

**Archaeological evaluation on land rear of  
166 Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 9PN  
September 2020**



**by Sarah Carter**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley  
figures by Sarah Carter and Robin Mathieson

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Matthew Perou

**commissioned by Paul Cox (PMC Landscapes)  
on behalf of Tripart Developments Ltd**

NGR: TL 98316 22105 (centre)

Planning reference: 180987

CAT project ref.: 20/09d

CHER ref: ECC4556

OASIS reference: colchest3-403657



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [sc@catuk.org](mailto:sc@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1602**

October 2020

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land to the rear of 166 Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a single house. The site is approximately 500m east of the important Late Iron Age and Roman complex of Gosbecks and is directly north of a series of cropmarks known as 'site north of Birch Grove'. Three features were uncovered, two modern pits and one post-hole.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 25th September 2020 on land to the rear of 166 Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex. The work was commissioned by Paul Cox of PMC Landscapes, on behalf of Tripart Development Ltd, in advance of the construction of a single dwelling.

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). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trial Trenched Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2020).

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 field evaluation* (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 Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER), accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The development area is located to the north of an area of cropmarks known as 'site north of Birch Grove'. Interpretation of the cropmarks show numerous rectilinear features (CHER MCC8692). Within Birch Grove a Roman hearth and burial were found in 1933 (CHER MCC7670) along with a prehistoric axe (CHER MCC4843). In 1998, CAT carried out an evaluation on land for an extension to Birch Grove golf club (CAT Report 24). The evaluation revealed a straight ditch-like feature of indeterminate, but possibly early, date (Trench 2, F1). The feature lies in the western corner of a large field from which nearby cropmark evidence of linear features and ring-ditches has previously been recovered. To the south of Birch Grove is another large area of identified cropmarks at 'near Fridaywood Farm'. Features identified from the cropmarks include boundaries, linear features and clusters of faint ring-ditches to the south (CHER MCC8705).

In 2019, CAT evaluated land directly adjacent to the cropmarks, this revealed 13 features, one of possible Iron Age date and another of Late Roman or Early Anglo-Saxon date; the rest originated from the post-medieval and modern periods, or else could not be dated (CAT Report 1421). These consisted of eight ditches, a charcoal-rich pit and pits/treethrows.

The development site is approximately 500m east of the area of the important Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002180; CHER MCC7470), the site of multiple investigations including aerial photography, geophysical surveys, evaluations and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; CAR 11, 95-105; CAT Reports 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure (CHER MCC7044), possibly the farmstead of Cunobelin (CHER MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (CHER MCC7472); a Romano-British temple (CHER MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (CHER MCC7043); a Roman theatre (CHER MCC2831); a Roman water-main, possibly leading to a bath-house (CHER MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (CHER MCC2529). Many of these remains are located within Gosbecks Archaeological Park. During a watching brief undertaken by CAT in 2006 at 'Oaklyn', Layer Road (CAT Report 387), for a new ménage for horses no archaeological features were seen, but the stripping was quite shallow (between 160-440mm).

As well as Gosbecks, the site is surrounded by areas of substantial cropmarks. To the northeast cropmarks north of Baronswood Road show linear features (CHER MCC7714) and enclosures, track-ways, linears and pits (CHER MCC7635). On land east of Berechurch Road, CAT undertook a large scale evaluation in 2002 (CAT Report 207) in advance of the Garrison redevelopment project. Areas M, P and R are close to the current site. Prehistoric pits, Late Iron Age and Roman ditches and trackways were excavated in the evaluation trenches confirming features seen on the cropmarks.

#### **4 Aim**

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation was required.

#### **5 Results (Figs 2-3)**

One trial-trench, 8m long by 1.8m wide, was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The trench was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.29-0.40m thick, dark grey/brown sandy-loam with flecks of charcoal, brick and tile) and subsoil (L2, c 0.25-0.32m thick, medium yellow silty-sand with flecks of brick and tile) onto natural (L3, medium yellow/orange/brown sandy-silt). Three features were identified.

Pit F1 extended beyond the limit of excavation, but its exposed extent was 0.77m wide and 0.34m deep. F1 is dated to the early 20th century.

Undated post-hole F2 was 0.32m wide and 0.20m deep. Although no finds were recovered from F2 it is assumed to be modern due to its proximity to F1.

Pit F3 also extended beyond the limit of excavation, but its exposed extent was 0.46m wide and 0.21m deep. It is 19th to 20th century in date.



**Photograph 1** F3, looking northeast



**Photograph 2** Trench shot, looking southwest

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and CBM

*Dr. Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of post-medieval pottery with seven sherds with a weight of 280g. This material was recovered from two features:

F1 (2): one sherd (116g) of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) pottery, two sherds of yellow ware (fabric F48E) with a weight of 130g and one sherd of late slipped kitchenware (fabric F51A) with a weight of 6g. All of this material dates to the 19th-20th century.

F3 (1): three sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) pottery with a weight of 28g.

### 6.2 A gin trap and five glass bottles

*by Laura Pooley*

An iron gin trap and five glass vessels came from F1 (finds no.2). The gin trap was a mechanical device designed to catch an animal by the leg using spring operated jaws. These traps date from the late 1800s to 1958 when they were banned in the UK. This example is very corroded with the jaws rusted shut. The glass bottles (see list below) all date to the 19th and 20th centuries and include three medicine bottles (Sloan's liniment, Phosferine and Kruschen salts) and an ink bottle.

1) Complete clear glass bottle with screw lid still attached, bottled embossed SLOAN'S / LINAMENT/ MADE IN THE USA on the front, M in a circle on base. Used on horses and later people, Sloan's liniment dates from the late 19th century. The bottle is rectangular in cross-section with flattened bevelled corners and an inset rectangular panel with curved upper edge on the front. Some liniment is still in the bottle. 129mm high, 47mm wide, 29mm deep, 133g.

2) Complete blue/green glass bottle, rectangular in cross-section, three inset panels (rectangular with two semi-circular ends) and a flat back. The bottle would have been sealed with a cork. 132mm high, 46mm wide, 30mm deep, 127g.

3) Complete clear glass bottle, round in cross-section, the bottle would have been sealed with a cork. Embossed PHOSFERINE, phosferine was marketed as a cure-all tonic in the early 20th century. 106mm high, 27mm diameter, 44g.

4) Virtually complete, blue glass, cylindrical ink bottle with slight damage to neck and rim. 75mm high, 50mm diameter, 90g. 19th-20th century.

5) Complete, brown glass, cylindrical bottle with tin screw lid. Base embossed KRUSCHEN / 10 / SALTS. Kruschen salts were sold as a digestive aid/laxative. 64mm high, 46mm diameter, 104g. Early 20th century.

The only other piece of metal recovered from the evaluation was a small fragment of iron (0.7g) from F3 (finds no.1).

## 7 Conclusion

Despite being in area of high archaeological potential for Iron Age and Roman deposits, evaluation at this site revealed only two modern pits and one probable modern post-hole.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks to Paul Cox of PMC landscapes and Tripart Developments for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by

N Rayner with M Perou. Figures are by S Carter and R Mathieson. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr 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	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II, by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy</i>
CAT	2020	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2020	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation on land rear of 166 Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9PN</i>
CBCAA	2020	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land Rear Of 166 Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9PN, by J Tipper</i>
CAT	2020	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 24	1998	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land adjoining Birch Grove Golf Club, Layer Road, Colchester. By C Crossan</i>
CAT Report 207	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on Areas DR, G, M, P, Q, R, RO, S and T at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex: May-September 2002. By H Brooks</i>
CAT Report 387	2006	<i>Archaeological watching brief at 'Oaklyn', Kingsford, Layer Road, Colchester. By K Orr</i>
CAT Report 1421	2019	<i>Archaeological evaluated on land south of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9GE: April 2019. By E Hicks</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	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)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, MR	1957	<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	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1602)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheet, sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1602)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

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 project ref. ECC4556.

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### **Distribution list:**

Tripart Developments Ltd

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

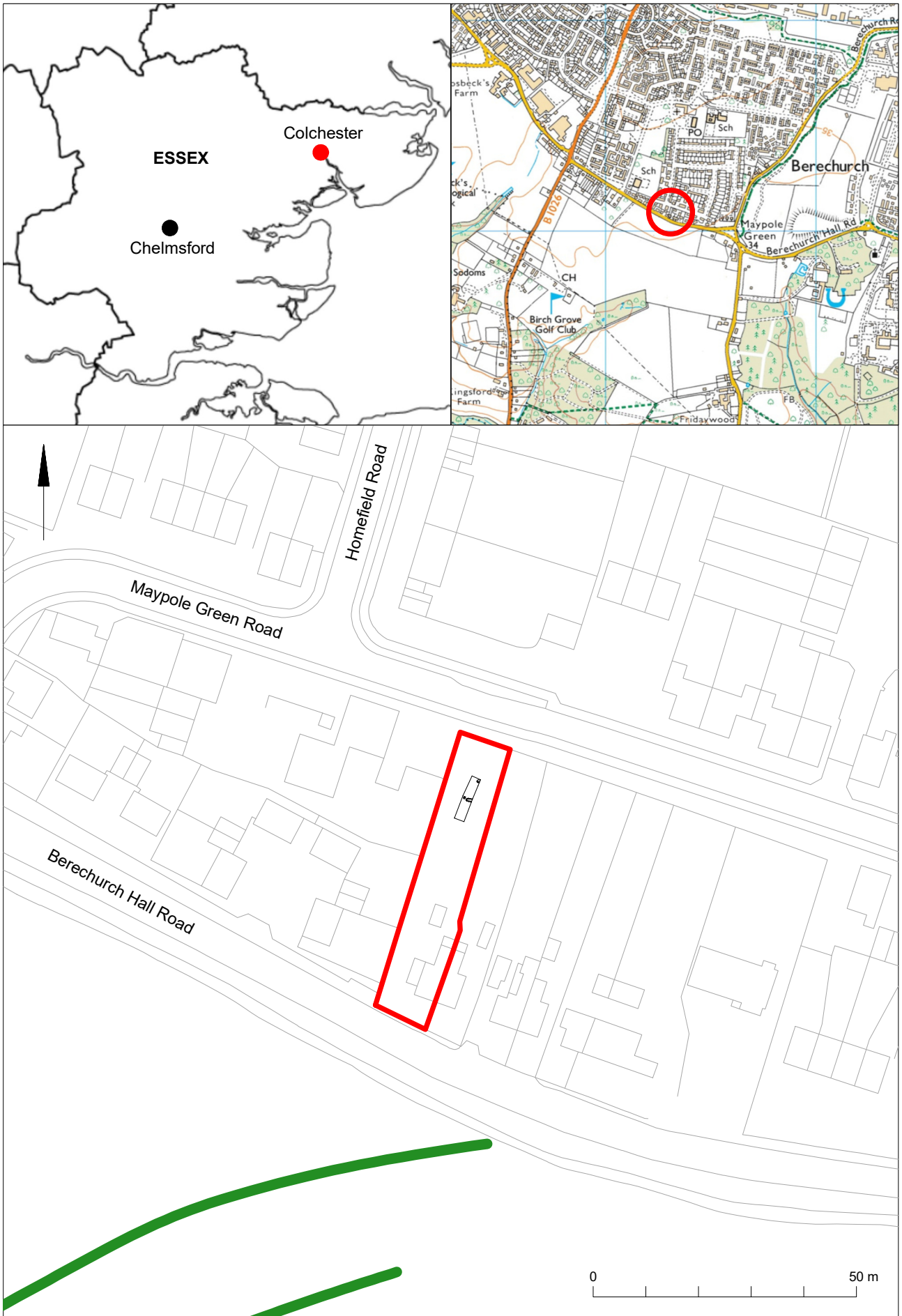
tel.: 01206 501785

email: [sc@catuk.org](mailto:sc@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 12.10.2020





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Fig 1 Site location (croplinks in green).

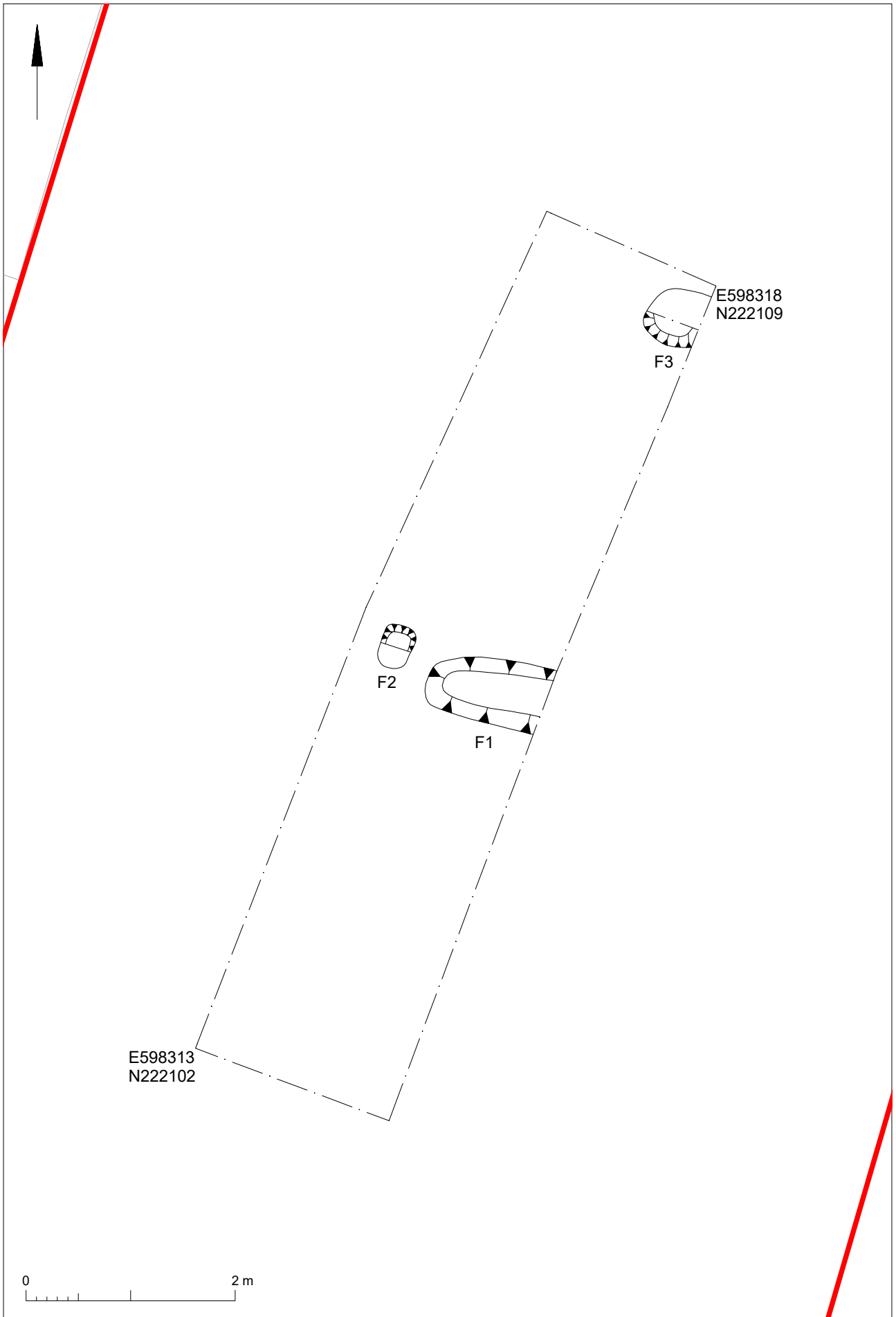


Fig 2 Results.

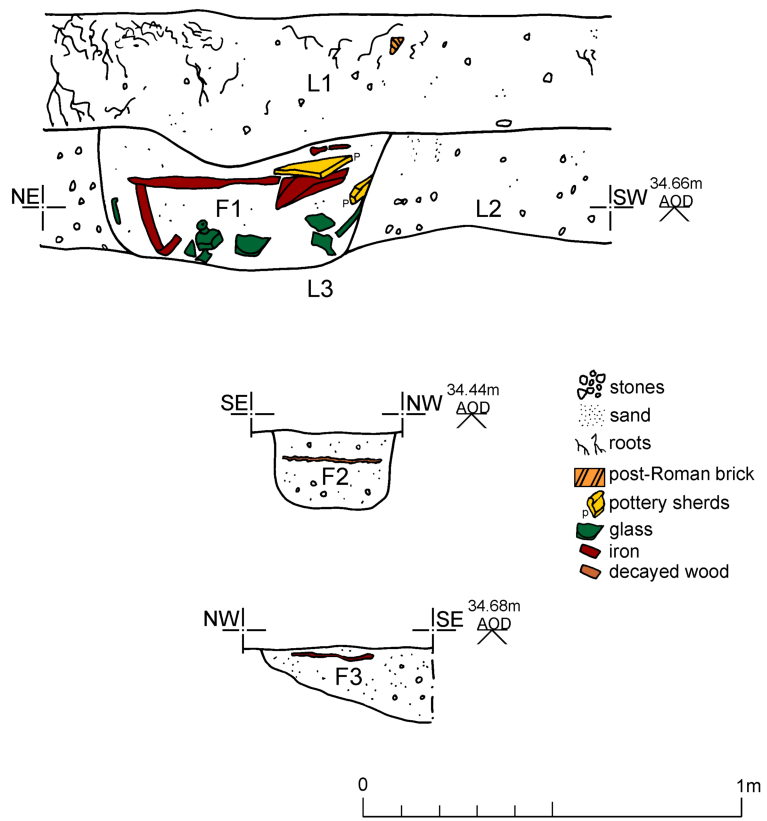


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 166 Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 3PN	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 98316 22105 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 20/09d CHER ref: ECC4556 OASIS ref: colchest3-403657
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 25th September 2020	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.002ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1602	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land to the rear of 166 Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a single house. The site is approximately 500m east of the important Late Iron Age and Roman complex of Gosbecks and is directly north of a series of cropmarks known as 'site north of Birch Grove'. Three features were uncovered, two modern pits and one undated post-hole.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Sarah Carter	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2020

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation  
on land rear of 166 Berechurch Road,  
Colchester, Essex, CO2 9PN.**

**NGR:** TL 98316 22105 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 180987

**Commissioned by:** Paul Cox (PMC Landscapes)  
**On behalf of:** Tripart Developments Ltd.

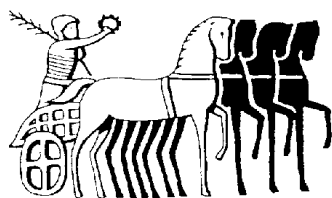
**Curating museum:** Colchester  
**CHER project code:** [tbc](#)

**CAT project code:** 2020/09d  
**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-403657

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 15/09/2020



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel:* 01206 501785  
*email:* [sc@catuk.org](mailto:sc@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located on land to the rear of 166 Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9NP (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference TL 98316 22105.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a single dwelling and associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background (Fig 1)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The development area is located directly north to an area of cropmarks known as 'site north of Birch Grove'. Interpretation of the cropmarks show numerous rectilinear features (CHER MCC8692). Within Birch Grove a Roman hearth and burial were found in 1933 (CHER MCC7670) and a prehistoric axe (CHER MCC4843). In 1998 CAT carried out an evaluation on land for an extension to Birch Grove golf club (CAT Report 24). The evaluation revealed a straight ditch-like feature of indeterminate but possibly early date (Trench 2, F1). The feature lies in the western corner of a large field from which nearby cropmark evidence of linear features and ring ditches has previously been recovered. To the south of Birch Grove is another large area of identified cropmarks at 'near Fridaywood Farm'. Features identified from the cropmarks include boundaries, linear features and clusters of faint ring-ditches to the south (CHER MCC8705).

In 2019 CAT evaluated land directly adjacent to the cropmarks, this revealed 13 features, one was of possible Iron Age date and another was of Late Roman or Early Anglo-Saxon date; the rest originated from the post-medieval and modern periods, or else could not be dated (CAT Report 1421). These consisted of eight ditches, a charcoal-rich pit and pits/treethrows.

The development site is approximately 500m east of the area of the important Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002180; CHER MCC7470), the site of multiple investigations including aerial photography, geophysical surveys, evaluations and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; *CAR 11*, 95-105; CAT Report 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure (CHER MCC7044), possibly the farmstead of Cunobelin, King of the Trinovantes (CHER MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (CHER MCC7472); a Romano-British temple (CHER MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (CHER MCC7043); a Roman theatre (CHER MCC2831); a Roman water-main, possibly leading to a bath-house (CHER MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (CHER MCC2529). Many of these remains are located within Gosbecks Archaeological Park. During a watching brief undertaken by CAT in 2006 at 'Oaklyn', Layer Road (CAT Report 387), for a new ménage for horses no archaeological features were seen, but the stripping was quite shallow (between 160-440mm).

As well as Gosbecks the site is surrounded by areas identified with substantial cropmarks. To the northeast cropmarks north of Baronswood Road show linear features (CHER MCC7714) and enclosures, track-ways, linears and pits (CHER MCC7635). On land east of Berechurch Road CAT undertook a large scale evaluation in 2002 (CAT Report 207) in advance of the Garrison redevelopment project. Areas M, P and R are close to the current site. Prehistoric pits, Late Iron Age and Roman ditches and trackways were excavated in the evaluation trenches confirming features seen on the cropmarks.

## Planning background

A planning application (180987) was submitted to Colchester Borough Council in April 2018 proposing the *erection of a single dwelling*.

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 2019).

## Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work was for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020).

The brief requires a single trial-trench located within the location of the new dwelling. The trench shall measure 8m long by 1.8m covering an area of 14.4m<sup>2</sup> (see Fig 1). The Trench will be widened in localised areas to facilitate excavation of deep archaeological features if required.

The evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, and will be completed prior to determination of the planning application. It is also required to:

- 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, condition and significance of environmental evidence
- Include a contingency for soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits. In addition, particular attention should be given to the collection of micro-remains preserved within and/or directly over floors
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Further archaeological evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

## 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 2020)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2020).

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 CHER. 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. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner/Ben Holloway

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

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

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible (see human remains section below).

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

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

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



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

### **Site surveying**

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. 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 evaluation trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

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

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

### **Human remains**

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains *in situ* (i.e. a site visit).

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, 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. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed.

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

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

## **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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

## **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.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,  
Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /  
Gwladys Monteil

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

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## **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* (HE 2015).

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 groundworks. At least two corners of which 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. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

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

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

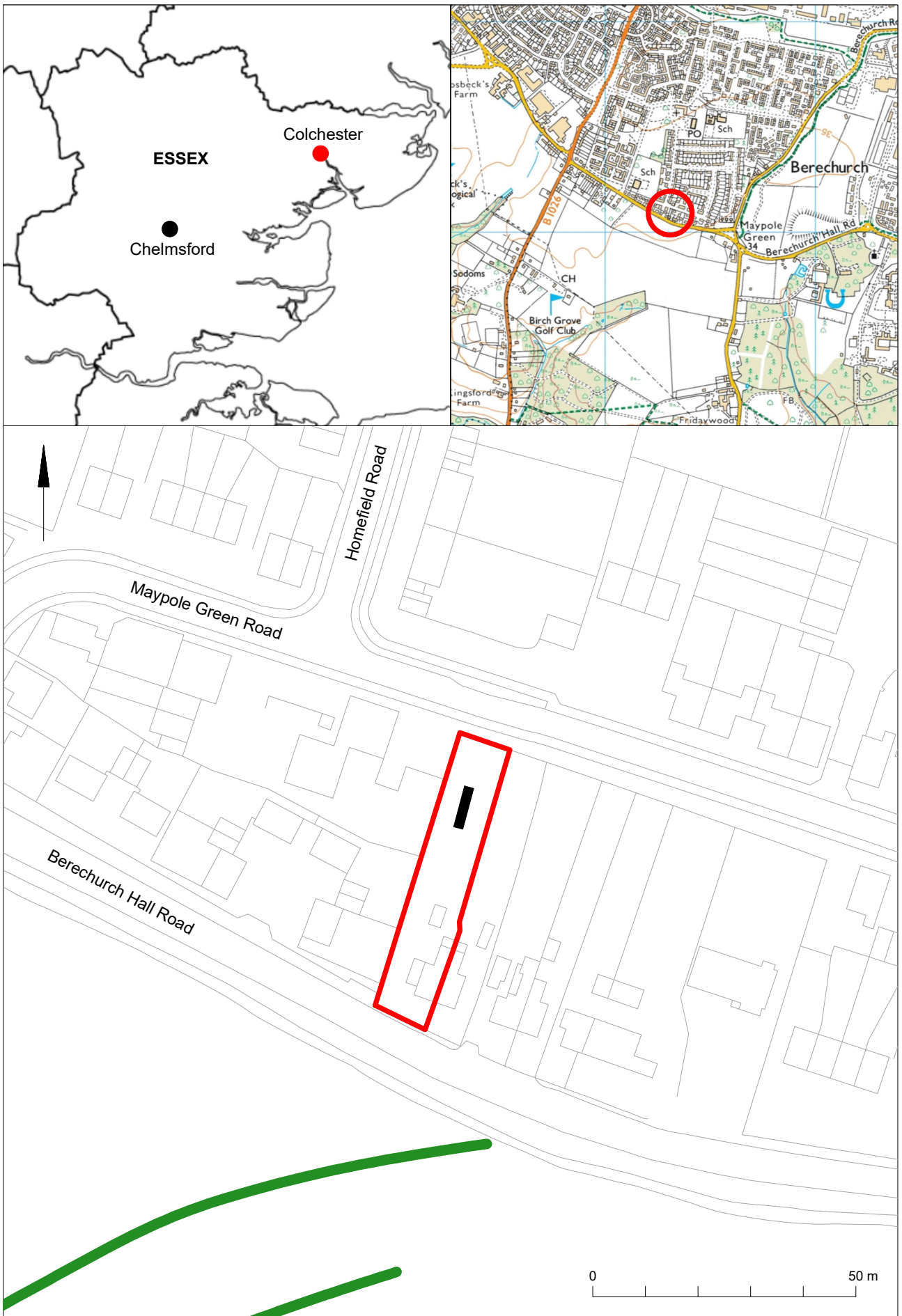
Brown, D	2011 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed.)	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II, by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy</i>
CAT	2020	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 24	1998	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land adjoining Birch Grove Golf Club, Layer Road, Colchester. By C Crossan</i>
CAT Report 30	1998	<i>Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-west area. By S Benfield</i>
CAT Report 45	1999	<i>Excavation at Gosbecks Archaeological Park: July-August 1999. By C Austin</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. by S Benfield</i>
CAT Report 207	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on Areas DR, G, M, P, Q, R, RO, S and T at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex: May-September 2002. By H Brooks</i>
CAT Report 387	2006	<i>Archaeological watching brief at 'Oaklyn', Kingsford, Layer Road, Colchester. By K Orr</i>
CAT Report 1421	2019	<i>Archaeological evaluated on land south of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9GE: April 2019. By E Hicks</i>
CBCAA	2020	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Land Rear of 166 Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, CO2 9PN. By J Tipper</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</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>
Historic England (HE)	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</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, MR	1957	<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	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

S Carter



Colchester Archaeological Trust,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785  
email: [sc@catuk.org](mailto:sc@catuk.org)



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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal (cropmarks in green).

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-403657**

## Project details

Project name	Evaluation on Land rear of 166 Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land to the rear of 166 Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a single house. The site is approximately 500m east of the important Late Iron Age and Roman complex of Gosbecks and is directly north of a series of cropmarks known as 'site north of Birch Grove'. Three features were uncovered, two pits and one post-hole, all dating from the modern period.
Project dates	Start: 25-09-2020 End: 25-09-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2020/03p - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4556 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	180987 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	POST-HOLE Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Rear of 166 Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
Postcode	CO2 9PN
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98316 22105 51.861703037624 0.880480209609 51 51 42 N 000 52 49 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 34.49m Max: 34.61m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBCAO
Project design originator	Sarah Carter
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4556
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land rear of 166 Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 2PN: September 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carter, S
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1602
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose leaf comb bound
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html</a>
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	13 October 2020

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