

# Archaeological monitoring of the phase 1 borehole programme at Vineyard Gate, Colchester, Essex January 2004

report written by  
**Don Shimmin**

on behalf of  
**Colchester Borough Council**



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**Colchester Archaeological Trust**  
12 Lexden Road,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO3 3NF

*tel.:* (01206) 541051  
*tel./fax:* (01206) 500124  
*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

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## **Contents**

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	1
5	Methods	2
6	Results	2
7	Conclusions	3
8	Acknowledgements	4
9	References	4
10	Archive deposition	5
11	Appendix 1	5
12	Appendix 2	11

Figure after p 12

EHCR summary sheet

## **List of figures**

Fig 1 Location of boreholes (BH1-BH6) and probeholes (WS1-WS10).

## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring of a series of boreholes in advance of the Vineyard Gate redevelopment produced evidence for the medieval defensive ditch to the south of the town wall. Roman, medieval and later deposits were located further south, together with more general information relating to the topographical development of the area.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 A programme of ground investigation was carried out at Vineyard Gate, Colchester, Essex (TL 9980 2497) on behalf of Vineyard Gate Developments Ltd in January 2004. This consisted of a series of probeholes at ten locations and boreholes at six locations with the objective of retrieving data for geotechnical and environmental purposes, and was co-ordinated by Waterman Environmental. As it was considered that information of broad archaeological significance could also be recovered, the relevant parts of the programme were observed and recorded by staff from the Colchester Archaeological Trust working in conjunction with the consultants Oxford Archaeological Associates.
- 2.2 The site lies on the north side of a slightly sloping valley with an underground water-course to the south which in recent times surfaced further east in the grounds of St Botolph's priory. Ground-level slopes from approximately 22.6 m OD in the north-west corner of the development area to 17.4 m OD in the south-east corner.

## 3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 The most significant previous archaeological work on the site itself was a section dug through the Roman and medieval town defences in the north-west corner of the site in 1972 (*CAR 1*, 33-5, 39-40, & 52; *CAR 3*, 70-73 & 84-5). Between approximately 7 m and 20 m to the south of the town wall was a series of Roman and medieval defensive ditches up to 5 m deep. Some 40 m east of the excavated section, a Roman brick culvert extended through the foundation of the wall (Crummy 2003, 46; Johnson *et al* 2003, 34). Another Roman culvert under the wall was recorded in 1988 in the north-east corner of the site along with the possible northern edge of the medieval town ditch (Benfield 2004, 4-9).
- In addition to the demolished medieval Bastion 8 excavated in 1972, Bastion 7 survives relatively intact immediately to the east of the 1988 site. In the stretch of town wall along the northern edge of the area, there is evidence for the re-facing of the wall in c AD 1400 as well as extensive later repairs.
- 3.2 The insubstantial remains of an early post-medieval building (Building 33; *CAR 3*, 84) sealed the town ditch in the 1972 section, and there were possible traces of a medieval gravelled street to the south (*ibid*, 91; *CAR 1*, 35 & 53). These represented almost the only evidence for the development of post-Roman extra-mural settlement in the area (Johnson *et al* 2003, 35-6 & 49). The extent of terracing or other activity to the south of Vineyard Street was also unclear (*ibid*, 49-50). Only an undated deep pit or ditch in Arthur Street (*CAR 6*, 859) had been observed in 1977.
- 3.3 Archaeological evidence from beyond the south-eastern edge of the site included Roman tessellated and mosaic pavements (Hull 1958, 244; Shimmin 1994, 47-8) and possibly cremation burials (Hull 1958, 294; Johnson *et al* 2003, 35-6). Also excavated were extensive medieval and post-medieval deposits with well-preserved organic remains (Shimmin 1994, 48-57).

## 4 Aims

The objective was to gain from the programme of exploratory boreholes as much background information as possible in relation to the depth, date and complexity of the archaeological deposits. This information could then be combined with existing knowledge of the site and with the results from the on-going series of archaeological evaluation trenches in order to assess the archaeological impact of the proposed development.

## 5 Methods

- 5.1** Work began on the ten probeholes (window sample holes or WS1-10) on 12/01/04 and were concluded on the following day. The existing surfaces for the probeholes were usually broken-out by pneumatic drill. They were usually drilled to a depth of 3 m in 1 m sections and were approximately 100 mm in diameter (Waterman 2003, 4); several were taken 4 m deep (WS1, WS5 & WS9). The arisings were subsequently laid out for inspection in the steel drilling barrels. The number of window sampling locations was reduced from 12 to 10 and were largely confined to the Vineyard Street surface car park in the northern part of the site. An additional probehole (WS11) was drilled adjacent to WS6 in order to complete the required number of probeholes fitted with gas-monitoring standpipes (WS4, WS7, WS8, WS9 & WS11); (WS11) was not observed by CAT staff. The probeholes did not encounter groundwater or deposits of London Clay.
- 5.2** The six boreholes (BH1-BH6) were drilled between 15/01/04 and 30/01/04 and were more evenly spaced-out across the site. They ranged in depth from 6 m (BH1 & BH4) and 10 m (BH2 & BH6) to 30 m (BH3) and 40 m (BH5), and they were 150 mm to 250 mm in diameter (Waterman 2003, 3-4). Like the probeholes, the existing surfaces for the boreholes were usually broken-out by pneumatic drill, and then the boreholes were hand-dug up to a depth of 1.2 m. The arisings were made available for inspection during drilling. Four of the boreholes were fitted with groundwater- and gas-monitoring standpipes (BH2, BH3, BH5 & BH6).
- 5.3** Each of the probeholes and boreholes were monitored continuously up to the depth limit of the archaeological deposits. The arisings were logged on site on CAT pro forma sheets and were described in terms of parameters such as depth, colour, texture and inclusions. Soil colour was determined with reference to Munsell soil colour charts on moist samples. A digital photographic record was also kept. Copies of the driller's logs were also made available to CAT together with the engineer's survey data and measurements from the groundwater-monitoring standpipes.

Ground conditions were typically moist. No waterlogged or organic-rich archaeological deposits were encountered and samples were not taken for palaeoenvironmental analysis. A small quantity of finds was retained (see Appendix 2).

## 6 Results (Fig 1)

- 6.1** A summary of the site records for the individual probeholes and boreholes is given in Appendix 1. The results are discussed in terms of three broad zones across the site (Johnson *et al* 2003, 48).
- 6.2** There were limitations on the archaeological information which could be extracted from this type of ground investigation. For example the arisings from the probeholes were subject to compression and distortion and there were often gaps in the soil columns within the steel barrels. In some cases the columns were incomplete as natural sand and gravel was not conclusively reached (eg WS1, WS7 & WS8).

Similarly the boreholes yielded a succession of soil samples rather than detailed stratigraphical sequences. Apart from the occasional chance find or the close proximity of an archaeological evaluation trench, most of the deposits encountered remain undated.

### 6.3 Defensive zone

- 6.3.1** The zone of the town defences extended approximately 20 m south of the town wall and included WS1, WS2, WS5, WS7, WS8, BH2 and BH4. In most of these there was a thick layer of post-Roman topsoil or 'dark earth' (eg WS1 & BH2). Groundwater and London Clay were encountered only in BH2 in this zone.
- 6.3.2** Probable evidence for the medieval town ditch was located in WS1 and WS8. This consisted of 'dark earth' in the backfilled ditch which in WS1 was confirmed as being over 4 m deep. The probable southern edge of the ditch was found in WS5, while the northern edge may have been clipped in WS2 and WS7. However, there was no definite evidence for a Roman defensive ditch although one was possibly located at close to 4 m deep in WS5.

**6.3.3** In the area of the berm up to 7 m south of the town wall, there were also extensive deposits of 'dark earth' up to approximately 3 m deep (WS2, WS7, BH2 & BH4). These probably included numerous post-Roman pits.

**6.3.4** Other evidence for post-Roman activity included a possible daub floor in WS7 and brick foundations or make-up in WS2 and BH4. These probably belonged to buildings on the north side of Vineyard Street and illustrate the overlap between the defensive zone and the zone of extra-mural settlement to the south following the silting-up of the town ditch (*ibid*, 33).

#### **6.4 Vineyard Street zone**

**6.4.1** The Vineyard Street zone extended approximately from 20 m south of the town wall to 35 m south of the wall and included WS3, WS4, WS6, WS9, BH3 and BH6. Groundwater and London Clay were encountered in BH3 and BH6.

**6.4.2** Deposits of 'dark earth' were less marked than in the defensive zone although there were extensive post-Roman rubble and sandy make-up layers especially over the eastern part of the zone (eg WS3, WS6, WS9 & BH6). These were largely undated but appeared to relate to episodes of post-medieval and modern development. The sandy element suggests they may have been dumped during terracing further down the slope to the south.

**6.4.3** Pre-dating these make-up layers was a series of dump or pitfill deposits located above natural, notably in WS3, WS6, WS9 and BH3. The deposits appeared most extensive in BH3 where a small quantity of late medieval sherds were recovered from the lower levels (see Appendix 2). Whether these deposits were all broadly contemporary was unclear, although they seemed likely to have related to extra-mural settlement nearby.

**6.4.4** Nothing definitely Roman was uncovered in this zone although some of the early deposits outlined in section 6.4.3 could have been Roman. There was also no clear evidence for post-Roman buildings or street metalling despite the location of medieval and later extra-mural settlement in the area (*ibid*, 36).

#### **6.5 Osborne Street zone**

**6.5.1** The southernmost zone extended down the slope to Osborne Street from approximately 35 m south of the town wall to over 100 m south of the wall. There was a significant drop in level from Vineyard Street down into this zone, notably at the rear of properties on the west side of St Botolph's Street and on the north side of Osborne Street and in Arthur Street. Located in this zone were BH1 and BH5, while WS10 was sited in a former alleyway into Vineyard Street. Groundwater and London Clay were encountered only in BH5.

**6.5.2** In BH5 there was a layer of 'dark earth' over 2 m thick from which was recovered a small quantity of post-medieval finds (see Appendix 2). These deposits appeared to consist mainly of post-medieval and modern topsoil and pits, and the surrounding area had presumably been terraced during the construction of Osborne Street and Arthur Street in the mid 19th century (*ibid*). However, it is clear from the evaluation trenches that substantial deposition also occurred in this zone and that Roman as well as later remains do survive stratified in or below 'dark earth' (CAT archive report forthcoming).

**6.5.3** A layer of dump or pitfill 1.2 m thick was found above natural in BH1. This was probably contemporary with a large Roman rubbish pit of possible 2nd-century date excavated in an archaeological evaluation trench immediately to the west (CAT archive report forthcoming). It was unclear whether these deposits were closely associated with an area of extra-mural settlement.

**6.5.4** Several post-medieval/modern layers of brick rubble in WS10 were possibly the remains of one or more *in situ* foundations, although it seems likely that the levels in this area had been much reduced during the building of Vineyard Gate in the 1970s.

## **7 Conclusions**

**7.1** Despite the difficulties associated with the data derived from the probeholes and boreholes they provided glimpses into the archaeological potential of the redevelopment area.

**7.2** The evidence from the defensive zone confirmed the significant depth and extent of deposits notably in the medieval town ditch, although it did little to throw light on possible earlier defensive phases.

- 7.3 While demonstrating considerable 19th-/20th-century activity in the Vineyard Street zone, the probeholes and boreholes indicated that extensive medieval and later deposits such as middens and pits could survive well even though structural remains may be slight.
- 7.4 The extent of terracing and erosion in the southernmost zone and its effect on Roman and later remains is still far from certain. However, the substantial Roman deposits located in the south-west corner of the site indicated that Roman material cannot be assumed to be confined to ribbon development along the St Botolph's Street frontage.
- 7.5 The data on groundwater levels showed fluctuations of over 4 m across the site but always above the top of the London Clay which lay at approximately 13-14 m OD. There was no evidence for waterlogged archaeological remains from the probeholes or boreholes and it seems likely that organic-rich deposits are confined to the south-east corner of the site.

## 8 Acknowledgements

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The co-operation of the engineers and drillers both on site and subsequently was also much appreciated, especially Áine O'Brien of Waterman Environmental and Sean Wheeliker of Ian Farmer Associates.

## 9 References

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**10 Archive deposition**

The project archive, including the site records, photographs and finds, will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code COLEM 2004.10.

**11 Appendix 1:**

Summary site records for probeholes (WS1-WS10) and boreholes (BH1-BH6). Note: bgl = below ground-level.

**WS1 12/01/04**

Ground-level: 21.99 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.15	tarmac	car-park surface
0.15-0.25	brownish-yellow sand	modern make-up
0.25-1.0	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam, abundant small-medium gravels, moderate concrete & brick fragments	post-medieval/modern make-up
1.0-2.0	brown (10YR 5/3) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, charcoal & mortar flecks & small brick/tile fragments inc peg-tile fragment, sparse oyster shell fragments	medieval/post-medieval topsoil/pitfill
2.0-3.0	brown (10YR 5/3) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels & charcoal flecks, sparse mortar & oyster shell fragments	medieval ditchfill
3.0-4.0	dark brown (10YR 4/3) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, oyster shell fragments & charcoal & mortar flecks, sparse brick/tile fragments	medieval ditchfill

**WS2 12/01/04**

Ground-level: 22.24 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.15	tarmac	car-park surface
0.15-0.25	brownish-yellow sand	modern make-up
0.25-0.5	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, sparse charcoal, mortar & brick flecks	modern make-up
0.5-2.0	abundant red brick fragments with occasional mortar fragments	post-medieval/modern foundation/make-up
2.0-2.8	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels & brick & mortar fragments	medieval/post-medieval topsoil/pitfill/ditchfill
2.8-3.0	yellow (10YR 7/6) sand	natural

**WS3** 12/01/04

Ground-level: 21.77 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.15	tarmac	car-park surface
0.15-0.8	mixed dark brown sandy loam/loamy sand	modern make-up
0.8-1.3	brown loamy sand with moderate small-medium gravels & brick fragments	post-medieval/modern make-up
1.3-2.2	clean pale brown loamy sand	redeposited natural
2.2-3.0	pale greyish-brown silty sand, sparse small oyster shell, charcoal & brick/tile fragments	medieval/post-medieval dump/pitfill

**WS4** 12/01/04

Ground-level: 20.34 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.5	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy loam	modern topsoil
0.5-0.85	pale brown (10YR 6/3) loamy sand, moderate-abundant small-medium gravels	modern make-up
0.85-1.2	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam, brick fragments & mortar flecks	post-medieval/modern make-up
1.2-2.0	pale brown (10YR 6/3) loamy sand, moderate small-medium gravels, sparse brick & mortar flecks	medieval/post-medieval make-up
2.0-2.6	yellow (10YR 7/6) sand	natural

**WS5** 12/01/04

Ground-level: 22.17 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.15	tarmac	car-park surface
0.15-0.8	mixed greyish-brown sandy loam, abundant mortar 'dust', soft red brick fragments & small-medium gravels	modern make-up
0.8-1.5	dark greyish-brown sandy loam, small slate fragment & white ironstone sherd	post-medieval/modern topsoil/pitfill
1.5-1.75	crushed white lime mortar	medieval/post-medieval demolition debris
1.75-2.8	dark greyish-brown sandy loam, small mortar & red brick/tile fragments	medieval ditchfill
2.8-3.75	dark greyish-brown sandy loam, small oyster shell fragments	Roman/medieval ditchfill
3.75-4.0	yellowish sand, slightly mixed with layer above	?natural

**WS6** 12/01/04

Ground-level: 22.18 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.2	tarmac	car-park surface
0.2-0.55	abundant brick rubble	modern make-up
0.55-1.1	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam with pale brown (10YR 6/3) loamy sand mottles, moderate small-medium gravels, brick & mortar fragments	modern make-up
1.1-1.66	mixed brown/dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2-5/3) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels & brick fragments, sparse charcoal flecks, coal fragments & peg-tile fragment	post-medieval/modern make-up/topsoil



1.66-1.75	brownish-yellow (10YR 6/6) loamy sand, moderate small-medium gravels	post-medieval make-up
1.75-2.0	brown (10YR 5/3) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, charcoal & brick flecks	post-medieval dump
2.0-2.54	pale brown (10YR 6/3) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, oyster shell fragments, charcoal flecks	medieval/post-medieval dump/pitfill
2.54-2.56	thin lens of abundant charcoal	medieval/post-medieval dump/pitfill
2.56-2.85	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels	medieval dump/pitfill
2.85-3.0	brownish-yellow (10YR 6/6) sand, moderate small-medium gravels	?natural

**WS7** 13/01/04

Ground-level: 22.21 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.2	tarmac	car-park surface
0.2-0.45	abundant red brick rubble	modern make-up
0.45-0.6	whitish mortar fragments	modern make-up
0.6-1.0	light yellowish-brown/pale yellow (2.5Y 6/4-7/4) sandy clay loam, occasional small-medium gravels, sparse burnt daub flecks	post-medieval dump/pitfill
1.0-1.5	dark grey (10YR 4/1) sandy clay loam, abundant charcoal flecks, occasional small-medium gravels, sparse brick fragments	post-medieval dump/pitfill
1.5-1.55	light yellowish-brown (10YR 6/4) clay loam, sparse mortar flecks	post-medieval make-up/daub floor
1.55-2.0	very mixed light yellowish-brown/brown (2.5Y6/4-10YR 5/3) sandy clay loam, moderate brick, mortar & oyster shell fragments, small-medium gravels & charcoal flecks	medieval/post-medieval dump/pitfill
2.0-3.0	dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) sandy loam, moderate small-medium gravels, sparse oyster shell, burnt daub & charcoal flecks	medieval/post-medieval topsoil/pitfill/ditchfill

**WS8** 13/01/04

Ground-level: 22.32 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.2	tarmac	car-park surface
0.2-0.55	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, small brick fragments & charcoal flecks	modern make-up
0.55-1.43	mixed light brownish-grey (10YR 6/2) sandy clay loam, abundant brick & mortar fragments, moderate small-medium gravels, sparse charcoal flecks	post-medieval/modern make-up
1.43-2.0	brown (10YR 5/3) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, charcoal & mortar flecks, sparse brick/tile fragments	medieval/post-medieval topsoil/ditchfill
2.0-3.0	as above but 'cleaner' & with less inclusions	medieval ditchfill

**WS9** 13/01/04

Ground-level: 21.82 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.2	tarmac	car-park surface
0.2-1.0	abundant brick & mortar fragments, moderate gravels	modern make-up
1.0-3.65	abundant loose whitish mortar & brick fragments, moderate small-medium gravels	post-medieval/modern make-up
3.65-3.95	pale brown (10YR 6/3) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, sparse charcoal & burnt daub flecks	medieval/post-medieval dump/pitfill
3.95-4.0	yellow (10YR 7/6) sandy clay loam	?natural

**WS10** 13/01/04

Ground-level: 19.88 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.05	paving slab	pavement surface
0.05-0.75	pale yellowish-brown sand, moderate small-medium gravels	modern make-up
0.75-1.6	light brownish-grey (10YR 6/2) sandy loam, abundant brick & mortar fragments, moderate small-medium gravels	modern make-up
1.6-1.8	red brick fragments	post-medieval/modern make-up/foundation
1.8-2.5	pinkish-grey (7.5YR 6/2) sandy clay loam, abundant brick fragments, moderate small-medium gravels, mortar fragments & charcoal flecks	post-medieval/modern make-up
2.5-3.0	brownish-yellow sand, moderate small-medium gravels	natural

**BH1** 16/01/04

Ground-level: 20.53 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.13	tarmac	car-park surface
0.13-0.5	abundant brick rubble	modern make-up
0.5-1.0	pale brown/light yellowish brown (10YR 6/3-6/4) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, brick/tile, mortar & oyster shell fragments	post-medieval/modern make-up
1.0-2.0	light brownish-grey/yellowish-brown (2.5Y 6/2-6/4) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, occasional charcoal flecks, oyster shell & brick/tile fragments	Roman dump/pitfill
2.0-2.2	greyish-brown (2.5Y 5/2) sandy clay loam, occasional oyster shell fragments & charcoal flecks	Roman dump/pitfill
2.2-6.0	yellow (10YR 7/6) sand, moderate-abundant small-medium gravels	natural

**BH2 15/01/04**

Ground-level: 22.25 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation	
0.0-0.2	tarmac	car-park surface	
0.2-0.45	abundant brick rubble	modern make-up	
0.45-1.0	dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay loam, moderate brick fragments & gravels, occasional mortar fragments	d a r k  e a r t h	modern make-up/topsoil
1.0-1.5	dark grey (10YR 4/1) sandy clay loam, moderate brick & mortar fragments, gravels & oyster shell fragments		post-medieval/modern dump/topsoil
1.5-2.0	light olive-brown (2.5Y 5/4) sandy clay loam, abundant mortar fragments, moderate brick fragments & gravels		post-medieval dump/pitfill
2.0-2.5	dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay loam, moderate gravels, oyster shell & brick/tile fragments & charcoal flecks		medieval/post-medieval topsoil/pitfill
2.5-3.2	dark grey (10YR 4/1) sandy clay loam, moderate gravels, charcoal & oyster shell flecks		medieval/post-medieval topsoil/pitfill
3.2-9.2	yellow (10YR 7/6) sand, moderate-abundant small-medium gravels	natural	
8.3	standing water; water-level recorded at 4.55m bgl on 02/02/04		
9.2-10.5	grey clay	London Clay	

**BH3 20/01/04-23/01/04**

Ground-level: 21.54 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation	
0.0-0.12	tarmac	car-park surface	
0.12-0.27	brick & mortar rubble	modern make-up	
0.27-0.44	reinforced concrete	modern surface	
0.44-1.5	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam, moderate small-medium gravels, brick/tile & mortar fragments	post-medieval/modern topsoil/make-up	
1.5-3.0	pale brown/light yellowish-brown (10YR 6/3-6/4) sandy loam with brownish-yellow sandy patches, moderate gravels, charcoal flecks & oyster shell fragments, occasional undiagnostic brick/tile & mortar fragments, sparse septaria fragments	medieval/post-medieval dump/pitfill	
3.0-3.4	light brownish-grey/yellowish-brown (2.5Y 6/2-6/4) sandy clay loam, moderate-abundant oyster shell fragments, moderate gravels, sparse charcoal flecks, brick/tile & mortar fragments, & late medieval potsherds	medieval dump/pitfill	
3.4-8.6	yellow (10YR 7/6) sand, moderate-abundant small-medium gravels	natural	
7.0	approximate height of water; water-level recorded at 4.77m bgl on 02/02/04		
8.6-30.0	brown/grey clay	London Clay	

**BH4** 19/01/04

Ground-level: 22.47 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.15	tarmac	car-park surface
0.15-0.45	brown (10YR 5/3) sandy clay loam, sparse-moderate brick/tile fragments & gravels, charcoal & mortar flecks	modern make-up
0.45-0.55	abundant brick rubble	modern make-up
0.55-1.0	ceramic drainage pipe in greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam, moderate brick/tile & mortar fragments, gravels, charcoal flecks, sparse bone & slate fragments	modern service trench/make-up
1.0-1.3	abundant brick rubble	post-medieval/modern make-up/foundation
1.3-1.75	dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay loam, moderate brick/tile & mortar fragments inc small peg-tile fragment, gravels & oyster shell fragments	post-medieval topsoil/pitfill
1.75-3.0	greyish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam, abundant mortar flecks & small fragments, moderate gravels, brick/tile & oyster shell fragments, charcoal flecks	medieval/post-medieval dump/pitfill
3.0-6.0	yellow (10YR 7/6) sand, moderate-abundant small-medium gravels (driller's log recorded 3.0-3.5m bgl as made ground)	natural

**BH5** 26/01/04-29/01/04

Ground-level: 17.67 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.3	concrete	modern surface
0.3-0.45	abundant brick & mortar fragments, gravels	modern make-up
0.45-2.1	dark greyish-brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay loam, moderate brick & mortar fragments, small-medium gravels, sparse charcoal flecks, oyster shell & bone fragments, clay pipe stem fragment & post-medieval sherd	<i>d</i> <i>a</i> <i>r</i> <i>k</i> post-medieval/modern topsoil/pitfill
2.1-2.5	brown (10YR 5/3) sandy clay loam, moderate-abundant small-medium gravels, sparse-moderate charcoal flecks, sparse oyster shell fragments	<i>e</i> <i>a</i> <i>r</i> <i>t</i> <i>h</i> medieval/post-medieval topsoil/pitfill
2.5-4.8	yellowish sand, moderate-abundant small-medium gravels (driller's log recorded 2.1-4.8m bgl as made ground with a chemical odour - possibly hydrocarbons)	natural
4.0	water, rose to 3.4 m bgl in 20 mins; water-level recorded at 2.97m bgl on 02/02/04	
4.8-38.3	mainly brown/grey clay	London Clay

**BH6** 19/01/04-20/01/04  
Ground-level: 20.97 m OD.

Depth (m)	Description	Provisional interpretation
0.0-0.2	concrete	modern surface
0.2-1.75	abundant brick rubble	modern make-up
1.75-2.8	light brown (7.5YR 6/4) sandy clay loam, abundant brick & mortar fragments	post-medieval/modern make-up
2.8-6.9	yellow (10YR 7/6) fine-medium sand (driller's log recorded 2.8-3.4m bgl as possible made ground)	natural
6.5	water; water-level recorded at 5.45m bgl on 02/02/04	
6.9-10.5	brown/grey clay	London Clay

## 12 Appendix 2:

List of finds (COLEM 2004.10)  
by Howard Brooks

Pottery fabric codes and descriptions follow those used in *CAR 7*.

Bag	Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Find type	Date
1	WS8: 1.83m deep	1	70	unidentified brick/tile	post-medieval or modern
2	BH3: 3-3.5m deep	6	9	reduced sherds, probably Fabric 21 or 21a	AD 1200-1550
2	BH3: 3-3.5m deep	3	16	sherds Fabric 20	AD 1250-1400, poss 1500
3	BH5: 1-2 m deep	1	7	clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment	according to graph in Clark 2001, this bore of 2.6mm would date to approximately AD 1720
3	BH5: 1-2 m deep	1	2	sherd of Surrey-Hampshire Border white ware (Fabric 42)	AD 1550-1700

### Comment

The find from BH1 is not identified. The group from BH3 is of late medieval date, probably 14th or 15th century. BH5 finds are probably early 18th century in date.

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### Distribution list:

Waterman Environmental  
Oxford Archaeological Associates  
Philip Wise, Colchester Museums  
Essex Heritage Conservation Record (EHCR), Essex County Council



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

12 Lexden Road,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051

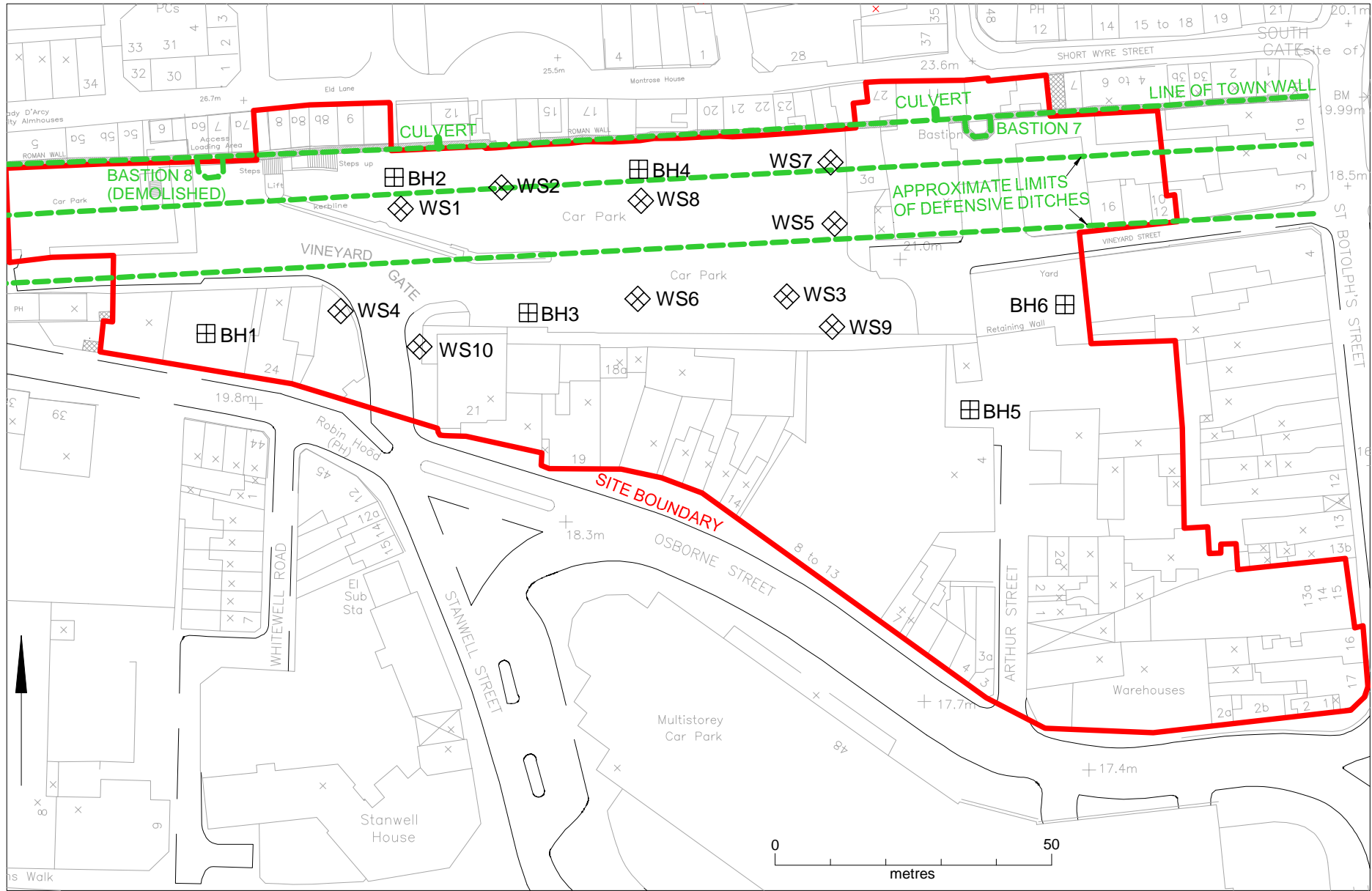
tel./fax: (01206) 500124

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

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 01.03.04

Adams c:/reports04/vineyard/report262.doc



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Fig 1 Vineyard Gate Colchester: location of boreholes (BH1-6) and probeholes (WS1-10).

**Essex Heritage Conservation Record/  
Essex Archaeology and History**

**Summary sheet**

<b>Site address:</b> Vineyard Gate, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> St Botolph's, St Giles' & Holy Trinity, Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester Borough
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9980 2497	<b>Site code:</b> VIN (Museum accession code 2004.10)
<b>Type of work:</b> Borehole monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> January 2004	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 1 ha
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Colchester Borough Council
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related EHCR nos:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 262 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <i>Archaeological monitoring of a series of boreholes in advance of the Vineyard Gate redevelopment produced evidence for the medieval defensive ditch to the south of the town wall. Roman, medieval and later deposits were located further south, together with more general information relating to the topographical development of the area.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of summary:</b> D Shimmin	<b>Date of summary:</b> March 2004