

Archaeological evaluation at Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NB

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Waterman Infrastructure and Environment Ltd wsi
OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester, Essex in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The hospital is located on the site of a known Roman cemetery where excavations in 1820-1 uncovered the Colchester Sphinx sculpture, part of an elaborate tomb. Roman kilns are also recorded from the site. This evaluation revealed two pits and a ditch surviving at depths of c 0.4-0.6m below current ground level. All three features contained material of Roman date but their significance is difficult to determine based on the limited extent of the evaluation.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at the Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 14th October 2017. The work was commissioned by Waterman Infrastructure and Environment Ltd (Waterman IE) on behalf of Essex Housing (ECC) in advance of the redevelopment of the site, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological pre-determination evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Waterman IE in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (Waterman IE 2017a).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The original Essex County Hospital building is Grade II listed (NHLE no. 117069).

A full archaeological background for the development site can be found in the *Essex County Hospital, Colchester: Pre-application heritage appraisal* (Purcell 2014) and the *Essex County Hospital: Historic Environment Baseline and Site Model* (Waterman IE 2017b). The following is therefore a summary of archaeological remains found specifically on the development site.

The development site is located immediately to the southwest of Colchester town centre, within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, to the southwest of the Roman walled town and on the route of the main Roman road (MCC8545) which runs northeast/southwest across the site from Balcerne Gate and out towards London and Braughing (Hull 1958 and CAR 11). Previous excavations on the site revealed that the

road had survived less than 1m below ground surface and was around 5.5m wide with ditches a metre wide on either side.

Importantly the site is also located within an area of Roman cemeteries termed 'the western cemetery' by Hull (1958), but more generally known as the Lexden cemetery (EHER 11713, 11714, 11852). The Lexden cemetery area encompasses a number of Iron Age and Roman burial grounds on both sides of the Roman road (Hull 1958 and CAR 9). Antiquarian excavations during the construction of the Hospital in 1820-1 revealed one/two burials and the large Colchester Sphinx stone sculpture and smaller bronze statue (EHER 11859, 17345). The survival of the sphinx is significant as it indicates the presence of an elaborate high-status tomb. Later works on the site have also revealed a number of other burials (CAR 9, 258) (EHER 11856). It is unfortunate though, that most of these discoveries took place in the 19th and early 20th century as virtually no excavation records were either made or have survived. Similarly, there are also references to Roman kilns being found on the development site in 1819 (EHER 11851, 13139) but very little is known about them. Future archaeological work has the potential to not only identify surviving Roman remains but to further our understanding of how widespread antiquarian excavations on the site were and to set their findings within a better understood archaeological context.

Recent archaeological investigations on the development site have included a test-pit evaluation, monitoring and recording, and a geophysical survey report.

Test-pit evaluation, August 2015 (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2016)

Six hand-dug test-pits along the western edge of the development site revealed stratified deposits associated with high quantities of Roman material, as well as areas of Roman pitting. Finds included Roman building material, pottery of 1st-3rd century date, animal bone indicative of domestic activity and some high status metal artefacts. Test-pit 6 located close to the current evaluation trench revealed two pits and a deposit of Roman material.

Monitoring and recording (Oxford Archaeology East, 2017)

Eight windowless sampler boreholes and three trial pits were monitored. Six of the boreholes contained archaeological deposits and artefacts, and three pits contained deposits and features (three pits), all dated to the later Roman period.

Geophysical Survey (Sumo Services Ltd, 2017)

Ground Penetrating Radar survey in the front and rear car parks revealed anomalies associated with previous buildings (mainly below the rear car park), a cluster of possible burial remains in the central part of the front car park and anomalies of uncertain origin (possibly obstructions or made ground).

4 Aims

The specific aims of the project were to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

As per the brief, this evaluation originally consisted of eight evaluation trenches. However, due to access constraints only one of these trial-trenches could be excavated during the current phase of work. Excavated through grass on the western side of the development site, the trench measured 5m long by 1.8m wide and was machine-excavated to a depth of 0.7-0.8m deep.

Four layers were identified. Modern topsoil (L1, 0.4-0.6m thick) sealed buried topsoil (L3, at least 0.2m thick) beneath which was natural sands and gravels (L4, identified at a depth of 33.5-33.91m AOD). A spread of gravel in a loose sandy matrix (L2, 0.1m thick) was identified between L1 and L4 at the far eastern end of the trench. This possibly represents Roman metallurgy associated with burial plots or a tomb.

The backfill of 2015 evaluation trench T6 (PCA 2016) was identified in the far western end of the trench (F2). A ditch (F3) and two pits (F1 and F4) were also revealed but only partially excavated (where access allowed due to constraints within the trench). Ditch F3 was aligned NW/SE, measured 0.45m wide by 0.24m deep and cut pit F4. The full extent of pit F1 could not be determined as only one small edge was located inside the trench, but pit F4 was 2.6m wide by 0.78m deep. Pit F1 contained a small quantity of finds of possible pre-Flavian date, with ditch F3 and pit F4 containing material of a mid 3rd- to 4th-century date.

The features were identified cut into natural ground level which was identified at between 33.5-33.91m AOD (c 0.4-0.6m below current ground level).



Photograph 1 F2, F3 and F4, looking NW

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Finds of Roman date were recovered from several features (F1-F4) and from topsoil (L1). Apart from a small fragment of slate in pit F4 (4) which is likely to be intrusive, all of the closely-datable finds (pottery and tile) are Roman, although one of the features (F2) is known to be of recent origin.

The finds have been rapidly assessed and spot dated, with the pottery recorded by weight and sherd count. All of the finds are listed and briefly described in Table 2 (finds catalogue). Roman pottery fabrics and vessel form numbers refer to the Colchester Roman Fabric series (CAR 10) and Roman form series (Hawkes & Hull 1947 & Hull 1958). The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 1. The animal bone was identified by Adam Wightman.

Fabric code	Fabric description
AA	Amphora (other than Dressel 20)
AJ	Amphora Dressel 20
BA(SG)	South Gaulish samian (plain)
BX(SG)	South Gaulish samian (decorated)
BA(CG)	Central Gaulish samian (plain)
BXCG	Central Gaulish samian (decorated)
BA(EG)	East Gaulish samian
CH	Hadham oxidised wares
CZ	Colchester colour-coated ware
DJ	Coarse oxidised wares (general)
DZ	Fine oxidised wares (general)
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated ware
EC	Early Colchester colour-coated ware
EE	Marbled ware
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2
GP	Fine grey wares (Colchester, London-type & north Kent)
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares
HD	Shell-tempered ware
HZ	Heavily tempered large storage jars
MP	Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware
MQ	White-slipped fine wares and parchment wares
TZ	Mortaria (Colchester)
UR	<i>Terra nigra</i> -type wares
WA	Silvery micaceous greywares

Table 1 Pottery fabrics

The largest finds group is pottery. In total 231 sherds were recovered with a combined weight of 5346g. The pottery assemblage is made up of a broad range of fabric types. These include imported, regional and local finewares as well as sherds from imported amphorae, although the latter are dominated by the relatively common amphora form Dressel 20. Overall the pottery appears fairly typical of urban assemblages from the Roman town and the immediate surrounding area. It includes types current from the mid 1st century into the early Flavian period (Fabric EC & Fabric UR), and other sherds broadly dating to the late 1st or early 2nd century. The majority appears to be of 2nd to early 4th century date. Although the date range of some of the pottery includes the late 4th century there are no fabrics or forms that are exclusively of late 4th century date, and a single colour-coated sherd that might be late Roman Oxford red colour-coated ware (Fabric MP) is dubious. The lack of pottery from the late 4th century appears typical of the extra mural areas in general. It was noted that one greyware jar base from F4 (5) has material adhering from sticking during kiln firing.

All of the contexts (apart from the modern feature F2) produced pottery that includes sherds of late Roman date and all can be dated to after the early-mid 3rd century. It is noticeable that much of the pottery is quite broken-up and most of the sherds in any one context appear to be the sole representative of any single vessel. This suggests that (although no finds of post-Roman date were identified) much of the pottery is residual.

Apart from pieces of ceramic building material (CBM), including roof tile, brick and two tesserae cubes, the only other finds group which is well represented is animal bone.

The bone includes identifiable pieces from domesticates, principally cattle (cow) and sheep, some with butchery marks. There are a few pieces of burnt bone from F4 (4) and (7) and one piece of heavily burnt, white (cremated) bone from the same feature (4). The burnt bone could all be identified as animal, although the single heavily burnt piece could not be closely-identified

Other finds include several small groups of iron nails, fragments of imported lava quernstone from F4 (4), a few pieces of oyster shell and building stone (greensand) probably roughly worked into sub-rectangular building blocks. Given the area in relation to the Roman town (an extramural site southwest of the town wall close to one of the main Roman roads) these stones may have come from a funerary monument or a mausoleum.

The only metal find (other than iron nails) was a small piece of copper-alloy sheet from F4 (4). In addition a small, thin piece of grey sandstone from L1 (1) might be a piece from a hone but this is not clear.

Context and find nos.	Type/ description	Finds Spot date
L1 (1) topsoil	<p>Roman pottery: (24 sherds, 1274g) Fabric AA; Fabric AJ (Dressel 20) includes fine, dense white slipped fabric type BAT AM2 (Tomber & Dore, 85); Fabric EA; Fabric GX (Cam 268); Fabric HZ; Fabric MP(?); Fabric TZ; Fabric UR (TN).</p> <p>Roman CBM: (2) RBT piece probably a brick and small rectangular piece possibly a tesserae but no mortar.</p> <p>Animal Bone: (VSQ) Cow first phalanx & molar; large mammal tibia, med/large mammal mandible frag, 1 unidentifiable frag.</p> <p>Other: (1) large piece of cream coloured soft, friable limestone, slightly porous, probably limestone tufa</p> <p>Small find: (1) rectangular, thin piece of pale grey sandstone with straight, smooth, parallel edges & smooth upper surface (40mm wide) – possibly part of a hone (broken-split?); thin deposit of lime based material on broken surface</p>	Roman (M3-4C) residual pottery from M1C onwards
F1 (2) pit	<p>Roman pottery: (67 sherds, 1048g) Fabric AJ (Dressel 20); Fabric BXCG (Dr 37); Fabric CZ; Fabric EC (rim, buff fabric with traces of abraded red-brown colour coat); Fabric GA; Fabric GB (Cam 37B); Fabric GP (Cam 122-123, dot panel beaker); Fabric GX (Cam 218, large rim sherd); Fabric HZ; Fabric HD (2 sherds, probably early shell-tempered ware); Fabric WA (Cam 26028 platter, see CAR 10 fig 6.84 nos 2-7, dark grey fabric with very dark grey micaceous surface)</p> <p>Roman CBM: (VSQ) RB (overfired piece), RBT</p> <p>Iron nails: (2) Manning Type 1B (90mm & 65mm long)</p> <p>Slag: (1) small piece of iron slag</p> <p>Animal Bone: (Q) <i>Sheep</i> maxilla frag, 4 metacarpal frags, humerus frag, molar, scapular frag & metatarsal; <i>Pig</i> metatarsal; 4 large mammal appendicular bones 1 with cut marks, 5 large mammal rib fragments 1 with cut mark, medium mammal humerus, 2 medium/large cranial frags, medium/large mammal fibula, 4 medium/large mammal axial frags, small mammal appendicular frag.</p>	Roman (pre Flavian?) pottery abraded and probably residual
F2 (7) modern evaluation trench	<p>Roman pottery: (2 sherds at 30g) Fabric DJ; Fabric GX (Cam 218)</p> <p>Fired clay: (1) small abraded, rounded lump (sandy orange fabric)</p> <p>Animal Bone: (1) large mammal vertebrae</p>	Roman (M1-E2/2C)
F3 (8) ditch	<p>Roman pottery: (15 sherds at 304g) Fabric BA(CG); Fabric CZ; Fabric EA (sherd from a beaker with overslip, white roundels/grape bunch decoration); Fabric GB (Cam 37); Fabric GX (Cam 268); Fabric MQ (2 sherds, one probably an Oxford product); Fabric ON (sherds from two pots)</p> <p>Roman CBM: (SQ) RT (base thickness 20mm, 15mm), RI, RBT (one piece scorched/burnt)</p> <p>Animal Bone: (SQ) 6 large mammal appendicular frags, 1 medium/large mammal tibia, 1 medium/large mammal cranial frags,</p>	Roman (E/M3-E4C)

Context and find nos.	Type/ description	Finds Spot date
	large mammal ulna	
F3 (10) ditch	<p>Roman pottery: (2 sherds at 10g) Fabric GX (2 small fragments with black surface, medium-size sherd with rounded carination, wheel-thrown, uneven surface, probably Roman)</p> <p>Animal Bone: (VSQ) small pieces/fragments medium mammal rib & 2 medium/large mammal axial frags</p>	Roman
F4 (4) pit	<p>Roman pottery: (82 sherds at 2154g) (mostly quite broken-up) Fabric AA?; Fabric AJ (medium-large sherds) Dressel 20 3 sherds probably same pot, white surface wash, fabric type BAT AM2 (Tomber & Dore, 85), one sherd in common fabric type (BAT AM1, Tomber & Dore, 84); Fabric BA(SG); Fabric BX (SG), Fabric BA(EG) (Dr 18/31); Fabric DJ (mostly buff, with one orange-red sandy sherd); Fabric CZ (small group of sherds from several vessels) (Cam 407, Cam 408-410); Fabric EA; Fabric GA (Cam 39, Cam 279); Fabric GB (Cam 37A, Cam 39); Fabric GX (Cam 243/244-246, Cam 305); Fabric HZ; Fabric TZ includes spout piece and a rim from a second mortarium (Cam 195B/C); Fabric MQ, single abraded white slipped sherd (Fabric DJ/MQ)</p> <p>Roman CBM: (LQ) (all in orange-red fabric, several medium-large pieces, most quite broken-up, slight indication of burning on some pieces) RT (base thickness 15mm & 20mm), RI, RB, RBT (includes numerous brick/tile fragments), 2 Tess with white mortar</p> <p>Quernstone: (SQ) all imported lava (small pieces/fragments)</p> <p>Iron nails: (SQ) Nails and shaft pieces, corroded, several can be identified as Manning Type 1b</p> <p>Stone: (1) small piece of septaria; also 1 small piece/fragment of slate (presumed intrusive)</p> <p>Mortar: (VSQ) small pieces/fragments of lime mortar</p> <p>Animal bone: (Q) 1 Cow thoracic vertebrae frag, distal end humerus (intentionally cracked for marrow extraction?), metatarsal (robust cut marks), large humerus frag, tooth pre-molar, incisor, calcaneus (robust chop mark); <i>Sheep</i> metacarpal frag with signs of gnawing, metatarsal frag, radius frag; <i>Pig</i> canine; large mammal cranial frag, 3 large mammal rib frags, 3 large mammal appendicular frags, 14 medium/large mammal axial frags, 4 medium mammal rib frags, medium mammal tibia, medium mammal cranial frag, medium/large mammal vertebrae frag, medium mammal mandible frags (burnt), unidentifiable frags (burnt)</p> <p>Shell: (VSQ) oyster shell pieces/fragments</p> <p>Small find: (1) small, thin fragment of sheet copper-alloy</p>	Roman (M3-4C) residual pottery from L1C onwards
F4 (5) pit	<p>Roman pottery: (29 sherds at 324g) Fabric AA; Fabric CH; Fabric DJ; Fabric DZ; EA scale beaker (Cam 407); Fabric GA (Cam 279B); Fabric GB; Fabric GX (Cam 108, Cam 243-244/246) (note one greyware jar base sherd with material adhering from sticking during firing in kiln); Fabric HZ</p> <p>Roman CBM: (SQ) (small pieces), RB, RI, RBT, one piece cream, 2 pieces with scorched/sooted areas</p> <p>Iron nails: (2) 2 small nail pieces (corroded) one with flat round head (Manning Type 1b)</p> <p>Animal bone: (SQ) Cow 2 first phalanx (1 with cut marks & 1 with cut mark/pathology?), 1 second phalanx; large/medium mammal axial frag, large mammal pelvic frag with cut marks, large mammal rib frag, medium mammal rib frag, medium mammal appendicular fragment, medium/large mammal mandible fragment</p> <p>Shell: (1) Small oyster shell</p>	Roman (L3-4C) residual pottery from L1C onwards
F4 (7) pit	<p>Roman pottery: (10 sherds at 202g) Fabric AA, Fabric DJ (possibly CH); Fabric EE, Fabric GA (Cam 39A, Cam 279) Fabric GX</p> <p>Roman CBM: (VSQ) RT (base 15mm thick), RI, RBT (one piece mortared on surfaces)</p> <p>Animal bone: (SQ) Cow first phalanx; large mammal rib frag, 2 large mammal vertebrae frags, 1 frag cranial plate, small mammal appendicular frag, medium/large mammal tooth (burnt)</p>	Roman (c M3-4C) residual pottery from L1/E2C onwards

Context and find nos.	Type/ description	Finds Spot date
	Iron nails: (VSQ) Nails and shaft pieces, corroded	
F4 (11) pit	Stone: (2) Pieces of Greensand stone, one sandy with a rough surface (260mm x 150mm x 110mm), the other hard and angular with mortar on the broad surfaces (220mm x 160mm x 100mm) – probably from the Maidstone (Kent) beds and of 2nd century or later date at Colchester	?Roman (probably 2C or later)

Table 2 All finds by context

Key to abbreviations used in Table 2:

Finds quantities: 1 (1 sherd/piece); 2 (2 sherds/pieces); **VSQ** (very small quantity) 1-5 sherds/pieces; **SQ** (small quantity) 5-10 sherds/pieces; **MQ** (moderate quantity) 10-20 sherds/pieces; **Q** (quantity) 20-50 sherds/pieces; **LQ** (large quantity) 50-100 sherds/pieces; **VLQ** (very large quantity) 100 sherds/pieces+)
Ceramic building material (CBM): RT=Roman *tegula*; RI=Roman *imbrex* tile; RB=Roman brick; RBT=Roman brick or tile; Tess=*tesserae*

7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction – aims and objectives

Two samples were presented for assessment. The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the samples, consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

Sampling and processing methods

Forty litres of soil was sampled and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. They were processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flot was scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter.

At this stage, to allow comparison between samples, numbers have also been estimated but where only a very low number of items are present they have been counted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been separated from charcoal flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart and Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Charcoal flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

Results

The plant remains

All that these flots produced were low to moderate numbers of charcoal fragments and flecks and one dried waterlogged common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*) seed in sample

<1>. This is a plant common in cultivated and disturbed ground. The abundant uncharred, probably modern, rootlet fragments do indicate that modern disturbance is likely to have occurred.

Sample	Find No.	Sample description	Bulk sample volume (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Charred wood >4mmØ	Charred wood <4mmØ	Dried waterlogged Seeds			Modern root/rhizomes
1	6	F4 pit	20	50	1	2	1	1	3	2
2	3	F1 pit	20	15	-	3	-	-	-	3

Table 3 Plant remains

Key: a = abundance [1 = occasional 1-10; 2 = moderate 11-100; and 3 = abundant >100]
d = diversity [1 = low 1-4 taxa types; 2 = moderate 5-10; 3 = high]
p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only); 2 = moderate (genus); 3 = good (species identification possible)]

Fauna and artefactual remains

No fauna or artefacts were present.

Recommendations

These flots were very unproductive so no further archaeobotanical work is recommended. Further whole-earth bulk sampling may recover more charred and possibly mineralised plant remains.

8 Conclusion

This limited archaeological evaluation at Essex County Hospital revealed what appears to be two Roman pits and a ditch. These have survived at depths of between 33.5-33.91m AOD (c 0.4-0.6m below current ground level). Areas of Roman pitting along the western boundary of the site have already been documented by previous investigations (ie PCA 2016), and it is likely that contexts [111] / [110] from PCA evaluation trench T6 are the same as ditch F3 and [113] / [112] are pit F4.

Philip Crummy, pers comm: The pits from this evaluation are, however, very irregular and would perhaps be unexpected in a high-status cemetery. They could be quarry pits associated with the road but again are perhaps too irregular and shallow. Are we instead looking at pits dug in the 19th/early 20th century during antiquarian excavations on the site? Although no modern finds came from the fill of these features, very few modern finds came from the site in general (including from L1) and the limited environmental evidence would certainly indicate modern disturbance. Further investigations would be needed to confirm this theory, but if the features do prove to be of antiquarian origin they are significant as they could be the locations of previously-excavated Roman burials and other burial-related features.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Waterman Infrastructure and Environment Ltd (Waterman IE) and Essex Housing (ECC) for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with J Roberts and A Tuffey. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

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

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Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd	2017a	<i>Essex County Hospital, Colchester: Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trench Evaluation – ECC 4060</i> , by Naomi Hughes
Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd	2017b	<i>Essex County Hospital: Historic Environment Baseline and Site Model</i> , by Naomi Hughes

11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1186)

ECC 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

13 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: COLEM 2017.136.

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Distribution list:

Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd

Essex Housing (ECC)

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

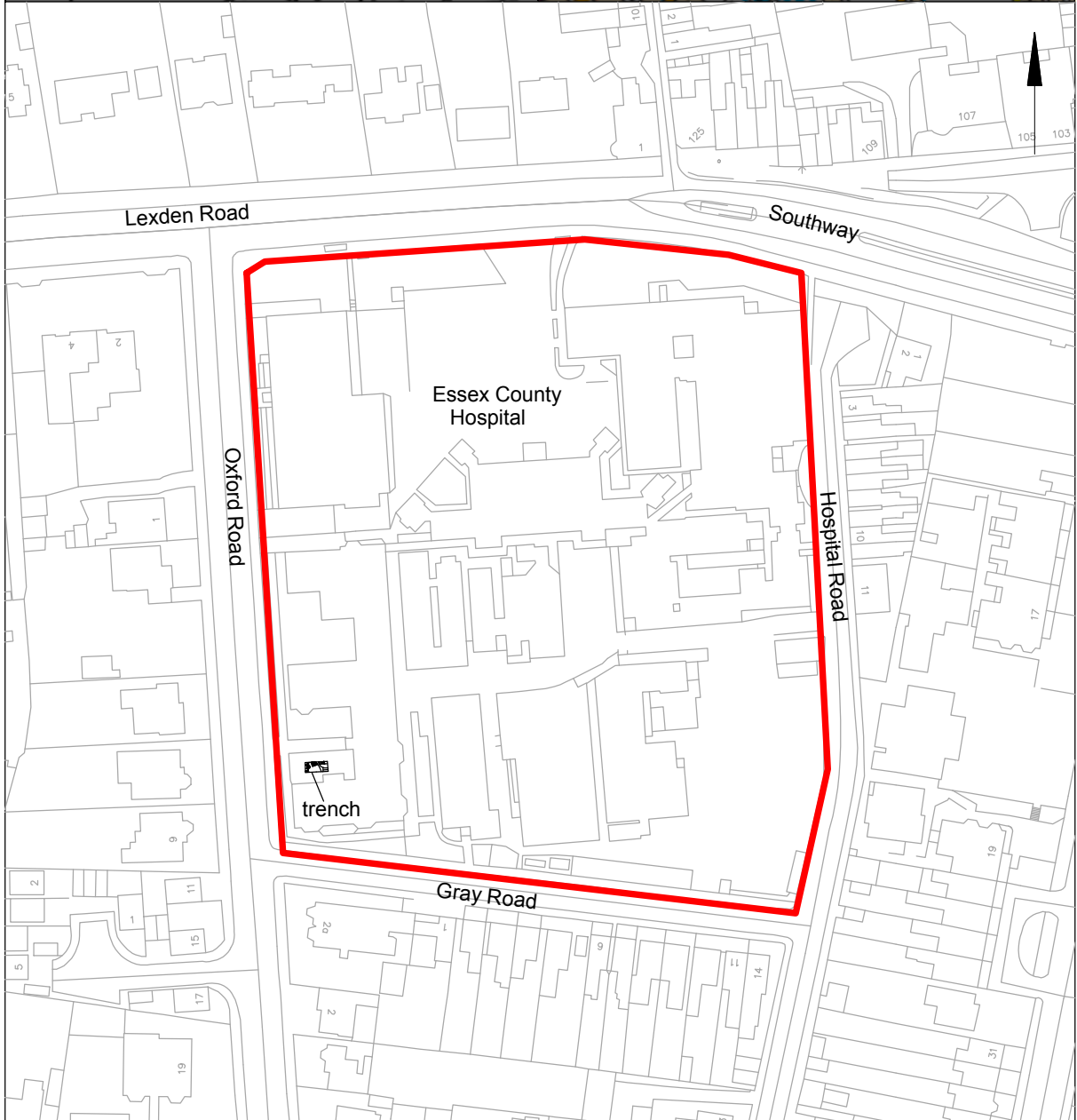
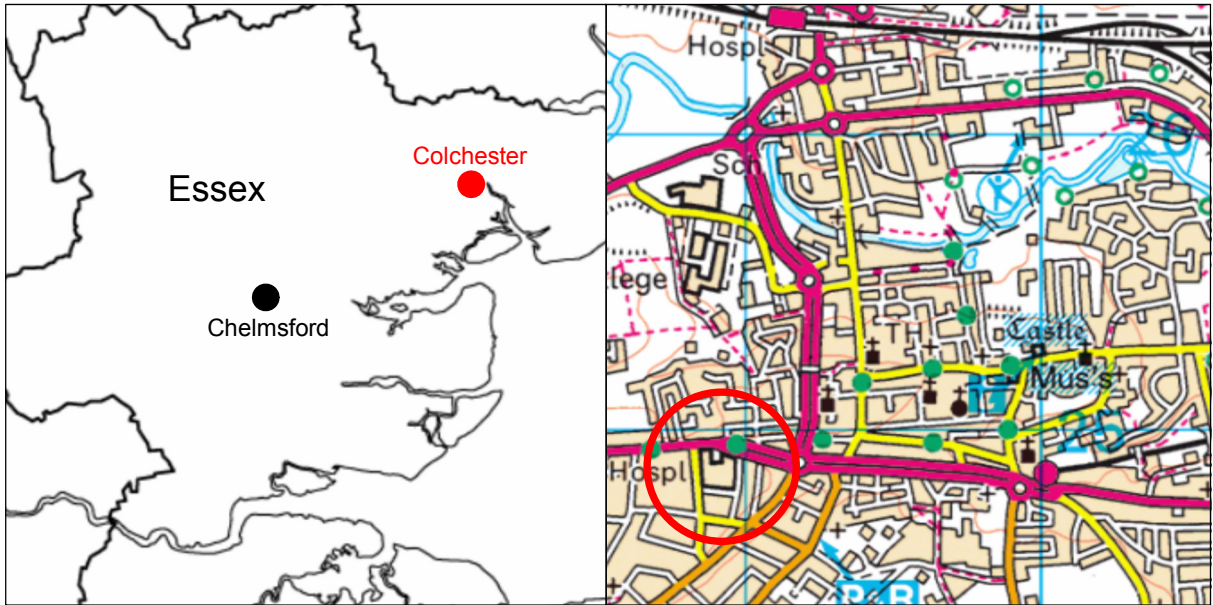
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 20.10.2017

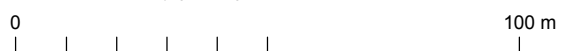
Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Find Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F1	2, 3	Pit	Soft, moist, medium green/grey sandy-silt with common stone	?Roman/Modern
F2	9, 10	test-pit	Backfill from PCA test-pit T6	Modern (2015)
F3	8	Ditch	Soft, friable, dry-moist, dark grey/ brown/black silty-loam, flecks of charcoal (<5%), oyster shell (<6%) and CBM (<10%), occasional gravel and stone	?Roman/Modern
F4	4, 5, 6, 7, 11	Pit	Soft, moist, sandy-silty loam, with flecks of charcoal, oyster shell and mortar, occasional stone	?Roman/Modern
L1	1	Turf and topsoil	Loose, soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silty loam with flecks of charcoal, oyster shell and CBM, common stones.	Modern
L2	-	?Metalling	Loose, soft, moist medium green/grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone	?Roman
L3	-	Buried topsoil	Friable, dry/moist, medium green/grey/brown silty-clayey loam with flecks of charcoal and oyster shell, <5% gravel and <5% stone. Up to 0.2m thick.	Roman
L4	-	Natural	Soft, moist, light yellow-brown sandy-silt with patches of mid orange-brown sandy-silt, occasional small stones and gravel	Post-glacial

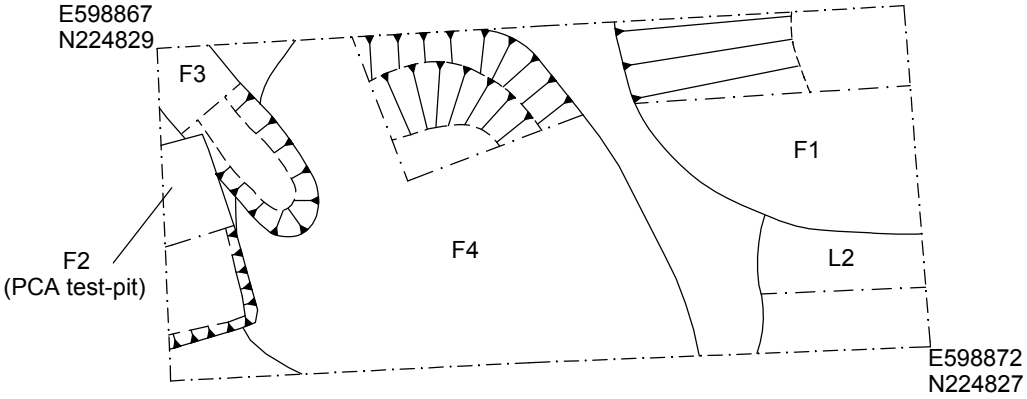


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Fig 1 Site location



Nurses' Home



Nurses' Home

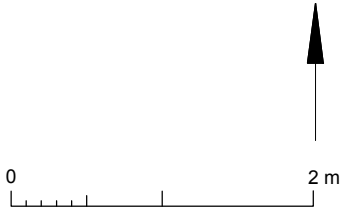
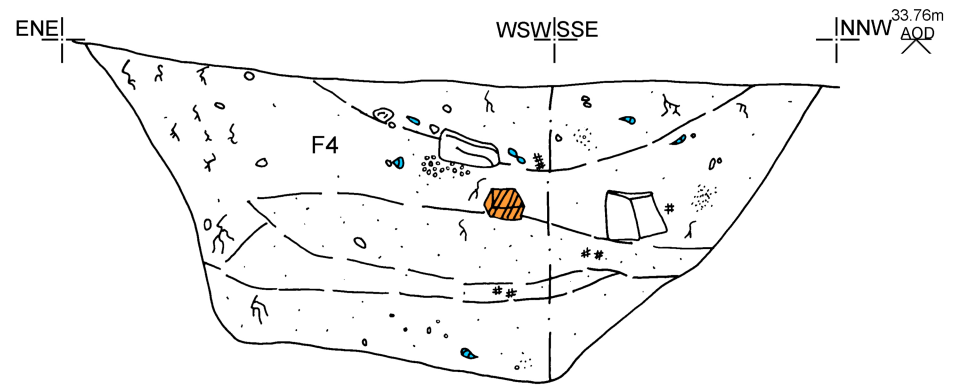
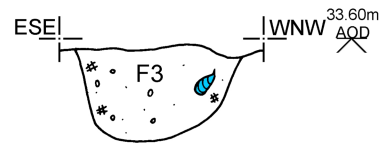
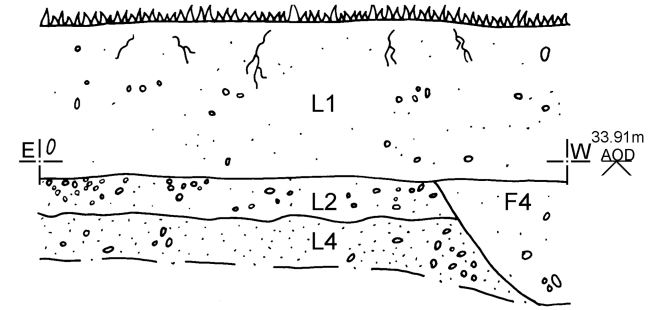
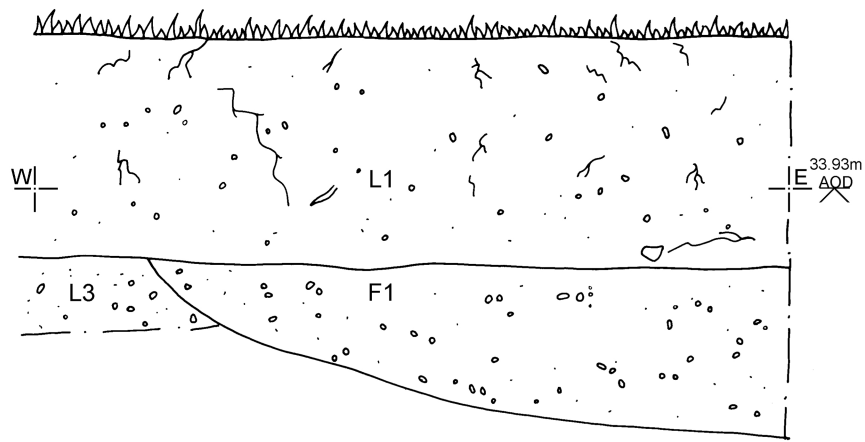


Fig 2 Results



- sand
- small stones
- large stones
- roots
- charcoal
- oyster shell
- Roman brick



Fig 3 Feature and representative sections

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NB	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9892 2487 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/10c CHER ref: ECC4060 OASIS ref: waterman2-294507
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 14th October 2017	Size of area investigated: 1.76g
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM 2017.136	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: NHLE no. 117069, MCC8545 EHER 11713, 11714, 11851, 11852, 11856, 11859, 13139, 17345
Final report: CAT Report	
Periods represented: modern, Roman	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester, Essex in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The hospital is located on the site of a known Roman cemetery where excavations in 1820-1 uncovered the Colchester Sphinx sculpture, part of an elaborate tomb. Roman kilns are also recorded from the site. This evaluation revealed two pits and a ditch surviving at depths of c 0.4-0.6m below current ground level. All three features contained material of Roman date but their significance is difficult to determine based on the limited extent of the evaluation.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: October 2017

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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

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OASIS ID: waterman2-294507

Project details

Project name	Essec County Hospital, Colchester
Short description of the project	Trial trench evaluation of the car park areas at Essex County Hospital, Colchester. Pre-determination works.
Project dates	Start: 14-10-2017 End: 15-10-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4060 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	17/10c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM : 2017.136 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	CEMETERY Roman
Monument type	ROAD Roman
Monument type	HOSPITAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	STATUE Roman
Significant Finds	BURIAL Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Essex County Hospital
Postcode	CO3 3NB

Study area	9 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9892 2487 51.886317851644 0.890834271204 51 53 10 N 000 53 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 33.5m Max: 34.1m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Waterman Infrastructure and Environment
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Essex Housing, Essex County Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM : 2017.136
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM : 2017.136
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archeological evaluation at Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NB
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1186
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	Eighteen page digital report in .pdf format.

Project bibliography

2

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Essex County Hospital, Colchester, Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trench Evaluation - ECC4060
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hughes, N.
Other bibliographic details	Document Ref: WIE13027_S_1_2_3_TT
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Waterman Infrastructure and Environment
Place of issue or publication	Bristol
Description	185 page digital report in .pdf format which includes the desk-based assessment in appendices.
Entered by	Naomi Trott (naomi.trott@watermangroup.com)
Entered on	15 November 2017

OASIS:

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