

An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE

August - September 2015



by Laura Pooley

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
figures by Mark Baister and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway,
Emma Holloway and Emma Sanford

on behalf of Max Chapman, Ingleton Wood

Planning reference: 130535

CAT project ref.: 15/08d

NGR: TL 989 258 (centre)

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.20

UAD ref: ECC3718

OASIS reference: colchest3-244090



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
off Circular Road North,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 916

February 2016

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Results	2
5	Finds	6
6	Discussion	8
7	Acknowledgements	9
8	References	9
9	Abbreviations and glossary	10
10	Contents of archive	10
11	Archive deposition	10
Appendix 1 Finds Catalogue		12
Appendix 2 List of Archaeological Projects at St Helena		15

Figures after p19

CAT WSI
OASIS Summary

List of tables, photographs and figures

Cover: general site shot

Table 1	Types of find	6
Table 2	Pottery fabrics	7
Photograph 1	Slab clearance, looking SW	2
Photographs 2-3	Gas trench, looking E and representative section, looking S	3
Photograph 4	Gas trench, F3 in foreground, F2 in centre of trench, looking SW	4
Photograph 5	Electricity trench, looking E	4
Photographs 6-7	Portico wall foundation F1 in main trench (left, looking SE) and spur (right, looking NW)	5
Photographs 8-9	Drainage trenches, looking E and NE	5
Photograph 10	Gravel surface L4, looking NE	6
Photograph 11	Manhole representative section, looking E	6
Fig 1	Site location	
Fig 2	Monitored services (green) in relation to previous work	
Fig 3	Patches of gravel (L4) observed during monitoring	
Fig 4-5	Sections	
Fig 6	Pottery with stamp detail	

1 Summary

St Helena School lies on the eastern side of the nationally important Late Iron Age and early Roman site of Sheepen, which is the northern focus of the oppidum of Camulodunum. It is also the location of two Romano-British temples.

Groundworks included the clearance of ground slabs (covering 690m²) and the excavation of 222m of service trenches (gas, electric and drainage) around the perimeter of the existing school buildings. Part of the foundation of the north side of the outer precinct wall of Temple 2 was revealed along with patches of a gravel surface within the precinct. Trenches to the west of Temple 2 revealed two large Roman pits probably associated with the temple complex.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out in August-September 2015. The work was commissioned by Max Chapman of Ingleton Wood in advance of infrastructure work associated with the demolition of two old class blocks and a new science and food technology building, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Chris Lister advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2014), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2014).

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

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

St Helena School is in an area of high archaeological importance. It is within the enclosed *oppidum* of *Camulodunum* - a nationally important late Iron Age and Roman fortress whose 12-square-mile extent is now occupied by modern Colchester.

Camulodunum had two principal centres. One was at Gosbecks (the farmstead and possible home of Cunobelin) and the other was at Sheepen (the trading depot and quayside). St Helena School is located on the northern side of Sheepen, and part of the site (and school) is a Scheduled Monument (no. 1002173) (EHER 11673).

St Helena School shares a site with two Romano-Celtic temples (Colchester Temples 2 & 3, Crummy 1980) (Figs 1-2). These temples were first discovered in 1935 during excavations prior to the construction of the school and the Colchester bypass (now the 'Avenue of Remembrance'). One of the temples (Temple 2) lies underneath the northern edge of the main school buildings, while a second, much smaller temple (Temple 3) lies beneath the boundary of the north edge of the school grounds and the Avenue of Remembrance (EHER 11684 and 13126).

Apart from the major excavation in the 1930s, there have been many small-scale archaeological projects at St Helena. These projects confirm the presence of extremely important archaeological remains at St Helena. A complete list of recent projects at St Helena is given as Appendix 2 to this report. The Roman remains are not deeply-buried, and are susceptible to damage from modern construction.

Excavations in 2014 (CAT Reports 699 & 825) prior to the construction of the science and technology block exposed the Temple 2 precinct wall, a possible shrine, and a large possible 'votive' pit containing a hoard of Roman coins.

4 Results (Figs 2-6)

The contractor carried out all groundworks under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Clearance of ground slabs (approximately 690m²) (Fig 2)

The former science block (to the east) and food technology block (to the west) had already been demolished prior to archaeological work taking place. The ground slabs underneath these buildings had been left in place and the watching brief took place during their removal. There was no deep excavation involved. The slabs were broken up *in situ*, removed and the ground levelled to reveal a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2). No archaeological features were observed. Residual Roman building material (CBM) was noted but not retained.

A gas trench was excavated through the footprint of the west block before topsoil and turf was laid (see below), and an electricity trench was excavated through the footprint of the east block before the staff car park was extended (see below).



Photograph 1 Slab clearance, looking SW

Gas Trench (100m of trenching) (Fig 2 & 4)

A trench was excavated to connect the new science and food technology block to the gas supply. It measured 450mm wide and c 600mm deep.

Approximately 40m of trenching was dug within the precinct of Temple 2. Two layers were identified. Modern turf and topsoil (L1, c 270-300mm thick) sealed a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2, c 400mm thick), which sealed natural sand and gravel (L5). A lot of modern disturbance was identified but no significant archaeological features or finds were revealed. The gas pipe was diverted above ground for c 20m to ensure that a trench was not dug through the precinct wall of Temple 2.



Photographs 2-3 Gas trench, looking E and representative section, looking S

Approximately 38m of trenching was dug within the footprint of the cleared former food technology block (to the west of the school). Two layers were identified: L2 (c 380-400mm thick) sealed L5.

Approximately 32m of trenching was dug through modern tarmac and crush (c 200mm thick) onto L2 (c 400mm thick). Two pits (F2 and F3) containing Roman pottery and animal bone were identified cut into natural (L5). They were both large features measuring 4m and 2m across respectively. Neither was fully excavated.

A lot of residual Roman material was recovered from L2.



Photograph 4 Gas trench, F3 in foreground, F2 in centre of trench, looking SW

Electricity Trench (40m of trenching) (Fig 2 & 4)

A trench was excavated within the footprint of the cleared former science block (to the east of the school) to re-route existing cables. It measured 450mm wide and 600mm deep. Most of the trench was excavated inside the precinct of Temple 2.



Photograph 5 Electricity trench, looking E

Two layers were identified. A post-Roman accumulation horizon (L2, c 380mm thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L5). The only archaeological feature identified was

located towards the east end of the trench. Foundation F1 was cut into natural. It measured c 400-550mm wide and formed part of the remains of the north side of the outer precinct wall of Temple 2. It was identified again in a spur to the trench. A small fragment of foundation was also found loose within the trench and had probably been disturbed during the construction of drainage trenches for the 1930s school buildings.



Photographs 6-7 Portico wall foundation F1 in main trench (left, looking SE) and spur (right, looking NW)

Drainage and electricity installation (82m of trenching) (Fig 3 & 5)

Seven drainage trenches with three manholes and an electricity trench were excavated to link the new science and food technology building (immediately to the north) to existing infrastructure. They were all located within the precinct of Temple 2.



Photographs 8-9 Drainage trenches, looking E and NE

The trenches measured 450mm wide and 600mm deep. They were dug through modern turf and topsoil (L1, c 300-340mm thick) sealing a post-Roman accumulation horizon (L3, c 250mm thick). Several patches of compacted gravel were identified beneath L3 (L4, at least 50mm thick). These intermittent gravel patches were also recorded during the 2014 excavation of the new science and food technology building

(CAT Report 825), where they were identified as part a gravel surface within the temple precinct.



Photograph 10 Gravel surface L4, looking NE

The manholes were dug to a depth of approximately 1200mm deep. They were also dug through L1 (c 300-340mm thick) sealing L3 (c 250mm thick), which sealed natural sand and gravel (L5). Natural was encountered at a depth of 1005mm below modern ground level.



Photograph 11 Manhole representative section, looking E

A lot of residual Roman material was recovered from L3.

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Finds, consisting primarily of pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) of Late Iron Age/Early Roman and Roman date, were recovered together with a small quantity of animal bone. All of the find types are listed and quantified in Table 1.

Finds type	No.	Wt/g.
Pottery	95	10740
CBM	13	1879

Finds type	No.	Wt/g.
Animal bone	21	385

Table 1 Types of find

The pottery was recorded (quantified) by fabric and is listed in Table 2. The pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester Roman fabric series (*CAR 10*). Pottery vessel forms refer to the Camulodunum Roman pottery type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947, Hull 1958). All of the pottery is listed by context in the finds appendix.

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	Wt/g.
<i>LIA & Roman</i>			
AA	Amphora (general) other than Dressel 20	4	288
AJ	Amphorae, Dressel 20	26	7695
BAMV	Les Martres de Veyre plain samian	2	50
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	2	218
BSW	Black surface wares	7	98
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	10	131
GA	Black-burnished ware Type 1	1	18
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	10	121
HZ	Large storage jars in heavily-tempered fabrics	2	63
HZ(G)	Grog-tempered large storage jars	23	1301
TZ	Mortaria, buff fabric mortaria primarily from Colchester	6	730
UR	<i>Terra nigra-type wares</i>	1	18
WA	silvery micaceous greywares	1	9
<i>Total</i>		<i>95</i>	<i>10740</i>

Table 2 Pottery fabrics

Discussion

All of the closely-dated finds are of Late Iron Age/Early Roman and Roman date. These were recovered from layers consisting of modern topsoil (L1) and earlier accumulation (L2 & L3) and from the fill of pits (F2 & F3). The pottery and other finds associated with the two excavated features indicate that both date to the Roman period with F3 dating to no earlier than the mid-late 1st century and F2 dating no earlier than late 1st-early 2nd century.

Pottery

The earliest closely dated pottery consists of a base sherd from a *terra nigra*-type platter, sherds from two early wall-sided mortaria (Cam 191) and sherds from grog-tempered storage jars/large jars. These are comparable with pottery among the large assemblage recovered from the Sheepen site dated to the period c 5 BC-60/61 AD (Hawkes & Hull 1947). However, apart from the grog-tempered sherds which probably include a significant part of one pot, they only account for a small part of the pottery recovered and most of the assemblage here (although possibly overlapping with Sheepen) is, or is probably of Roman (post-conquest) date.

There are a few sherds from Roman imports consisting of finewares in samian fabrics and sherds from amphora. All of the samian appears to be of 2nd century date with two sherds from dishes (probably both form Dr 18/31) in fabric that suggests they are products of Les Martres (c 100-120 AD) and the base of a plain bowl in Central Gaulish fabric (early-mid 2nd-late 2nd century). One amphora is represented by a shoulder sherd and is possibly from a Dressel form 2-4. This might be a pre-conquest import or of Roman period 1st-early 2nd century date. The other is a Spanish oil amphora of form Dressel 20 (Fig 6). The rim and one handle form one large sherd and the handle has a stamp (**L.Q.S**) impressed on it. This is of some interest as the stamp can be relatively closely dated and this dating can be used in relation to the rim form (shape) for which a broad typological sequence has been established (Peacock & Williams 1986, Fig 65-66 - after Martin-Kicher). The rim form would suggest a date of between c AD 70-150/70,

while the stamp indicated a date toward the end of the 1st century to the early 2nd century (c AD 90-110) (Funari 1996, stamp 212).

Fig 6 F2 (4), Dressel 20 amphora, complete rim and one handle with stamp (single sherd), several other large sherds from the same pot. Complete stamp **L.Q.S** with letters separated by single small triangles. Funari (1996) Stamp 212, with several examples listed having a proposed dating within the period c AD 90-110. The latest date quoted is from Rome c AD 140-259. Pointed triangular rim profile suggests a late 1st -mid-later 2nd century date (Peacock & Williams 1986 fig 65-66 - after Martin-Kicher). (Total - 25 sherds, weight 7534 g).

Provincial and regionally traded coarseware consists of a sherd of Dorset Black-burnished ware (GA). There are also several micaceous sherds that appear among the Black surface wares (BSW) with one micaceous greyware sherd (WA). The presence of quantities of silver mica is common among Roman pottery fabrics in East Anglia and the more densely micaceous fabrics are often associated with the Wattisfield (Suffolk) Roman pottery industry, although some of this pottery may also have been made at Colchester (CAR 10 418). Among the local greyware pottery (GX) the only form recorded is the jar Cam 266, dated mid-early 2nd century, although several sherd in buff fabric (DJ) probably represent locally produced flagons.

Animal bone

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered. Among this is a small group of bone from accumulation layer L3, but which was recovered from the soil immediately sealing the Roman gravel surface L4 and is likely all to be of Roman date. The group is primarily composed of cow bones with some butchery marks and gnawing marks on surfaces. The identified bone pieces are: part of a cow mandible (adult), a cow metacarpal (unfused - juvenile/ sub-adult), a cow radius broken when fresh (probably for marrow extraction), a cow ulna with probable butchery cut marks and possible gnawing marks and a sheep radius that also has probably been gnawed. The damage suggesting gnawing of the bone indicates (canid) dog gnawing, so that dogs were either being fed with this material or were scavenging on available discarded bone.

Ceramic building material

Apart from one piece of Roman brick from pit F3, all of the ceramic building material (CBM) comes from the accumulation layers sealed by the topsoil. These consist mainly of pieces of Roman *tegula* and *imbrex* roofing tile, including one in a white/cream fabric. There is also one *tessera* floor cube that retains traces of the white mortar into which it would have been set.

6 Discussion

St Helena School is the location of two Romano-British temples first discovered and excavated by the Colchester Excavation Committee in 1935 (Hull 1958, 224-34). Present day groundworks for an electricity trench, gas trench and drainage trenches revealed significant archaeological contexts associated with 'Temple 2'. Temple 2 was a late 1st-century Romano-Celtic temple within a sacred precinct defined by an outer precinct wall (*temenos*).

The electricity trench revealed two sections of the foundation of the north side of the outer precinct wall (F1). Several sections of drainage trench also revealed intermittent patches of a gravel surface (L4). Gravel surfaces are a recurring theme at St Helena, and have been seen at several locations both inside and outside the temple precinct. All of the patches of gravel surface identified during this watching brief were located inside the precinct. For a summary of previous excavations that encountered the outer precinct wall of Temple 2 and associated gravel surfaces see Appendix 2.

Two other archaeological contexts were identified during the excavation of the gas trench to the west of Temple 2. Pits F2 (no earlier than 1st-early 2nd century) and F3

(mid-late 1st century) were both large features probably associated with the temple complex.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Max Chapman of Ingleton Wood for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by CL, B Holloway, E Sanford and E Holloway. Site plans were prepared by M Baister. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

8 References

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

CAR 7	2000	Colchester Archaeological Report 7: <i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAR 10	1999	Colchester Archaeological Report 10: <i>Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by Robin Symonds and Sue Wade
CAR 11	1995	Colchester Archaeological Report 11: <i>Camulodunum II</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological excavation and monitoring and recording (a watching brief) at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex</i>
CAT Report 131	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: January-March 2001</i>
CAT Report 188	2002	<i>An archaeological watching brief on the installation of tennis court floodlights at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2002</i>
CAT Report 349	2005	<i>Report on a watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2005</i>
CAT Report 351	2005	<i>An archaeological evaluation of St Helena School Drama Block, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2005</i>
CAT Report 384	2006	<i>An archaeological excavation of a foundation trench at the drama block, St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: June 2006</i>
CAT Report 414	2007	<i>Archaeological evaluation at St Helena School: February 2007</i>
CAT Report 451	2007	<i>An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School car-park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: July-August 2007</i>
CAT Report 544	2010	<i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at St Helena School, Colchester, Essex: March 2010</i>
CAT Report 669	2013	<i>An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: April 2013</i>
CAT Report 716	2013	<i>An archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester: September 2013</i>
CAT Report 816	2015	<i>An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School: February 2015</i>
CAT Report 817	2015	<i>Heritage Statement: St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex</i>
CAT Report 825	2015	<i>Archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester: October-November 2014</i>
CAT Report 835	2015	<i>Archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed pavilion at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: May 2015</i>
CBCPS	2014	<i>Brief for Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief at St Helena School, Colchester, Essex</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Crummy, P	1980	'The temples of Roman Colchester', in <i>Temples, Churches and Religion (Recent Research in Roman Britain)</i> , ed by Warwick Rodwell,

		BAR, British Series, 77 , 242-83
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's' first Roman town</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i>
Funari, P	1996	<i>Dressel 20 inscriptions from Britain and the consumption of olive oil, with a catalogue of stamps</i> , BAR British Series 250
Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , Report 14 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , Report 20 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
Niblett, R	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum</i> , CBA Research Report 57
Peacock, D & Williams, D	1986	<i>Amphora and the Roman economy: an introductory guide</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: one box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 916)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code: 2016.20

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2016

Distribution list

Max Chapman of Ingleton Wood
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: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 15/02/2016

Appendix 1

Finds Catalogue

RBT=Roman brick and tile (general), RB=Roman brick, RT=Roman tegula, RI=Roman imbrex

Trench type	ctxt type	ctxt no.	find no	type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	no	wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
gas trench	pit	F002	4	pot	Rom	significant part of a Dressel 20 amphora, inc large sherd comprising rim and handle with stamp L.Q.S the letters separated by small triangular dots (Callendar stamp 1504, Funari stamp group 212), pointed triangular rim profile suggesting a late 1st or 2nd century date (P&W Fig 65-66 after Martin-Kicher)	AJ	D 20	25	7534		rim form indicates date c 75-150/70, stamp L1-E2C approx c 90-110 range indicated
gas trench	pit	F002	4	pot	Rom	buff fabric	DJ		3	11	*	
gas trench	pit	F002	4	pot	Rom		GX		1	7		Rom
gas trench	pit	F002	4	A bone	Rom?	bone sliver from a large mammal bone			1	2		
gas trench	pit	F003	5	pot	Rom	shoulder from an amphora, dark reddish-brown sandy fabric, poss D 2-4 or similar, poss early import (?)	AA		1	170		E/M1-E/M2C
gas trench	pit	F003	5	pot	Rom		DJ		2	48		M1-2C
gas trench	pit	F003	5	CBM	Rom	RB (1)	RS		1	201		Rom
drainage trench	topsoil	L001	1	pot	Rom	mortarium sherd, part of base & wall, buff fabric, mixed small stone grits inc pale quartz & flint - grit colours white-orange-dark grey	TZ	(mort)	1	282		M/L1-2/E3C
drainage trench	topsoil	L001	1	pot	Rom	small sherd from an amphora neck in buff fabric, poss D 2-4	AA	(amph)	1	70		E/M1-E/M2C
drainage trench	topsoil	L001	1	pot	Rom		GX		2	18		Rom
drainage trench	topsoil	L001	1	pot	Rom		HZ		1	47		M1-2C
drainage trench	topsoil	L001	1	CBM	Rom	RI piece	RS		1	151		Rom
drainage trench	topsoil	L001	1	A bone		cow tooth			1	9		
gas trench	accumulation	L002	3	pot	Rom	all part of one pot, rim and part of upper body in greyware, prob Cam 266, but shoulder not well defined	GX	Cam 266	5	45		M-L1/E2C

Trench type	ctxt type	ctxt no.	find no	type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	no	wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
gas trench	accumulation	L002	3	pot	Rom	poss all same pot	DJ	(flagon ?)	4	50		M1-2C
gas trench	accumulation	L002	3	pot	Rom	base sherd from a platter of Gallo-Belgic-type	UR	(platter)	1	18		pre-Flavian/ early-Flavian
gas trench	accumulation	L002	3	pot	Rom		GX		1	37		Rom
gas trench	accumulation	L002	3	pot	Rom	distinctly micaceous sherds from 3-4 pots - reminiscent of some Suffolk coarsewares associated with the Wattisfield industry (Suffolk Fabric GMB)	BSW		7	98		Rom
gas trench	accumulation	L002	3	pot	Rom	sandy coarse fabric with some fine mica, presumed to be amphora	AA		2	48		Rom (M1-2C?)
gas trench	accumulation	L002	3	CBM	Rom	RT flange (1) RI (1)	RS		2	88		Rom
gas trench	accumulation	L003	7	pot	Rom	part of the rim and spout of a Can 191 collared mortaria, buff fabric (diff to that in L3(6))	TZ	Cam 191	4	307		E/M1C
gas trench	accumulation	L003	7	pot	Rom	black surface, very micaceous, carinated bowl form	WA		1	9		M1-2C?
gas trench	accumulation	L003	7	pot	Rom		GX		1	14	(*)	Rom
gas trench	accumulation	L003	7	CBM	Rom	RBT	RS		1	498		Rom
gas trench	accumulation	L003	6	pot	Rom	Les-Martres or just possibly S Gaul	BAMV	18/31R	1	45		c AD 100-120
gas trench	accumulation	L003	6	pot	Rom	base from a large rounded bowl with large, plain footring, some abrasion to surfaces	BACG		2	218	(*)	2C
gas trench	accumulation	L003	6	pot	Rom	collared early mortarium rim in buff fabric	TZ	Cam 191B	1	141		E/M1C
gas trench	accumulation	L003	6	pot	LIA/R	sherds prob mostly from one large jar, some sherds with groups of combed lines on surface	HZ(G)		22	1264		E-M1C
gas trench	accumulation	L003	6	pot	Rom		DJ		1	22		M1-2C
gas trench	accumulation	L003	6	pot	Rom		AJ		1	161		M1-2/E3C
drainage manhole	accumulation	L003	2	A bone	Rom?	Small group of animal bone mostly cow, inc gnawing and butchery marks bone consists of - cow mandible (adult), cow metacarpal (unfused - juvenile/ sub-adult), cow radius broken when fresh (for marrow extraction?), cow ulna, poss cut (butchery) marks and poss gnawed, sheep radius poss gnawed, humerus frag from a large mammal			19	374		
drainage manhole	accumulation	L003	2	pot	Rom	dense, high-fired fabric	BAMV	Dr 18-18/31	1	5		c AD 100-120

Trench type	ctxt type	ctxt no.	find no	type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	no	wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
drainage manhole	accumulation	L003	2	pot	Rom	bowl	GA	(bowl)	1	18		E2-4C
drainage manhole	accumulation	L003	2	pot	LIA/R		HZ(G)		1	37		E-M1C
drainage manhole	accumulation	L003	2	pot	Rom		HZ		1	16		M1-2C
drainage manhole	accumulation	L003	2	CBM	Rom	misc pieces inc cream coloured <i>tegula</i> (RT) (base thickness 19 mm) two other similar inc finger wipe signature but thicker at c 24 mm and one other piece - again poss RT	C		4	546		Rom
drainage manhole	accumulation	L003	2	CBM	Rom	all <i>imbrex</i> (RI)	RS		3	374		Rom
drainage manhole	accumulation	L003	2	CBM	Rom	tessera (floor) cube, some traces of white mortar adhering to surfaces	RS		1	21		Rom

Appendix 2

List of archaeological projects at St Helena (taken from CAT Report 817)

From the 1930s to the 1980s

This section is based on major published works on the archaeology of Colchester by CFC Hawkes and Rex Hull (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958), and by Philip Crummy (Crummy 1980, 248-52; Crummy 1997; *CAR 11* with C F C Hawkes), supported by other records on the *Essex Historic Environment Record* (EHER) and the *Urban Archaeological Database* (CBC).

The site is located within the nationally-important late Iron Age and Roman defended fortress of *Camulodunum*. Within the 12 square miles of *Camulodunum* are two principal centres. These are at Gosbecks (the farmstead and possible the home of Cunobelin) and Sheepen (the trading depot and quayside). St Helena School is situated on the northern side of Sheepen, and part of the site (and school) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument: Essex SAM no 46.

Sheepen first came to light when the construction of the new Colchester bypass in the 1930s (Avenue of Remembrance) was preceded by extensive excavations directed by Colchester Museum Curator Rex (MR) Hull and Oxford academic Christopher (CFC) Hawkes. These excavations revealed a range of industrial activities including metal-working, enameling, pottery and tile-making, and leather-working, all enclosed within fenced compounds (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985). It was evident from the wide range of imported goods (particularly pottery) that Sheepen was a major commercial centre, and that trading vessels must have laid up at a quayside of sorts somewhere nearby. Large quantities of 1st-century imported Roman amphoras have been found at the nearby Colchester Institute (*CAR 11*, 73-77; CAT Report 131).

The school site coincides with the location of two Romano-British temples (Hull 1958). These were first discovered and excavated by the Colchester Excavation Committee in 1935 on the site then about to be developed as St Helena School (Hull 1958, 224-34). The temple site consists of a late 1st-century Romano-Celtic temple (Temple 2 in the series of Colchester Temples) within a sacred precinct defined by an outer precinct (*temenos*) wall. A much smaller Romano-Celtic temple (Temple 3) lies on the boundary between the extreme north edge of the school grounds and the Avenue of Remembrance.

Immediately north of the north wall of the *temenos* is Building 159. This was discovered in 1976 (*CAR 6*, 345-6), and although absolute proof is lacking, it is a reasonable hypothesis that it was connected with the temple site (perhaps as lodging for a priest or for visitors, or as a shop).

Since 1976, and in response to small-scale development in and around the school, there have been a large number of archaeological projects, listed fully and summarised briefly below. These have generally all revealed Roman deposits here, some of them substantial.

Recent work at St Helena School

The 1930s work has been discussed above. Here follows a list of the recent archaeological projects at St Helena. As far as can be seen from consulting *Heritage Gateway* and *Essex Historic Environment Record*, all the projects were carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust.

2002 watching brief on cables around tennis courts

Fieldwork date: March 2002

CAT project ref.: 02/3d

CIMS accession: COLEM 2002.90

NGR: TL 987 259

Report: CAT Report 188, April 2002

Summary: Observations were made during an archaeological watching brief on the digging of cable trenches around the tennis courts at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester. The trenches were being dug for new floodlights and their power cables. Two features were observed in the trenches, only one of which was certainly archaeological. There was a large number of loose finds, principally Roman tile and late Iron Age/Roman pottery of a type which has been found in adjacent Sheepen excavations.

2005 cable trench along southern school edge

Fieldwork date: 17th-26th October 2005

CAT project ref.: -

CIMS accession: COLEM 2005.127

NGR: TL 9890 2583

Report: CAT Report 349, November 2005

Summary: Scheduled Monument Consent was given for a trench to be dug along part of the southern school boundary to install a new electricity mains supply cable. The trench revealed 600-700mm of topsoil (L1) sealing a dry light brown silt subsoil (L2) which contained tile flecks. Roman pottery, tile, and post-medieval peg-tile and animal bone came from L1 and the top of L2. Contractors retrieved a 3rd-century Roman coin from the western end of the trench. No features were observed. The presence of a small amount of Roman material is to be expected, though the trench was not deep enough to expose Roman or Iron Age features. The only features of note were reinforced concrete foundations, said by the caretaker to be the remains of air-raid shelters that once stood to the east and west of the main school entrance.

2005 test pits around Drama Block

Fieldwork date: November 2005

CAT project ref.: 05/9d

CIMS accession: COLEM 2005.132

NGR: TL 9895 2580 (c)

Report: CAT Report 351, December 2005

Summary: Three small test-pits were hand-excavated next to the drama block at St Helena School, which is within the scheduled ancient monument of Sheepen. Three early Roman (1st century AD) features included a ditch, possibly supporting a wooden fence. The presence of pottery and animal bone, burnt flint, a coin, slag and Roman tile suggests domestic use similar to that previously identified elsewhere at Sheepen. The finds include a sherd of Arretine samian bearing a potter's stamp not recognised in Colchester before. This reinforces the importance of Camulodunum as a centre for trade in the Late Iron Age.

2006 excavation of footings for new Drama Block

Fieldwork date: June 2006

CAT project ref.: 06/6b

CIMS accession: COLEM 2006.79

NGR: TL 9895 2580 (c)

Report: CAT Report 384, October 2006

Summary: The archaeological excavation of the foundation trench for an extension to the drama block carried out in June 2006 revealed pits, ditches and a gully, all dating to the 'Sheepen period' (ie, c AD 5-60), sealed by between 600mm and 750mm of topsoil. The type of pottery and the presence of animal bone, slag, daub and Roman tile suggests domestic and industrial use similar to that identified as a result of the previous investigations at Sheepen.

2007 evaluation in car park

Fieldwork: February 2007

CAT project ref.: 07/2a

CIMS accession: COLEM 2007.24

NGR: TL 9898 2578

Report: CAT Report 414, March 2007

Summary: Six evaluation trenches in the school car-park revealed 18 archaeological features: 10 Roman (seven pits, one wall foundation, one ditch and one metallised surface); one mid/late Bronze Age pit; one post-medieval ditch; six undated features (four pits and two ditches); and one natural feature. Significantly, the Roman wall foundation was part of the precinct wall for the late 1st century Roman temple (Temple 2). A large quantity of Roman finds were also recorded including two coins which belong to the post-conquest pre-Boudican occupation of Sheepen, a brooch fragment and briquetage which may also date to before AD 60/1, and a number of pottery sherds dating primarily from the 1st to the early 2nd century.

2007 watching brief on cable laying in car park.

Fieldwork: July-August 2007

CAT project ref.: 07/7b

CIMS accession: COLEM 2007.77

NGR: TL 98987 25786

Report: CAT Report 451, April 2010

Summary: Following the evaluation (CAT Report 414), a watching brief was carried out on groundworks to reconstruct the car park on the eastern side of the school grounds. This involved removing the old tarmac surface, creating a new path and cycle storage compound, and digging trenches for lighting cables. The groundworks largely only affected modern and post-medieval layers and therefore did not expose any archaeological features. In one lighting-cable trench, the Roman ground-surface was exposed but no archaeological features were observed.

2010 evaluation south of caretakers house

Fieldwork: March 2010

CAT project ref.: 10/2d

CIMS accession: COLEM 2010.11

NGR: TL 98970 25770

Report: CAT Report 544, April 2010

Summary: An evaluation by a single trial trench on the site of a proposed new building has revealed a graveled surface and a Roman pit. The gravel surface may have been associated with the adjacent Roman Temple 2, whose eastern *temenos* wall lies 35m to the west, or (less likely) it may have been the surface of a minor gravel road running along the eastern side of the temple *temenos*. Finds from this evaluation are of early Roman date, which is in keeping with other finds from Sheepen and the St Helena School site.

2013 evaluation on western school extension

Fieldwork: April 2013

CAT project ref.: 13/04a

CIMS accession: COLEM 2013.16

NGR: TL 98842 25847

Report: CAT Report 699, May 2013

Summary: An evaluation by four trial-trenches revealed three Roman pits, a compacted gravel layer (surface), and a dump of ceramic building material. One of the pits contained a group of five, low denomination Roman coins dated to c AD 43-64. These are from a hoard or purse group possibly deposited at the time of the Boudican revolt, pre-dating the construction of the temple in the late 1st or early 2nd century.

2013 Excavation of foundation pads on 'link' building

Fieldwork: September 2013

CAT project ref.: 13/08f

CIMS accession: COLEM 2013.36

NGR: TL 9886 2584

Report: CAT Report 716, September 2013

Summary: The construction of a canopy between two existing school buildings involved the archaeological excavation of twelve foundation pads, each 0.80m square and 0.80m deep. The position of the new canopy straddles the predicted line of the northern wall of the enclosure (*temenos*) of Temple II. From the plotted position of the *temenos* wall, it seems

that none of the pad holes actually intercepted it. However, patches of compacted gravel were revealed in two of the pad-holes. A very small quantity of Roman tile and a mid-1st century sherd were recovered from the gravel. Layers of gravel have been seen at St Helena in 1935, 2007, and now twice in 2013. The gravel is too widespread to have been a road, so it is more likely to have been a Roman courtyard surface. However, it may slightly predate the temple, which was founded in the late 1st or early 2nd century.

2014 Excavation of western school extension

Fieldwork date: October - November 2014

CAT project code: 14/10k

CIMS accession code: COLEM 2014.108

NGR: TL 98842 25847

Report: CAT Report 825, June 2015

Summary: Archaeological excavation was carried out at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester. The school is situated within the Roman enclosed oppidum of Camulodunum (specifically the area of the trading depot at Sheepen), and is within a scheduled monument (List entry 1002173). The school grounds contain the remains of two Romano-British temples, and the site was within the precinct or temenos of a large post-Boudiccan temple dedicated to Jupiter (Colchester's Temple 2). The excavation revealed Roman activity comprising nine pits, one of which (F1) contained twenty-six low denomination 1st century AD coins. Also revealed were patches of the gravelled surface of the temple precinct and the cobble and mortar wall foundations of a small internal altar or similar structure.

2014 Excavation of test-pits on proposed sports pitches.

Client report only

Four test pits were hand dug at approximately the corners of the proposed sports pitch. No archaeological features were identified, but residual Roman brick and tile may be associated with the temple complex or with extensive activity on the 1st century industrial complex at Sheepen.

2015 borehole watching brief

Fieldwork date: 16-17th February 2015

CAT project code:

CIMS accession code - awaited

NGR: TL 8836 5850 (centre)

Report: CAT Report 816

A watching brief was carried out in February 2015 during excavations of seven geo-technical boreholes as part of a survey ahead of new sports facilities. The boreholes cut through modern topsoil (L1) and an accumulation horizon (of hillwash/colluvium?) (L2), onto natural deposits of glacial gravels (final depth: between 5-6m).

No archaeological features or horizons were seen, but Roman mortar tile and building stone was found mixed in with modern coal, peg-tile and concrete. The relative absence of material here reflects the site's position away from the main centre of activity.

2015 Evaluation of the site of the proposed sports pavilion

Fieldwork date: May 2015

CAT Project Code: 15/04h

Report: CAT Report 835

NGR: TL 989 258 (centre)

CIMS accession code: COLEM 2015.42

Summary: Archaeological evaluation on the site of the proposed sports pavilion at St Helena School revealed thirteen archaeological features. Two pits/post-holes and a gravel surface were dated to either the Late Iron Age or Roman period, two ditches were modern (one aligned on pre-school field boundaries), and there were eight undated pits/post-holes. All features were sealed by 0.65m of overburden (modern topsoil and subsoil).

One of the common features of excavations and evaluations at St Helena is the discovery of gravel surfaces, both inside and outside the precinct of Colchester Temple 2. The gravel surface found here shows that they are more extensive than had been thought. As the evaluation trench was approximately 65m outside the precinct wall of Temple 2, and 90m east of the nearest temple-related structure, the evaluated area is clearly peripheral to the temple complex. Whether the features excavated in 2015 are actually connected with the temple complex is difficult to say, and it may be that they are of an industrial or domestic character.

2015 Watching brief for PlayFootball

Fieldwork date: October 2015-January 2016

CAT Project Code: 15/07f

Report: CAT Report 905

NGR: TL 989 258 (centre)

CIMS accession code: COLEM 2016.5

Summary: St Helena School lies on the eastern side of the nationally important Late Iron Age and early Roman site of Sheepen, which is the northern focus of the oppidum of Camulodunum. It is also the location of two Romano-British temples. Groundworks associated with the construction of football pitches, a pavilion and services took place at several locations across the school site. A cable trench revealed part of the foundation of the north side of the outer precinct wall of 'Temple 2', along with an external buttress and gravel surface. Other groundworks to the northeast of Temple 2 revealed a Roman agricultural/drainage ditch and demolition layer. It is difficult to say if they were associated with the temple complex or other industrial or domestic activity occurring nearby.

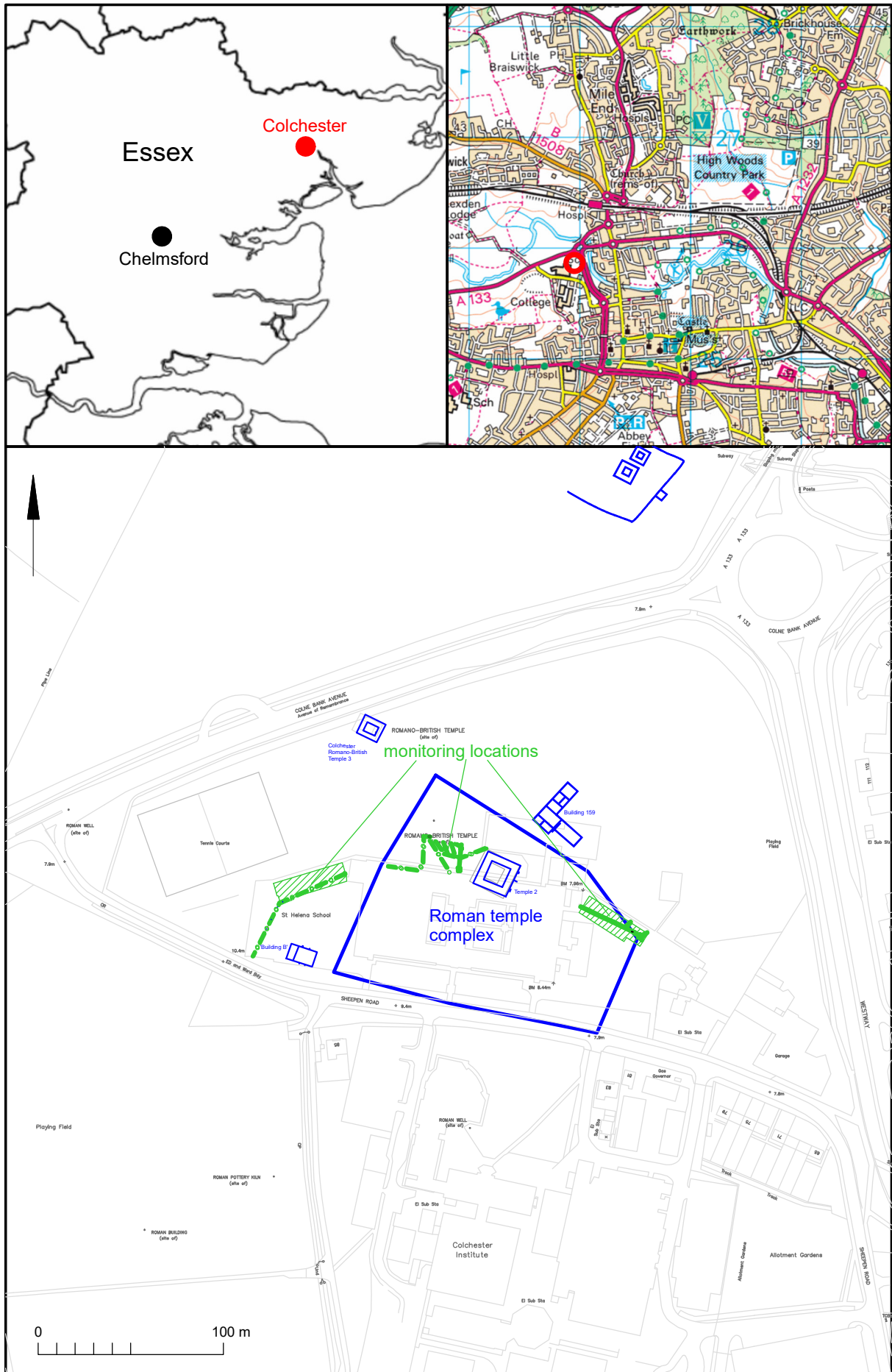


Fig 1 Site location.

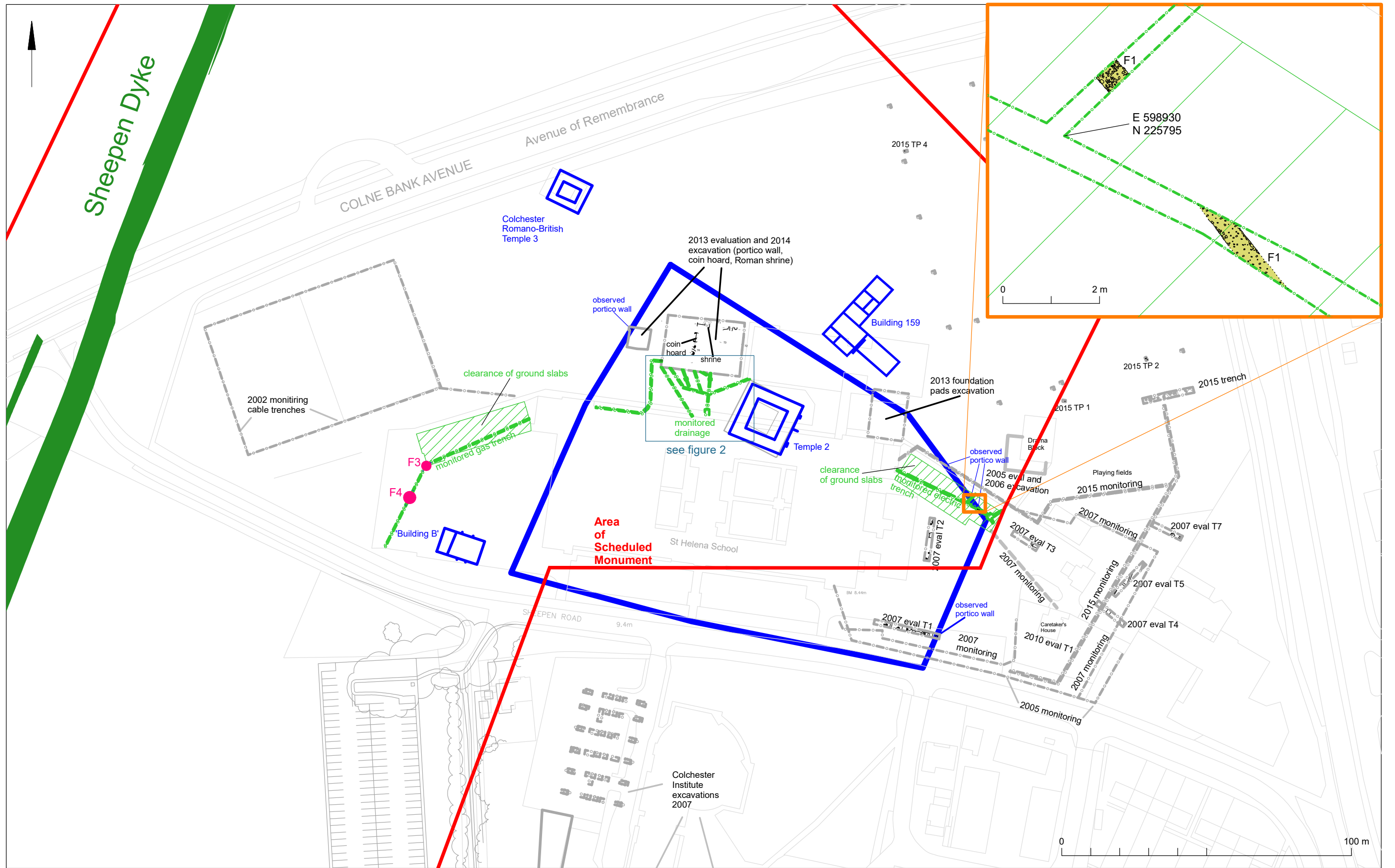
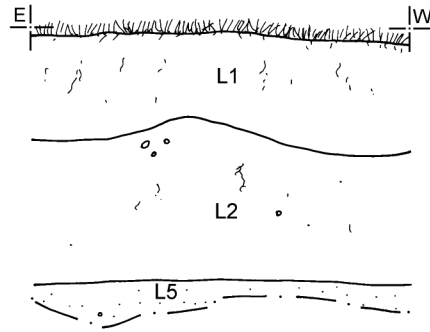


Fig 2 Monitored services (green) in relation to previous work.

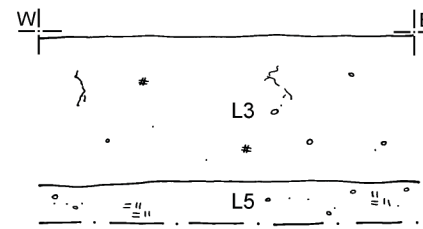


Fig 3 Patches of gravel (L4) observed during monitoring.

Sx1 gas trench through temple precinct



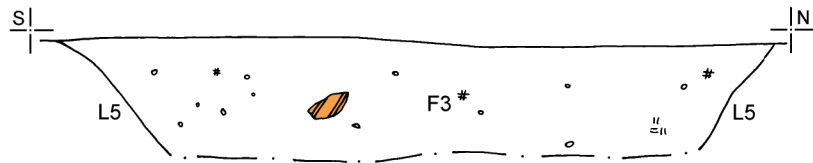
Sx2 gas trench



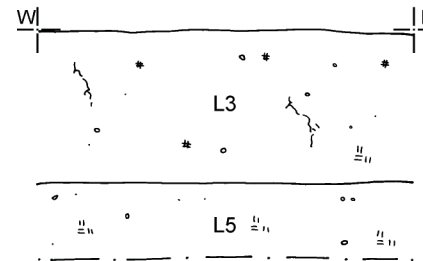
Sx3 gas trench



Sx4 gas trench



Sx5 electricity trench



- sand
- small stones
- ≡≡≡ clay
- ## charcoal
- ▨ Roman brick and tile
- ▨ post-Roman brick and tile
- √ roots



Fig 4 Sections.

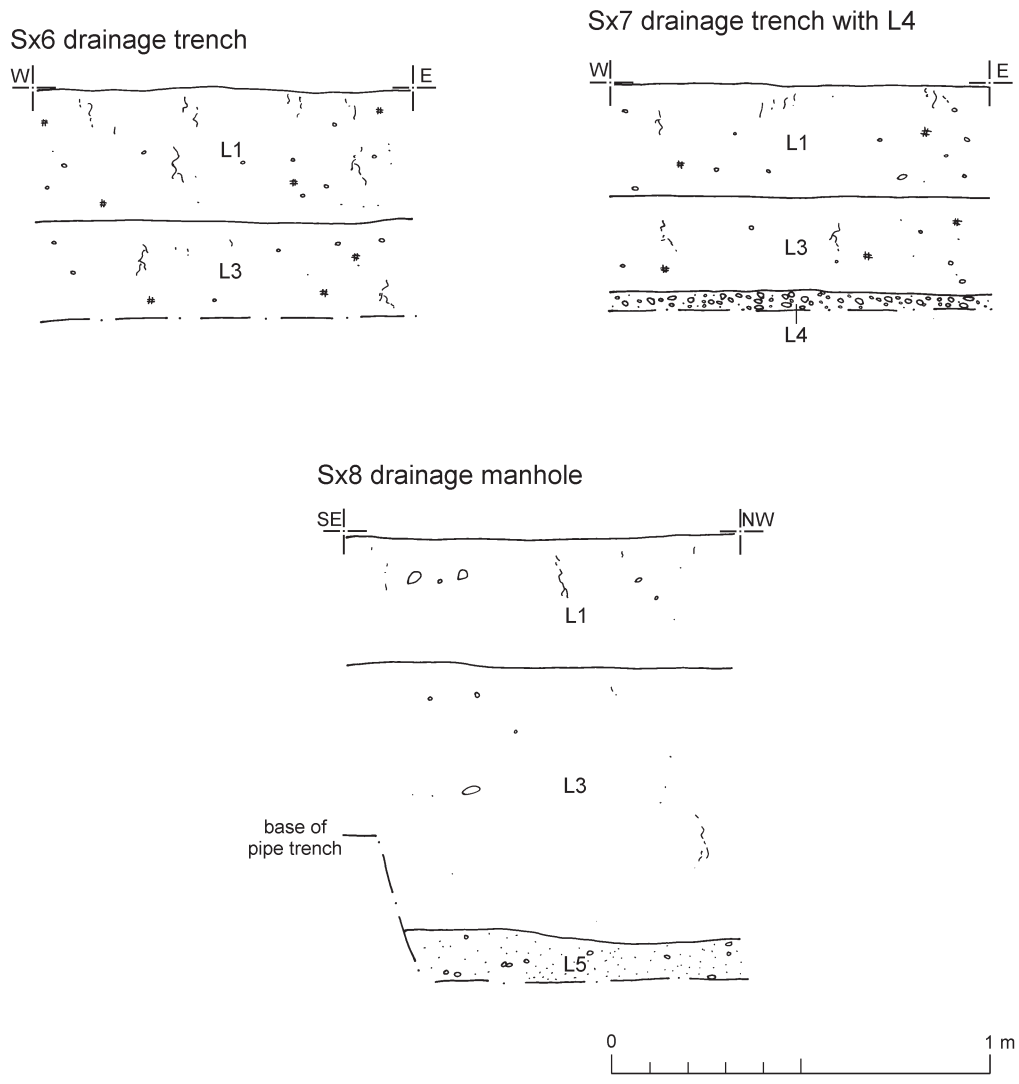


Fig 5 Sections.

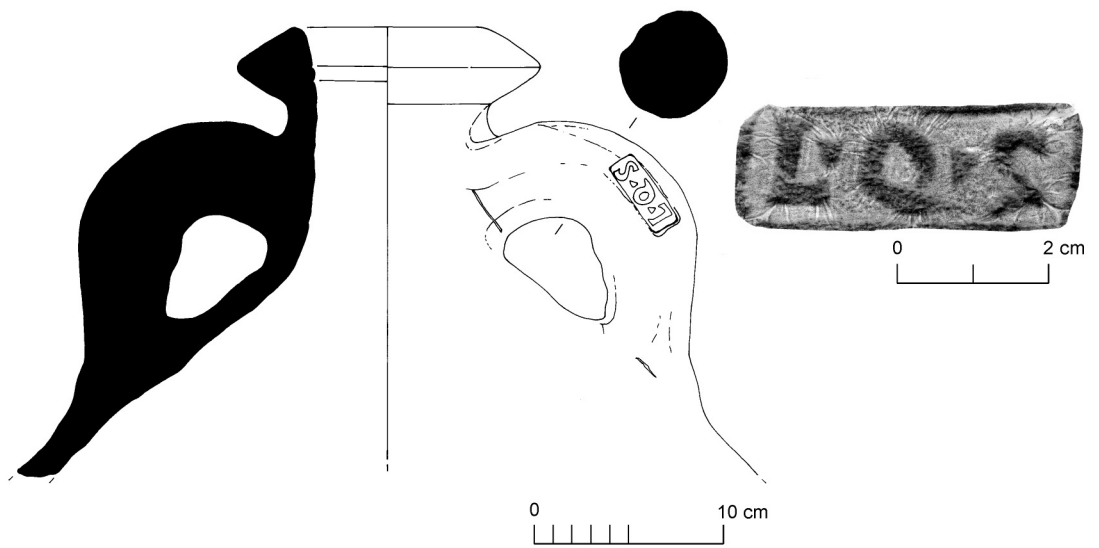


Fig 6 Pottery with stamp detail.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 989 258	Site code: CAT project ref.: 15/08d UAD ref: ECC3718 OASIS ref: colchest3-244090
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: August-September 2015	Size of area investigated: 690m ² of slab clearance, 222m of service trenching (450mm wide)
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.20	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 11673, EHER 11684, EHER 13126
Final report: CAT Report 916	
Periods represented: Late Iron Age/Early Roman	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>St Helena School lies on the eastern side of the nationally important Late Iron Age and early Roman site of Sheepen, which is the northern focus of the oppidum of Camulodunum. It is also the location of two Romano-British temples.</i></p> <p><i>Groundworks included the clearance of ground slabs (covering 690m²) and the excavation of 222m of service trenches (gas, electric and drainage). Part of the foundation of the north side of the outer precinct wall of Temple 2 was revealed along with patches of a gravel surface within the precinct. Trenches to the west of Temple 2 revealed two large Roman pits probably associated with the temple complex.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: Hawkes and Hull 1947, Hull 1958, Crummy 1997, CAR 11, CAT Reports 699, 816, 825, 835	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: Sheepen, Temple 2	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: February 2016

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
archaeological excavation and monitoring and
recording (a watching brief) at St Helena's
School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex**

commissioned by
Ingleton Wood

on behalf of
St Helena School

October 2014



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
ROMAN CIRCUS HOUSE, CIRCULAR ROAD NORTH,
COLCHESTER, ESSEX C02 7GZ
tel: 07436273304
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological excavation and monitoring and recording (a watching brief) at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, in advance of the construction of a two-storey extension to existing science and food technology building.
- 1.2 The site (NGR: TL 8836 5850) is located north-west of Colchester town centre on the north side of Sheepen Road, and consists of school buildings, the earliest dating from 1938, set within extensive grounds of some 17 acres mainly laid to grass for playing fields, hard surface parking areas and an all weather sports pitch. The site is currently a reasonably level grassed area with young trees and 4 tarmac cricket wickets.
- 1.3 The proposed redevelopment comprises the construction of a two-storey extension located on the west side to the existing science and food technology building with dimensions of 29.3m in length and 18.2m in width.
- 1.4 The site is located within the nationally significant pre-Roman settlement at Sheepen (Scheduled Monument 1002173).
- 1.5 A planning application was submitted to Colchester Borough Council (CBC) in May 2013 (application number 130535). As the proposed development lies within a Scheduled Monument, advice was sought from English Heritage prior to the development. Discussions between the applicant, English Heritage and the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO) resulted in a mitigation strategy for the archaeology and a brief was issued by CBC (Lister 2014).
- 1.6 In response to this brief, this Written Scheme of Investigation (for archaeological excavation and monitoring and recording (a watching brief)) has been prepared by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). It sets out the proposals and methodologies for the undertaking of the archaeological fieldwork as well as for post-excavation work including the production of a report, an archive and (if necessary) publication texts.

2 Archaeological background

- 2.1 The site has been reported in depth in the major published works on Colchester by C F C Hawkes and Rex Hull (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull, 1958) and by Philip Crummy (Crummy 1980, 248-52; Crummy 1997; *CAR* 11 (with C F C Hawkes) 1995).
- 2.2 The site is within an area of high archaeological importance - the enclosed *oppidum* of Camulodunum, specifically within the trading depot at Sheepen (a Scheduled Monument, Listing 1002173), one of the two principal centres of the *oppidum*, the other being Gosbecks. In the 1930s, excavations prior to the construction of the Colchester Bypass (now the Avenue of Remembrance) showed that the area was an important focus of Late Iron Age settlement and early Roman military activity (Hawkes and Hull 1947). The school is located above the remains of two Romano-British temples (Hull 1958) and the proposed development is 20m north-west of one of the temples and within its *temenos* (sacred precinct).
- 2.3 Evaluations and watching briefs in and around the school have revealed the survival of substantial Roman deposits (CAT Reports, 188, 349, 351, 384, 414, 451, 544). An evaluation commissioned by Ingleton Wood in 2013 revealed three Roman pits, a compacted gravel surface and a dump of ceramic building material. One of the pits contained a group of five, low-denomination Roman coins dated to c AD 43-64 (CAT Report 699).

3 Aims

- 3.1 The aim of the archaeological excavation is to preserve, by record, the archaeological deposits which may be destroyed or damaged by the development of the site, prior to the installation of 100 piles and a soakaway.
- 3.2 An intensive watching brief will be carried out on all penetrative groundworks, demolition and new services: this will be reported on in a separate report.

4 Excavation methodology

- 4.1 The client or his agent will be responsible for obtaining any necessary approvals from Colchester and Ipswich Museum and English Heritage before the fieldwork is undertaken.
- 4.2 Machine-stripping will be undertaken, using a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist to the top of the archaeological horizon. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand after machine-stripping (if required) and any archaeological deposits or negative features excavated and recorded.
- 4.3 All features and finds uncovered will be planned and excavation will be undertaken to characterise any surviving archaeological remains and to achieve the aims set out in section 3.
- 4.4 Fast excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.
- 4.5 Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.
- 4.6 All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. Section drawings will be completed on all trenches identifying the depth of the archaeological deposits and the depth of the natural sub-soil. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate. The site will be located to the National Grid.
- 4.7 The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register should accompany the photographic record. This should detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- 4.8 A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any suitable strata, and the finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.
- 4.9 The site boundary and features and site levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.
- 4.10 As part of the topsoil strip a number of tree stumps will be removed by mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision. Three stumps are located within the footprint, five on the periphery – all are to be removed under archaeological supervision

5 Sampling strategy

- 5.1 Archaeological excavation will be by hand and will respect the stratigraphy of archaeological layers, features, deposits and structures. Each context will be excavated in sequence.
- 5.2 The following sampling strategy will be adopted to ascertain the nature, depth, date and state of preservation of archaeological features as well as the stratigraphical relationships of these deposits and features to one another.
 - Normally 50% of the fills of all pits, post-holes and other discrete archaeological features will be excavated. Pits will be fully excavated if they are particularly rich in environmental or and/or artefactual evidence, should this contribute to the research aims.
 - 10% of the exposed lengths of ditches, will be excavated. The segments will be placed to provide adequate coverage of the ditches and will include excavation of all terminals and intersections. A flexible approach will be adopted to the location of excavation samples such that areas of exposed ditch fill with higher artefact or ecofact content may be targeted.
 - Up to 25% of ring gullies will include excavation of the terminals and sections at each side to the rear of the gully. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphical relationships and concentrations of artefactual material.
 - Animal and human burials, including cremations, will be 100% excavated. A license will be acquired in the event of the discovery of any human remains.

The discovery of human remains will be reported to the local coroner. Other structured or placed deposits will be recorded and retained as “small finds”.

- In the event that stone structures are encountered these will be excavated in sufficient detail to establish their construction sequence and sequence of repairs or extensions.
- Full excavation of hearths, furnaces or kilns in all cases where these are identified will be undertaken.
- Metal detectors will be used to scan for metallic finds on spoil heaps, vacated areas, areas of modern disturbance and during the excavation of key archaeological features or deposits.

6 Watching brief methodology

- 6.1 The intensive watching brief is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may be disturbed by the groundworks associated with the project. Specifically, but not exclusively, this shall include:
- The excavations for the support posts for the Woodscape external enclosure and the landscaping on the south side of the new building.
 - The demolition of the east and west wings, in particular the removal of foundations and any works necessary to level the ground for the new hard standing.
 - The foundations for the new lobby entrances.
 - The removal of two existing gas pipes.
 - The installation of a water supply from the main building to the new build and a new gas main from Sheepen Road to the new build.
 - The installation of a new electricity cable from the main block to the Drama/Media block.
 - The installation of a new electricity cable from the main block to the new build.
 - Foul water drainage for the new build (including runs and chambers).
 - Surface water drainage to the new soakaway (location and size to be approved by EH).
 - Any other penetrative groundworks.
- 6.2 The scope for the watching brief may be altered pending future discussions with English Heritage and CBCAO.

7 General methodology

- 7.1 The relevant documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) will be followed, i.e. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2001 revised 2008), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field excavations* (1995 revised 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1994 revised 2008). Other guidelines followed are those published in EAA 3, EAA 8, EAA 14 and EAA 24.
- 7.2 At the start of work an OASIS online record will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 7.3 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard health and safety policy, which will be adhered to (CAT 1999 updated 2012).

8 Finds

- 8.1 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a license from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Human remains will be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are anticipated, or where analysis of the remains is considered to be a necessary requirement for satisfactory evaluation of the site. The

- preservation state of human bone will be recorded, so as to inform development of the WSI for any future excavation.
- 8.2 All finds of archaeological relevance will be retained. Policies for later disposal of any finds will be agreed with the CBCAO and the site owner.
 - 8.3 All finds, where appropriate, will be washed.
 - 8.4 A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Colchester and Ipswich Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.
 - 8.5 The site archive will be presented to Colchester and Ipswich Museum in accordance with their requirements.
 - 8.6 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.
 - 8.7 Finds work will be to accepted professional standards as presented in *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2001 revised 2008).
 - 8.8 A list of specialists available for consultation is given at the end of this WSI.

9 Environmental sampling strategies

- 9.1 Samples will be taken from any potentially rich environmental layer or feature with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris). Samples will also be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis.
- 9.2 Potential questions which the sampling strategy may address include:
 - The range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality.
 - Concentrations of macro-remains.
 - Differences in remains from undated and dated features.
 - Variation between different feature types and areas of the site.
- 9.3 CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer (Loddon, formerly UEA) whereby any potential environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Generally, target contexts will be sampled by 40 litre bulk samples (where feature size allows), or 100% of smaller features. All processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. The Regional Science Advisor (RSA) of English Heritage is available for further advice.
- 9.4 Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF and/or RSA on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

10 Results

- 10.1 Two reports (one detailing the excavation phase of the work and one covering the archaeological monitoring and recording) will be submitted to the CBCAO within six months of the completion of the respective site work. These reports will contain;
 - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation.
 - Location plan of excavated areas and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the excavation area will be given 10 figure grid references.
 - A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
 - Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and result section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
 - Specialist reports
 - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

- 10.2 If, after discussion with the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments the results are considered worthy of publication, a report (at least at a summary level) will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*.
- 10.3 An Oasis online form will be completed for submission to the EHER, which will include an uploaded .pdf version of the report.

11 Monitoring

- 11.1 The Archaeological Officer of Colchester Borough Council and the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, reporting, and publication stages.
- 11.2 All excavations will be inspected by the CBCAO and EH inspector prior to their backfilling.
- 11.3 CBCAO and EH will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.
- 11.4 The involvement of CBCAO and EH shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

12 Archive deposition

- 12.1 The full archive will be deposited at Colchester and Ipswich Museum within six months of the completion of the report.
- 12.2 Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Colchester and Ipswich Museum. The storage of the archive will accord with the *Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums (2008)*.
- 12.3 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to CBCAO and English Heritage at the time of deposition at the museum.

13 References

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------|--|
| Brown, D. | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA8) |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy |
| CAT Report 188 | 2002 | <i>An archaeological watching brief on the installation of tennis court floodlights at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2002</i> , by B Holloway |
| CAT Report 349 | 2005 | <i>Report on a watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2005</i> , by K Orr |
| CAT Report 351 | 2005 | <i>An archaeological evaluation of St Helena School Drama Block, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2005</i> , by K Orr |
| CAT Report 384 | 2006 | <i>An archaeological excavation of a foundation trench at the drama block, St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: June 2006</i> , by K Orr |
| CAT Report 414 | 2007 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at St Helena School: February 2007</i> , by L Pooley |
| CAT Report 451 | 2007 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School car-park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: July-August 2007</i> , by K Orr |
| CAT Report 544 | 2010 | <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2010</i> , by B Holloway and H Brooks |
| CAT Report 699 | 2013 | <i>An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: April 2013</i> , by Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks |
| Colchester Archaeological | 1999 | <i>Policies and procedures</i> . 1999 (updated 2012) |

Trust		
Colchester & Ipswich Museums	2008	<i>Guidelines on Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
Colchester & Ipswich Museums	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
Crummy, P	1980	'The Temples of Roman Colchester', in <i>Temples, Churches and Religion (Recent Research in Roman Britain</i> , ed by Warwick Rodwell, BAR, British Series, 77, 242-83
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> (Dept of Communities and Local Government)
Glazenbrook, J.	1997	<i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 1 resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 3 (EAA3)
Gurney, D.	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 (EAA14)
Hawkes C F C, & Hull, M R	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , Report 14 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , Report 20 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
Institute for Archaeologists	1995 (Revised 2008)	<i>Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation</i>
Institute for Archaeologists	1994 (Revised 2008)	<i>Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i>
Lister, C	2014	<i>Brief for Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief at St Helena School, Colchester, Essex</i>
Medlycott, M.	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 24 (EAA 24)

Colchester Archaeological Trust 28/10/14

Appendix - team structure and details

List of team members

Site supervision and Recording

Ben Holloway, Adam Wightman

Assistants

To be decided

Finds consultants

Stephen Benfield (CAT): Prehistoric and Roman pottery, other finds in small quantities

Joanna Bird (Guildford): Samian ware

Ernest Black (Colchester): Roman brick/tile

Howard Brooks (CAT): Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery

Dr Hilary Cool (Nottingham): Roman glass

Nina Crummy (Colchester): Small finds

Julie Curl: Human bone and large Animal bone assemblages

John Davis (Norwich Museum): Roman coins

Val Fryer (UEA/Loddon): Environmental remains

Helen Chappell (English Heritage): Regional Science Advisor

Hazel Martingell (Braintree): Lithics

Valerie Rigby (British Museum): LIA ceramics

Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums): Roman Amphoras

Patricia Ryan (Chelmsford): Medieval and later brick and tile

Sue Tyler (ECC): Saxon Pottery.

Helen Walker: Saxon, Medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Adam Wightman (CAT): small animal bone and lithic assemblages

Graphics

Adam Wightman, Emma Holloway

Report writing

Adam Wightman & Howard Brooks

Senior Site Staff

Ben Holloway BSc AIFA

Ben joined CAT staff in June 2000, a graduate in Archaeology from Bournemouth University. Ben has conducted fieldwork in Scotland and the Isle of Man. Since joining the Trust Ben has carried out extensive work in Colchester at various supervisory and project positions including evaluations and excavations at Colchester Garrison PFI (including the circus), St Marys Hospital and Colchester 6th Form College. His work in Essex includes the Sandon Park and Ride Site, Skyline 120 Business Park at Great Notley, Dry Street, Basildon and the Stanhope industrial park Stanford-le-hope.

Adam Wightman BSc, MA

After graduating from the University of Sheffield in 2004 with a BSc Hons in Archaeology and Prehistory, Adam worked for CAT during the Roman Circus excavations at Colchester Garrison in 2004/5. He then went on to work for Cambridge Archaeological Unit before completing a Masters in the Archaeology of Human Origins at the University of Southampton where he focused on lithic and animal bone analysis. Since returning to CAT in 2006 Adam has carried out evaluations and excavations at the Great Dunmow Salesrooms, 143-147 High Street Maldon, Firstsite Newsite in Colchester town centre, and at 21 St Peters Street adjacent to Colchester's Roman wall. He now completes assessments and full reports on small assemblages of animal bone and lithics for CAT.

Finds Specialists

Stephen Benfield BA, Cert Archaeol (Oxon) (CAT) Prehistoric and Roman pottery

Steve's first involvement with Colchester archaeology was in 1985, working on a Manpower Services Commission sponsored project to assist in processing the enormous collection of Roman pottery from excavations in the town. He graduated from Reading University with a degree in archaeology and subsequently studied for his post-graduate Certificate in Archaeology at Oxford. Returning to CAT, he has since worked on many CAT projects at various supervisory and directorial positions, including the major projects at Stanway Iron Age burial site and Gosbecks Roman temple/theatre complex. Stephen

has also, through much hands-on experience, built up a considerable working knowledge of LIA and Roman ceramics. He now completes ceramic assessments and full reports for CAT, drawing on the unrivalled catalogues provided by the standard Colchester works *Camulodunum* (Hawkes & Hull 1947), *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958) and now *CAR 10*, and by examining the fabric series held at CAT headquarters.

Joanna Bird FSA (Guildford) Samian

Joanna is one of the country's top samian specialists. Among her large corpus of work is a contribution to the publication *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1986*.

Ernest Black (Colchester) Roman brick/tile

Ernest is a Colchester schoolteacher with a wide interest in archaeology and the classical world. In this sense, he is following in the footsteps of A.F. Hall, and Mike Corbishley who were also local schoolmasters. He has developed his specialism by large scale hands-on experience with Roman brick and tile, and has contributed to the *Arch J*, *CAR 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-1985*.

Howard Brooks BA, FSA, MIFA, (CAT) Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery

Howard's involvement in Essex archaeology goes back to 1970 when he dug at Sheepen, Colchester with Rosalind Dunnett (now Niblett). He studied archaeology at the University of Wales, and graduated in 1975. He worked for Colchester Archaeological Trust between 1976 and 1981, and again in 1985, where he was involved at various levels of responsibility (up to Co-Director) in the excavation of deeply stratified urban remains in Roman Colchester and suburbs (Colchester Archaeological Report 3 [1994]). Between 1992 and 1995 he worked for Essex County Archaeology Section, first in directing the fieldwalking and excavation project at Stansted Airport (East Anglian Archaeology 107, 2004), and then in Development Control. Howard then left ECC to set up and run HBAS, the county's smallest contracting team, in which capacity he carried out over twenty field projects and wrote a dozen consultancy reports. He rejoined CAT in 1997. He regularly contributes to Essex Archaeology & History, and teaches University evening classes on archaeology.

Dr Hilary Cool FSA MIFA (Nottingham) Roman glass

Yet another graduate of the University of Wales, Hilary is now a freelance glass and finds specialist, and has written many reports on glass from Colchester sites, including contributions to *Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85*, and *Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993)*. Among her major works is the internationally selling *Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*.

Nina Crummy BA FSA (Colchester) Small finds

Nina first worked in the early 1970s as finds assistant on the major urban excavations in Colchester for the Colchester Excavation Committee (later the Trust). Over the next twenty years she built up an unrivalled working knowledge of small finds of all types. She has collaborated in most of the *Colchester Archaeological Reports*, and was principal author of the best-selling *Colchester Archaeological Reports 2* (Roman small finds), 4 (*The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*) and 5 (*The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*). She recently worked for the Museum of London, and was instrumental in the recent transfer of and the massive improvement in accessibility to archaeological archives in London. She now works freelance on small finds reports for CAT, HBAS, and other bodies including Winchester Excavation Committee.

Julie Curl (Norfolk) Animal Bone

Julie has over 16 years of experience in archaeology and in particular finds for the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Norfolk Museums Service. After many years working as both a bone specialist and in graphics for the NAU Julie has recently established her own freelance company Sylvanus in which she specialises in Archaeological and Natural History illustrations as well as being a freelance animal and human bone specialist. She has been producing faunal remains reports for many years and produces assessments and analysis reports for clients across the East Anglian region. She has her own extensive bone reference collection built up over many years. Her particular interests in faunal remains are animal husbandry and pathologies. She has also worked as a conservator, particularly on Pleistocene vertebrates and a wide variety of archaeology and natural history projects at the Norwich Castle Museum. Julie is also an extra-mural lecturer with the University of East Anglia, teaching Animal bones in Archaeology.

Dr John A Davies (Norwich Museum) Roman coins

John has, for some years, written reports on Roman coins from Colchester excavations. He specializes in barbarous radiates, and has contributed to *British Numismatic Journal* on that topic. Among his other publications is a contribution to *Colchester Archaeological Report 4: The coins from excavations in*

Colchester 1971-9, and CAR 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993).

Val Fryer (Norfolk) Environmental Archaeologist BA, MIFA

Val has fifteen years experience in environmental archaeology, working for English Heritage, County Units and independent archaeological bodies across the United Kingdom and Southern Ireland. She has published reports in *East Anglian Archaeology* (including occasional papers), *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, *Medieval Archaeology* and *Norfolk Archaeology*. Specialist work for various police authorities across England and Northern Ireland. Val is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with special accreditation for environmental archaeology and she is also a Member of the Association of Environmental Archaeologists.

Helen Chappell (English Heritage) Regional Science Advisor

Helen Chappell is English Heritage's Regional Science Advisor (RSA) for the East of England, providing regionally-based advice on all aspects of archaeological science: geophysics, scientific dating, hydrology, geoarchaeology, analysis of biological remains and technological residues, artifact analysis and conservation. RSAs give advice to a range of organizations and also produce good practice standards and guidelines. RSAs are all actively involved in research, and applying new methodologies to site investigation and management.

Hazel Martingell BA, FAIS (Braintree): Lithics

Hazel has for many years worked as a lithics illustrator and specialist, undertaking work for The British Museum, ECC Field Archaeology Unit and for London and Cambridge Universities, to name but a few. Since 1987 she has been self-employed and has excavated at a Middle Stone Age site at Gorham's Cave, Gibraltar as well as writing and illustrating worked flint reports for CAT, ECC FAU, and the British Museum. Her impressive publication record includes reports on sites from around the globe. Closer to home she has published work in *Essex History and Archaeology*, *The East Anglian Archaeology Monograph series*, *Antiquity* and *British Museum Occasional Papers*. Hazel is a fellow of the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors and a founder member of the Lithics Study Group, London.

Valerie Rigby (Hertfordshire) LIA ceramics

Formerly working for the British Museum, Val is one of the country's leading authorities on later prehistoric ceramics in general, and traded wares in particular. She has published widely. Her major work include *Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968-72 (Britannia Monograph Series 7, with Ian Stead)*. On a more local level, she has contributed to the magisterial *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-88*, and to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum* (CBA Research Report 57, 1985).

Patricia Ryan (Chelmsford) Medieval and later brick and tile

Pat has for many years been examining excavated collections of brick and tile from Essex sites, and contributing reports which are usually consigned to the gloomier parts of archive reports, or as footnotes in published texts. Her regular contributions to *Essex Archaeology & History*, therefore, under-represent the devoted study which Pat has put in over the years. Nobody knows more about local brick and tile, except for David Andrews, with whom she collaborated on significant sections of *Cressing Temple: A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex* (1993).

Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museum) Amphoras

Paul has worked at Colchester Museum since the late 1970s. His PhD specialism was Roman amphoras, a topic on which he writes specialist reports. His main areas of interest are prehistory and the Roman period, and he has developed a familiarity with those periods and their ceramics. He has published widely. His major works include *Amphoras from the 1970 excavations at Colchester Sheepen* (BAR 142, 1985), contributions to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum* (CBA Res Rep 57, 1985). He regularly contributes to *Essex Archaeology & History*.

Sue Tyler (ECC) Saxon Pottery

Sue is the County authority on Saxon material, especially pottery. She has had several spells working with Essex County Archaeology Section, interrupted by a late-1980s spell in Hertfordshire. She has written reports on Saxon material for many Essex Projects, and contributes regularly to *Essex Archaeology & History*, including the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Prittlewell (*Essex Archaeol Hist* 19 (1988)).

Helen Walker BSc Medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Helen was Essex County Council Field Archaeology Group's medieval and post-medieval pottery specialist. Before joining ECC in 1985, she worked on finds in Carmarthen, and for Hampshire CC on projects in Winchester. Since 1985, she has contributed reports on ceramics to many other projects in the county. A regular contributor to *Essex Archaeology & History*, her principal publications include

reports on the Rayleigh kiln dump, and George Street and Church Street, Harwich (*Essex Archaeology & History*, 21 [1990]), and North Shoebury (*EAA* 75).

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-244090

Project details

Project name	An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE
Short description of the project	St Helena School lies on the eastern side of the nationally important Late Iron Age and early Roman site of Sheepen, which is the northern focus of the oppidum of Camulodunum. It is also the location of two Romano-British temples. Groundworks included the clearance of ground slabs (covering 690m ²) and the excavation of 222m of service trenches (gas, electric and drainage) around the perimeter of the existing school buildings. Part of the foundation of the north side of the outer precinct wall of Temple 2 was revealed along with patches of a gravel surface within the precinct. Trenches to the west of Temple 2 revealed two large Roman pits probably associated with the temple complex.
Project dates	Start: 10-08-2015 End: 30-09-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	15/08d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	130535 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.20 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3718 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	TEMPLE Roman
Monument type	GRAVEL SURFACE Roman

Monument type PITS Roman
 Significant Finds POTTERY Roman
 Significant Finds CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
 Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Roman
 Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Project location

Country England
 Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER St Helena School
 Postcode CO3 3LE
 Study area 790 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 989 258 51.89467676801 0.891080333255 51 53 40 N 000 53 27 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer
 Project design originator Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project director/manager Chris Lister
 Project supervisor Ben Holloway
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Ingleton Wood

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2016.20
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.20
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"
 Paper Archive Colchester Museum

recipient

Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.20

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: August-September 2015

Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.

Other bibliographic details CAT Report 916

Date 2016

Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust

Place of issue or publication Colchester

Description A4 ringbound loose leaf

URL <http://www.cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)

Entered on 26 February 2016

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:lp@catuk.org) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=244090> for this page