high archaeological significance that a programme of archaeological work was secured, in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation to be approved by the DAC. This is to safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to groundworks associated with the sampling, to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this investigation.

Requirement for work

The required work is for an archaeological monitoring and recording during the augering and assessment of the soil samples as recommended by the DAA (Dr J. Tipper, pers. Comm., 3rd April 2019).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may be revealed by the soil sampling. The samples are due to be drilled holes around 45mm in diameter, hand augered to a maximum depth of 3m below ground.

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, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Archaeological Advice given by the DAA (Dr J. Tipper, pers. Comm., 3rd April 2019).

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 DAA one week before start of work.

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 site code will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. 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 archaeologist for duration.

Monitoring methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to oversee the hand-augering and be given time to record anything of archaeological interest that may be revealed in the soil samples.

CAT staff will monitor the contractors as they drill holes through the concrete floor and then hand auger through the soil. Augered soil samples will be inspected to assess and record the type and depth of material that is encountered, look for any evidence of archaeological horizons or finds and establish the depth of natural if encountered. Finds will be recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds and small finds.

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.

Human remains

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 Diocese for a Faculty to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist.

Following HE guidance (HE 2017 and HE 2018) if remains need to be lifted, they will be removed from the site for analysis, including scientific analysis (absolute dating) and reporting, before they will be returned to the site and re-interment. Conditions laid down by the Faculty will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the DAC, and the DAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Any human remains disturbed by the project will be presented to the parish authorities for re-interment within the churchyard upon completion of the analysis and report.

Photographic record

Will include both general and 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. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

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): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

human remains project osteologist: 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 DAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating).

Results

Notification will be given to DAA 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* (HE 2015).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to DAA 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 augered samples 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 DAA.

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

Any human remains excavated are to be reburied within the churchyard upon completion of the assessment and report. The rest of the archive (paper and digital) will be archived to the curating museum.

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

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM, and DAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to DAA.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the Colchester HER.

Monitoring

DAA 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 DAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

DAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

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

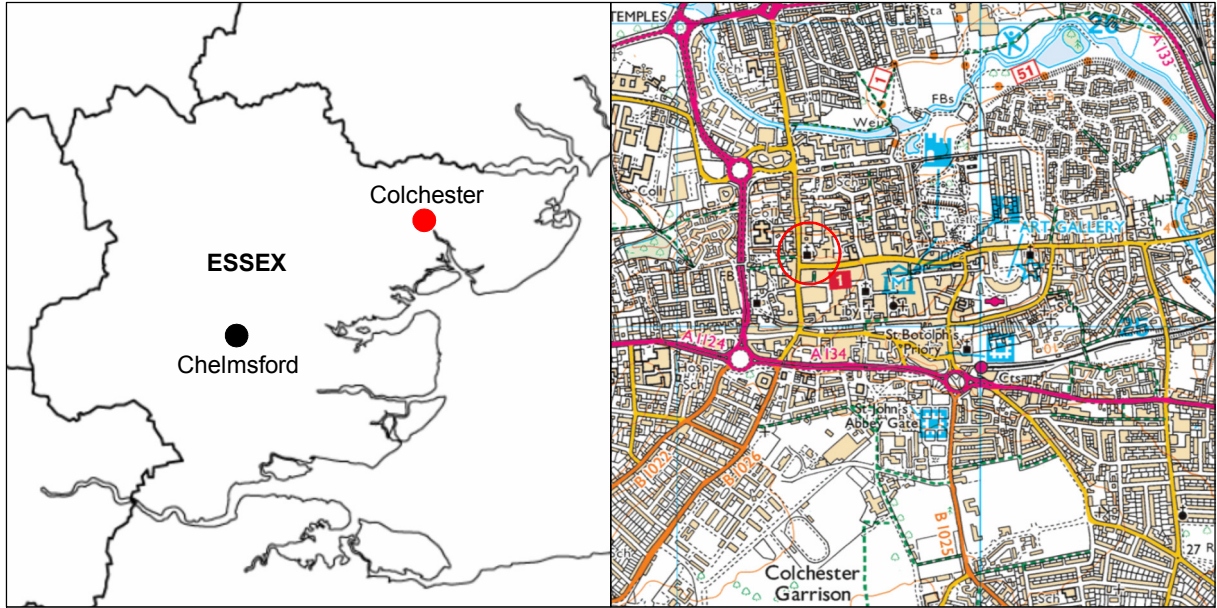
Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 1	1981	<i>Aspects of Anglo-Saxon and Norman Colchester. By P Crummy</i>
CAR 3	1984	<i>Excavations at Lion Walk, Balkerne Lane, and Middleborough, Colchester, Essex. By P Crummy</i>
CAR 6	1992	<i>Excavations at Culver Street, Gilbert School, and Other Sites in Colchester 1971-85. By P crummy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</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>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England (HE)	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2017	<i>Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</i>
Hull, R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, Society of Antiquaries of London Research Report 20 (London)</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>
Morant, P	1748	<i>History of Colchester</i>

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Fig 1 Site location.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-351038

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at the St Peter's Church, North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1DZ.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at St Peter's Church during the excavation of twenty-four auger holes in the church's crypt to determine the extent of oil contamination following a boiler leak. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 20-05-2019 End: 20-05-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/05g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	1123570 - LBS No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4336 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER t Peter's Church, North Hill, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO1 1DZ
Study area	0.26 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 99432 25238 51.889438822583 0.898477483941 51 53 21 N 000 53 54 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (CBC Archaeological Officer)
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Sarah Carter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Environmental Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	OHES Environmental Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4336
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4336
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at St Peter's Church, North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1DZ: May 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
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