

Colchester
Archaeological
Trust

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

CAT Report 1471	Parish: Colchester
St Helena School Sheepen Road Colchester Essex	Planning reference: 190581
	CHER Event no.: ECC4378
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-366605
Address: St Helena School Sheepen Road Colchester Essex CO3 3LE	Grid Reference: TL 9878 2581
	Number of site visits: 1
	Dates of visit: 3rd September 2019

Nature of the work: Searching through spoil for artefacts.

Reason for condition: The site lies within an area designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Results: The excavation of twelve test-pits to determine the presence of archaeological remains prior to the erection of a free-standing canopy was due to be monitored by a CAT archaeologist. Postholes were excavated in these locations without archaeological supervision, however, and so, as a remedial measure, CAT archaeologists searched the spoil from the groundworks to recover any artefacts.

Each of the postholes was approximately 0.3m by 0.3m and, according to the contractors who carried out the work groundworks, were excavated to a depth of 0.4-0.6m. The spoil consisted of a soft, dry light/medium grey/brown silty-sand which was presumably a levelling layer underlying the tarmac surface of the playground, and so it appears that the groundworks did not penetrate beyond modern horizons.



Photograph 1 Working shot

Two sherds of Roman pottery, nineteen sherds of Roman and post-Roman brick and tile (including a possible fragment of burnt Roman daub-brick), a secondary hand hammer flint flake and nine pieces of animal bone, including parts of a dog's proximal ulna, two cow teeth and two scapula pieces (also probably cow), were recovered.

Recorded by: Dr Elliott Hicks

Date: 12th September 2019



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 16.09.2019

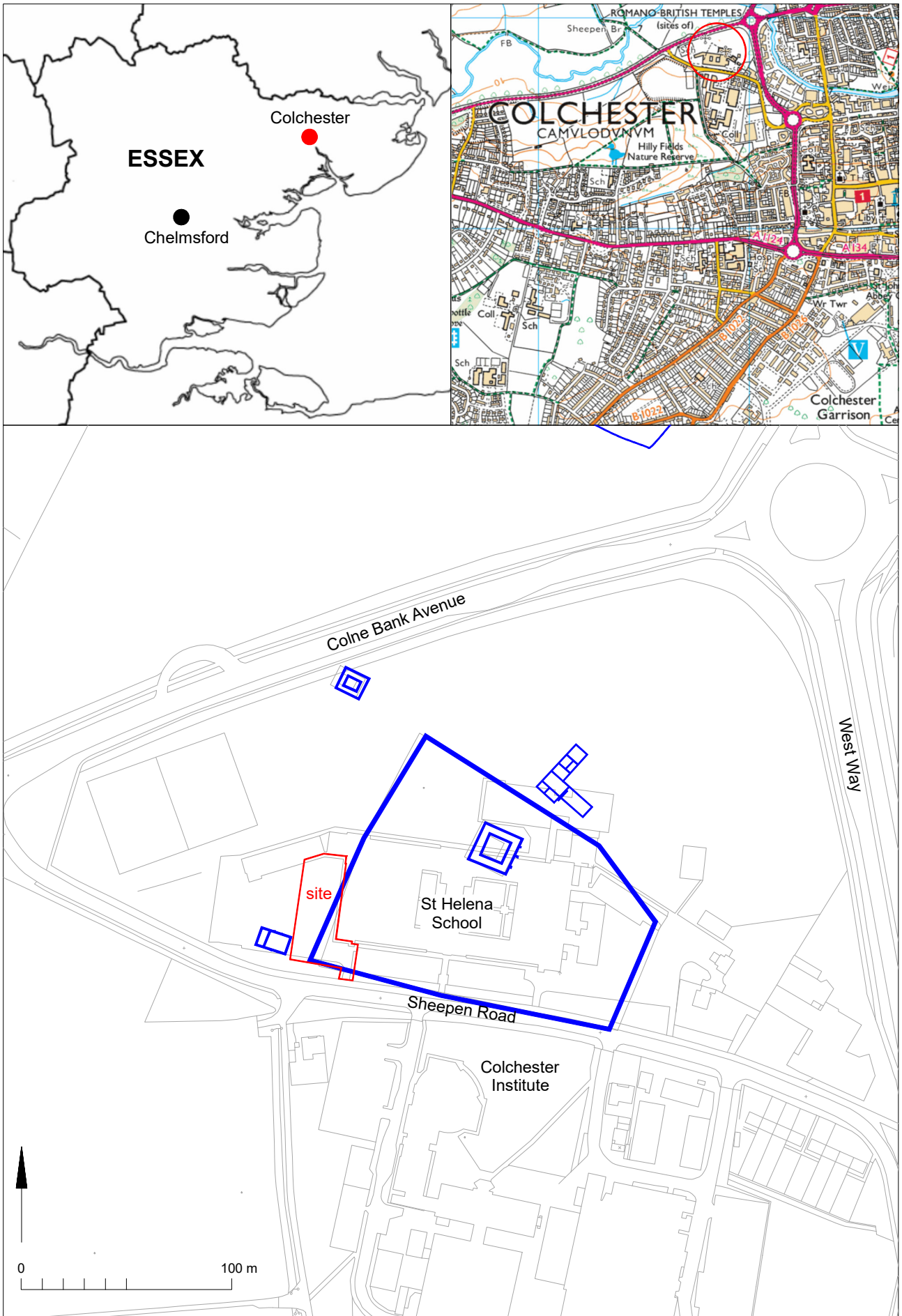


Fig 1 Site location, showing location of Roman temple complex (in blue).

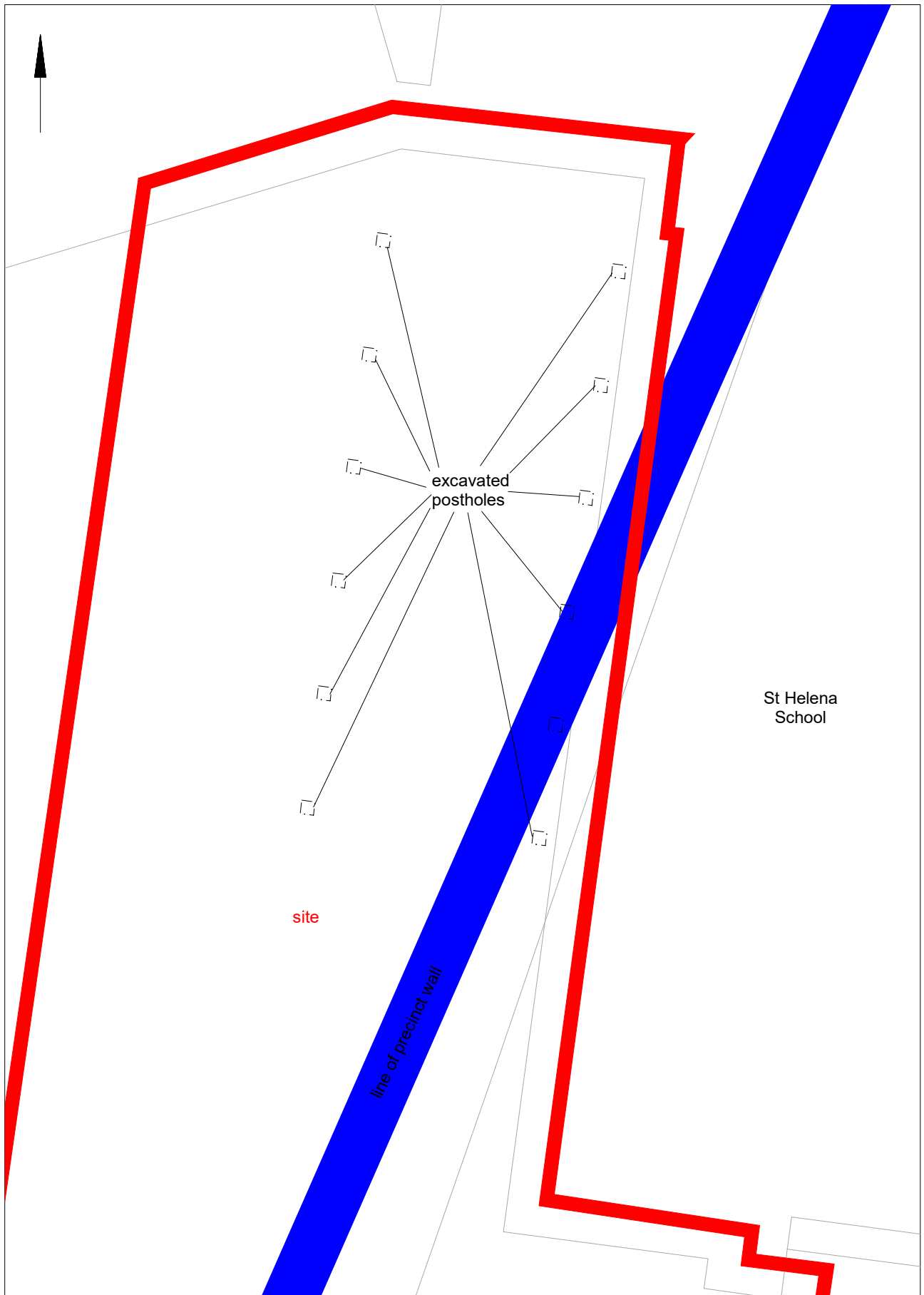


Fig 2 Posthole locations in relation to line of precinct wall.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-366605

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: September 2019
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of a series of postholes to accommodate an outdoor awning was due to be carried out at St Helena School, Colchester. The remains of a Roman temple complex are located within the site, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The projected works were undertaken without archaeological supervision, and so, as a remedial measure, archaeologists sifted through the spoil to search for artefacts. Two sherds of Roman pottery, some Roman and post-Roman brick and tile, a flint flake and animal bone were recovered. The excavations did not appear to have penetrated beyond modern horizons.
Project dates	Start: 03-09-2019 End: 03-09-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4378 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-366605 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER St Helena School
Postcode	CO3 3LE
Study area	0.09 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 9878 2581 51.894809586343 0.889344249981 51 53 41 N 000 53 21 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator HISTORIC ENGLAND

Project design originator Elliott Hicks

Project director/manager Chris Lister

Project supervisor Chris Lister

Type of sponsor/funding body School

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID ECC4378

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4378

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: September 2019

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.

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Brief for an Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

AT

St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE

APPLICATION NUMBER: 190581

GRID REFERENCE: TL 9878 25816

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: To provide a free-standing, polycarbonate canopy adjacent to the west hall of the school. The proposal also includes the addition of a serving hatch, 2no. external doors (in replace of existing windows) and also the blocking-up of an existing external door opening.

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Jess Tipper
Archaeological Advisor
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Date: 21 June 2019

Summary

1.1 In accordance with paragraph 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Local Planning Authority has attached the following condition (No. 4) relating to archaeological investigation:

No works shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.

The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment.
- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.
- d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
- e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
- f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works.

The site investigation shall thereafter be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall not be occupied or brought into use until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development, in accordance Adopted Development Policy DP14 (2010, Revised 2014) and the Colchester Borough Adopted Guidance titled Managing Archaeology in Development (2015).

- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and also Historic England's Inspector for Ancient Monuments.
- 1.3 Following acceptance by the Archaeological Advisor, it is the commissioning body's responsibility to submit the WSI to the LPA and also to Historic England for formal approval. No fieldwork should be undertaken on site without the written approval of the LPA and Historic England.
- 1.4 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.
- 1.6 Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation will be made on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

Archaeological Background

- 2.1 This proposal is located in, and has the potential to impact upon, a designated heritage asset (site of Pre-Roman Settlement, NHLE no. 1002173). There is, therefore, high potential for encountering below-ground archaeological remains at this location. Groundworks relating to the application would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist. Designated heritage assets are protected under a number of Acts of Parliament, principally the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, and Scheduled Monument Consent will be required for this project.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

- 3.1 The following archaeological evaluation work is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 Test pit evaluation is required to:
 - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should

provide for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating (radiocarbon and/or archaeomagnetic dating).

- 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.

- 3.3 Three 1.0m x 1.0m test pits are to be excavated to cover the area of the proposed development.
- 3.4 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the test pits should be included in the WSI and the detailed design must be approved by CBC and Historic England before fieldwork begins.
- 3.5 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by CBC, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 5.1 The project manager must obtain a Colchester HER Event number must be obtained from CBC's Archaeological Advisor for the fieldwork; this will be the unique reference number for the work in the Colchester HER.
- 5.2 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository (Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service) before the WSI is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition; agreement in principle for deposition should be obtained prior to approval of the WSI. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and

standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.

- 5.3 It is a policy of CBC 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. It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from the Institute of Conservation (ICON). CBC's Archaeological Advisor should be notified when the archive has been deposited Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service.
- 5.4 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.5 A copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to CBC's Archaeological Advisor and also Historic England's Inspector for Ancient Monuments for approval within three months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance.
- 5.6 The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Colchester HER. The report should present the results of the evaluation in the spatial and temporal context, relating the site to the information, including historic maps, held in the Essex Record Office.
- 5.7 The results of the evaluation must be related to the specific development proposals, and incorporate an archaeological impact assessment.
- 5.8 Following acceptance of the draft report, a .pdf digital copy (in PDF/A or PDF/Archive format) should be presented to the Colchester HER and also to Historic England.
- 5.9 A digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Colchester HER. AutoCAD files should also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).
- 5.10 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded.
- 5.11 A copy of the WSI should be appended to the report.

- 5.12 This brief remains valid for six months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Chartered Institute of Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in Colchester Borough and the archaeological advisor will provide advice on request. CBC does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

ECC4378

Site name: St Helena School		Site code: ECC4378	
Interpretation: levelling layer		Layer No. L1	
Period			
Location /grid ref			
Soil Description (circle or delete as necessary, and add other details)			
Consistence:	very loose	(soft)	friable firm hard (dry) moist wet
Colour:	very	(light) (medium)	dark yellow orange green (grey) (brown) black
Munsell (if used):	2.5YR	7.5YR	10YR
Soil type:	sand	(silt)	clay loam clay silt (sand)
Inclusions: flecks	charcoal	oyster	daub brick tile
Inclusions: pieces	gravel	%	stone %, tile/brick %, pot %, %
Recording			
Plan nos.			
sx/profile nos.			
Photos taken	pre-ex	ex	post-ex
Finds			
Bag nos.			
Small find nos.			
Sample nos.			
Notes: (can be continued overleaf)			
Matrix		Location and detail sketch	
<pre> graph TD A[] --- B[] A --- C[] A --- D[] A --- E[] B --- F[] C --- F D --- F E --- F F --- G[] F --- H[] F --- I[] F --- J[] style A fill:#fff,stroke:#000 style B fill:#fff,stroke:#000 style C fill:#fff,stroke:#000 style D fill:#fff,stroke:#000 style E fill:#fff,stroke:#000 style F fill:#fff,stroke:#000 style G fill:#fff,stroke:#000 style H fill:#fff,stroke:#000 style I fill:#fff,stroke:#000 style J fill:#fff,stroke:#000 </pre>			
Completed by: EKH	Date: 3/9/19	tick here if continued overleaf <input type="checkbox"/>	

ECC4378

Site name: St Helena School | Site code: ECC4378

Context	F	L	u/s	Find no.
Notes:	upper fill middle fill lower fill ? stratification good/poor?			1
Pottery	whole, frags	prehistoric	Roman Saxon Med Post-med Mod ?	
CBM	R Brick, R Tile	box tile, tessera	P-R brick unfrogged / frogged, Peg tile	
organics	Animal bone	Human bone, shell,	leather, wood	
other	(Flint) fe nail, R Glass, P-R glass, painted plaster, mortar, slate, clay pipe,			
Small find Δ	SF No.		SF type:	
Sample ◇	Sample No.		Sample type:	

Context	F	L	u/s	Find no.
Notes:	upper fill middle fill lower fill ? stratification good/poor?			
Pottery	whole, frags	prehistoric	Roman Saxon Med Post-med Mod ?	
CBM	R Brick, R Tile	box tile, tessera	P-R brick unfrogged / frogged, peg-tile	
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other	Flint, fe nail, R Glass, P-R glass, painted plaster, mortar, slate, clay pipe,			
Small find Δ	SF No.		SF type:	
Sample ◇	Sample No.		Sample type:	

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Small find Δ	SF No.		SF type:	
Sample ◇	Sample No.		Sample type:	

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Small find Δ	SF No.		SF type:	
Sample ◇	Sample No.		Sample type:	

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other	Flint, fe nail, R Glass, P-R glass, painted plaster, mortar, slate, clay pipe,			
Small find Δ	SF No.		SF type:	
Sample ◇	Sample No.		Sample type:	



001



002



003



004

xnview_filelisting

ECC4378_St-Helena-School-Colchester_TP_PhotographicLog

Filename With Ext	annotation
ECC4378_PhotoGraph_001.jpg	Working shot
ECC4378_PhotoGraph_002.jpg	Working shot
ECC4378_PhotoGraph_003.jpg	Working shot
ECC4378_PhotoGraph_004.jpg	Working shot