

# Archaeological evaluation at the former bus depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ

September 2020



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Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd**

NGR: TL 99910 25041 (centre)  
Planning ref.: pre-planning  
CAT project ref.: 20/07b  
ECC code: ECC4557  
OASIS ref.: colchest3-401768



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**CAT Report 1600**  
October 2020

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	3
5	Results	3
6	Finds	6
7	Conclusion	9
8	Acknowledgements	9
9	References	10
10	Abbreviations and glossary	11
11	Contents of archive	12
12	Archive deposition	12
	Appendix 1 Pottery list	13
	Appendix 2 CBM list	14
	Figures	after p14
	CAT wsi	
	OASIS summary sheet	

## List of photographs and figures

Cover: General site shot

Photograph 1	Roadside ditch F3 with street metalling L2 in the top right corner of the test-pit, looking east	4
Photograph 2	General shot of the test-pit, looking north	5
Table 1	Context information	3
Table 2	Roman pottery fabrics recorded	6
Table 3	Details on the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery	6
Table 4	Roman pottery quantification via vessel form	6
Table 5	Quantities of Roman pottery from specific features and contexts	7
Table 6	Details on the Roman pottery from ditch F3	7
Table 7	Roman pottery quantification via vessel form for ditch F3	7
Table 8	Roman building material by type	8
Table 9	Quantities of CBM by context	8
Table 10	Approximate dates for the individual contexts	8
Table 11	Miscellaneous finds by context	9
Table 12	Animal bone by context	9
Fig 1	Site location	
Fig 2	Development site showing the results of the 2020 GPR survey (Magnitude Surveys) alongside the results of 2017 test-pits TP1 and TP2.	
Fig 3	Results	
Fig 4	Feature sections	
Fig 5	Results shown in relation to the Roman street plot and the results of the 2017 evaluation test pits TP1, TP2 and TP3.	

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (one test-pit) was carried out at the former bus depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex in advance of its redevelopment. The development site is located within Insula 38b of the Roman town, close to the Roman town wall. Previous evaluation within the bus depot has revealed significant archaeological remains including a Roman street, a possible Royalist defensive ditch from the English Civil War, and wall foundations and demolition debris from the Theatre Royal which burnt down in 1917.*

*Significant Roman remains were encountered c 0.31m below current ground level immediately beneath the modern concrete floor of the bus depot. Within the test-pit was a Roman metalled street surface and roadside ditch, two Roman pits and a pit/posthole, a possible Anglo-Saxon pit and two undated features.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation at the former bus depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex which was carried out from 7th to 9th September 2020. The work was commissioned by Alison Fogg of Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd in advance of the redevelopment of the bus depot and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

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

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

## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

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

The former bus depot lies on the east side of Queen Street. It was built in 1920 on the site of the Theatre Royal which burnt down around 1917. It lies within the southeast angle of the Roman walled town (CHER ECC9314), immediately to the northeast of the South Gate (ECC2332) and to the north of the Roman town wall (ECC1039). In fact, one side of the building incorporates approximately 100m of the Roman town wall (Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1003772).

The Roman town wall was built around the town in the late 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and tile. Philip Crummy (2003) states that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*) and a hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being

3.77m wide. Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6), while others were significantly deeper. Excavations conducted by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 revealed stone foundations 1.2m deep with wooden piles below although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain the exceptional depth (CAT report 347). Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

The bus depot itself is in insula (town block) 38b of the Roman town. Prior to 2017, there were no archaeological excavations inside the bus depot, the nearest being a trench dug by Rex Hull in 1931, 15m to the rear (east) of the depot building, in which Roman wall lines and a drain were uncovered. Other discoveries of Roman walls and floors within 20m of the development site have indicated that insula 38b was built-up with Roman town houses in the manner revealed by large-scale excavations at Lion Walk and Culver Street to the west. In fact, the bus depot straddles a Roman gravel street, and there are probably Roman buildings on both the north and south sides of this street. The only known and significant remains post-dating the Roman town-houses are the foundations of the Theatre Royal, which stood at the site prior to the bus depot. It is possible that the walls and foundations of the theatre survive below the depot. Likewise, recent large-scale excavations in the town have shown that although modern infrastructure (such as the bus depot) has truncated the buried remains, it does not always destroy them completely, and islands of preserved Roman deposits can survive between modern wall lines.

In 2017, CAT excavated five large test-pits on the development site (CAT Report 1106). Three test-pits (TP1-TP3) (see Fig 2) were excavated inside the bus depot, uncovering significant modern, post-medieval and Roman remains c 0.45-0.5m below current ground level. Modern wall foundations and demolition debris associated with the Theatre Royal and its destruction by fire in 1917 were uncovered, along with post-medieval remains consisting of two large pits and a ditch. The ditch is probably part of the Royalist defensive position behind the town walls during the English Civil War. Roman remains included two possible phases of Roman street/road metalling, a small section of the Roman rampart, and a mid to late Roman ditch cut through an earlier pit and posthole. Two test-pits (TP4-TP5) excavated to the rear (east) of the building revealed modern and post-medieval layers to a depth of c 1.25-1.65m below current ground level, underneath which were significant Roman structural remains. Interestingly, Hull's 1931 archaeological trench was identified cutting through both test-pits. Within TP4, a tile-lined Roman drain aligned NNW-SSE was observed. This probably branched-off from Hull's E-W tile-lined drain (located immediately to the south of TP4). One of the Roman wall foundations identified by Hull was also located in TP5. In addition, there were two possible floor layers and other surfacing material.

In July 2020, a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was carried out inside the former bus depot (Magnitude Surveys 2020) revealing the remains of the projected Roman road, the Civil War ditch and the foundations of the Theatre Royal (see Fig 2).

A number of significant archaeological investigations have also taken place within the southeast angle of the Roman town, around the development site, within insulas 31, 32, 38b, 39 and 40. These have revealed that the whole area was largely residential in the Roman period, for significant reports see: Hull 1958; Richardson 1961; Dunnett 1971; Crossan 1990; CAR 6, 375-8; CAT Reports 205, 234, 295, 385, 477, 520, 1230 and 1286.

#### 4 Aims

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

Furthermore, the test-pit was specifically located to target structural remains (the Theatre Royal?), levelling material and a buried surface (probably the Roman road) identified by the GPR survey (see Fig 2).

#### 5 Results (Figs 3-4)

One test-pit, 4m long by 4m wide, was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was cut through modern concrete (L1) onto a layer of Roman street metalling (L2) and accumulation (L3).

Street metalling L2 was located in the southeast corner of the test-pit and consisted of abundant stones and gravel set into a sandy-silt. It was bounded to the north by roadside ditch F3 which was aligned ENE to WSW and crossed the test-pit. The ditch was 1.08m wide by 0.36m deep and was relatively straight-sided along its southern edge with a flat base, although the northern edge was gently sloping. Pottery from the ditch is dated c AD 240 to 300.

To the north of ditch F3 was accumulation layer L3 which was cut by pits F1, F4 and F5, pit/posthole F6 and posthole F1. Pits F1, F4 and F5 all produced Roman period finds, but pit F4 also contained a single sherd of early to mid Anglo-Saxon pottery. Pit/posthole F6 and posthole F1 were all undated.

Context	Finds no.	Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Concrete floor	Crush red brick in concrete Identified at 21.05m AOD. c 0.30m thick. Seals L2 and F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 & F6.	Modern
L2	-	Street metalling	Light-medium yellow/orange/green/ brown sandy-silt with abundant loose to firm stones and gravel. Identified at 20.89m AOD. Sealed by L1.	Roman
L3	-	Accumulation	Not excavated. Identified at 20.71m AOD. Sealed by L1, cut by F1, F2, F4, F5 & F6	?Roman
F1	1	Pit	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-loam with inclusions of CBM, pottery, oyster shell, bone, charcoal. Identified at 20.68m AOD. Extended beyond limit of excavation and cut by F4, but as excavated it measured at least 1.72m long, 0.41m wide and 0.19m deep. Sealed by L1, cut by F4, cuts L3.	Roman, c AD 150-300
F2	-	Posthole	Loose, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 10% stone and two medium-sized pieces of septaria used as packing. Identified at 20.66m AOD. 0.35m long, 0.30m wide by 0.26m deep. Sealed by L1, cuts L3.	Undated

F3	2	Ditch	Soft to firm, dry, dark grey/brown sandy-silty with inclusions of CBM, pottery and oyster shell, 30% stone, 15% gravel. Identified at 20.65m AOD. 1.08m wide by 0.36m deep. Sealed by L1.	Roman, c AD 240-300
F4	3	Pit	Upper fill: Dark grey/brown sandy-loam with frequent Roman CBM, septaria and oyster shell. Lower fill: Mid grey/orange/brown sandy-silt. Identified at 20.65m AOD. Extended beyond limit of excavation, but as excavated it was irregularly-shaped and measured 2.14m long, 1.57m wide & 0.95m deep. Sealed by L1, cuts F1 & L3.	Early to mid Anglo-Saxon or later
F5	4	Pit	Loose, dry, dark grey/brown sandy-silt with 50% CBM and charcoal flecks. Identified at 20.63m AOD. 1.17m long, 0.97m wide & 0.2m deep. Sealed by L1, cuts L3.	Roman
F6	-	Pit/posthole	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-clay. 20.62m AOD. 0.54m long, 0.44m wide and 0.16m deep. Sealed by L1, cuts L3.	Undated

**Table 1** Context information



**Photograph 1** Roadside ditch F3 with street metalling L2 in the top right corner of the test-pit, looking east



**Photograph 2** General shot of the test-pit, looking north

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The excavation uncovered 94 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of just under 16kg with rim sherds from 1.35 vessels (rim EVE). Pottery and CBM was recovered from four features although most of the material came from the ditch F3.

#### **Roman pottery**

Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999) supplemented with fabric groups from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection, henceforth NRFRC (Tomber & Dore 1998) (Table 2). Roman vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR 10*, Bidwell & Croom 1999, 468-487). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

There were 53 sherds of Roman pottery with a weight of 1,535kg (Table 3) and 1.29 vessels according to the rim EVE (Table 4). Roman pottery was recovered from three features although most of the material came from the ditch F3 (Table 5).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	2nd century AD
BAEG	Eastern Gaulish plain samian	Mid-2nd-mid-3rd century AD
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	Early-2nd-3rd century AD
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman (primarily mid-1st-2nd century AD)
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	Early 2nd-3rd century AD
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	Late Iron Age to Roman
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	Early-2nd to 4th century AD
MQ	White-slipped fine wares and parchment wares	Roman
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae	1st-3rd century AD

**Table 2** Roman pottery fabrics recorded

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	1	17	17	0.03
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	3	51	5	0.11
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	1	3	3	0.00
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	13	254	20	0.00
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	9	223	25	0.51
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	17	256	15	0.12
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	1	22	22	0.10
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	2	24	12	0.10
MQ	White-slipped fine wares and parchment wares	3	132	44	0.32
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae	3	553	184	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1.29</b>

**Table 3** Details on the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Fabric group	Form	EVE
<b>BACG</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.03</b>
	DRAG.31	0.03
<b>BAEG</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.11</b>
	DRAG.31	0.11
<b>GB</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.51</b>
	CAM 37A/38A	0.07
	CAM 37B/38B	0.26
	CAM 278	0.18
<b>GX</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.12</b>
	CAM 268	0.12
<b>HD</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.10</b>
	TYPE 36	0.10
<b>KX</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.10</b>
	CAM 37B/38B	0.08
	CAM 39B	0.02
<b>MQ</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>0.32</b>
	CAM 207/296	0.32
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.29</b>

**Table 4** Roman pottery quantification via vessel form



Context	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F1	Pit	5	57	11	0.02
F3	Ditch	41	1,371	33	1.10
F4	Pit	7	107	15	0.17
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1.29</b>

**Table 5** Quantities of Roman pottery from specific features and contexts

### **The assemblage from ditch F3**

Ditch F3 contained a modest assemblage of Roman pottery with 41 sherds with a weight of 1.3kg and 1.10 vessels according to the rim EVE (Table 6). Noteworthy vessels included a samian central Gaulish (BACG) Drag. 31 bowl dating to c AD 150-200 and also an eastern Gaulish samian (BAEG) Drag. 31 dating to c AD 180-250 (Table 7). Black-burnished and related wares (fabric GB, KX) included examples of the Cam 37B/38B (AD 180-275) and Cam 278 (AD 117-150/260) (Table 7). In other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares (GX) there is a Cam 268 jar (Table 7) dating to c AD 125/150-280/320. Finally, in white-slipped fine wares and parchment wares (MQ) there is a Cam 207/296 pedestalled vase dating from the Claudian-Neronian to the late 2nd/early 3rd century AD. This assemblage of pottery can be dated to the 3rd century AD.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim	Handle	Base	EVE
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	1	17	17	1	0	0	0.03
BAEG	East Gaulish plain samian	3	51	17	1	0	1	0.11
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	1	3	3	0	0	1	0.00
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	12	239	20	0	0	3	0.00
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	7	201	29	4	0	2	0.44
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	10	155	16	1	0	0	0.12
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	1	20	20	1	0	0	0.08
MQ	White-slipped fine wares and parchment wares	3	132	44	3	0	0	0.32
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae	3	553	184	0	0	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.10</b>

**Table 6** Details on the Roman pottery from ditch F3

Fabric group	Form	EVE
BACG	<b>All</b>	<b>0.03</b>
	DRAG.31	0.03
BAEG	<b>All</b>	<b>0.11</b>
	DRAG.31	0.11
GB	<b>All</b>	<b>0.44</b>
	CAM 37B/38B	0.26
	CAM 278	0.18
GX	<b>All</b>	<b>0.12</b>
	CAM 268	0.12
KX	<b>All</b>	<b>0.08</b>
	CAM 37B/38B	0.08

MQ	All	0.32
	CAM 207/296	0.32
Total		1.10

**Table 7** Roman pottery quantification via vessel form for ditch F3

### **Post-Roman pottery**

Post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000) and Cunningham (1985) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). Pit F4 contained one sherd of Anglo-Saxon handmade sand tempered (fabric F3) pottery from an everted rim bowl (EVE 0.06).

### **Ceramic building material (CBM)**

There were 40 sherds of Roman CBM with a weight of just over 14kg (Table 8).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
RT	Roman <i>tegula</i>	17	4,818	283
RI	Roman <i>imbrex</i>	8	1,075	134
RB	Roman brick	12	8,217	685
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	1	22	22
Op. Sig.		2	30	15
Total		40	14,162	354

**Table 8** Roman building material by type

CBM was recovered from four features although most of the material came from ditch F3 (Table 9). Noteworthy CBM included a tile from ditch F3 with a lower cut away of type D dating to AD 240-380 (Warry 2006, 63).

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Pit	6	1,182	197
F3	Ditch	26	5,638	217
F4	Pit	4	4,492	1,123
F5	Pit	4	2,850	713
Total		40	14,162	354

**Table 9** Quantities of CBM by context

### **Conclusion**

Table 10 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which produced dateable ceramic finds.

Context	Feature type	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	CBM	Overall date Approx.
F1	Pit	GX, GB, KX (Cam 39B)	-	RI, RT, RB	c AD 150-300
F3	Ditch	BACG (DRAG 31), BAEG (DRAG 31), CZ, DJ, GB (Cam 37B/38B, Cam 278), KX (Cam 207/296), MQ (Cam 207/296), NARB	-	RI, RB, RT (LCA D15), Op. sig.	c AD 240-300
F4	Pit	DJ, GX, HD (type 36), GB (Cam 37A/38A)	F3	RB, RI	Early to mid Anglo-Saxon
F5	Pit		-	RB, RT	Roman

**Table 10** Approximate dates for the individual contexts

## 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

A small fragment of Roman glass came from F3 (finds no.2) along with an incomplete iron nail and two fragments of stone. A large piece of limestone came from F4 (finds no.3).

Context	Finds no.	Description
F3	2	<b>Roman glass:</b> Small fragment from a ribbon handle, blue glass, 8.2g. <b>Iron nail:</b> Round-sectioned shank, clenched, head missing, 68mm long, 8.4g (discarded) <b>Stone:</b> Chalk nodule (99.4g) and a chip of greensand stone (31.0g) (discarded).
F4	3	<b>Stone:</b> Large fragment of limestone, 2.46kg (discarded)

**Table 11** Miscellaneous finds by context

## 6.3 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The evaluation produced two pieces of bone (162g) from Roman roadside ditch F3. Both pieces are likely to be cow and they had been hacked or deliberately broken prior to their deposition in the ditch. The material was in poor condition with a general loss of surface detail.

Context	Find no.	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F3	2	1	54	Cow	Mandible fragment with teeth (left jaw, teeth P3 and P4).
		1	108	Large mammal	Cervical vertebrae, probably either cow or horse.
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>162</b>		

**Table 12** Animal bone by context

## 7 Conclusion

The test-pit revealed significant Roman remains c 0.31m below current ground level immediately beneath the modern concrete floor. Roman metalled street surface L2 was identified in the southeast corner of the test-pit, to the south of Roman roadside ditch F3, confirming the location of the northern edge of the street (see Fig 5). This also confirms that the 'buried surface' identified in the GPR survey (see Fig 2) is the Roman metalled street.

Six pits/postholes had been cut into accumulation layer L3 to the north of the road. Three of these features were of Roman date and two were undated. However, along with Roman period finds, pit F4 also contained a single sherd of early to mid Anglo-Saxon pottery, but it is possible that this sherd is residual in a later-dated feature.

There was no trace of the 'possible structural remains' highlighted on the GPR survey which were thought to possibly be related to the Theatre Royal. However, it is possible that earlier structural remains are sealed beneath accumulation layer L3. This layer is likely to be the spread of 'levelling material' recorded on the GPR survey.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Alison Fogg and Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with N Pryke and R Mathieson. Figures are by R Mathieson, S Carter & L Pooley.

The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Jess Tipper and Dr Richard Hoggett.

## 9 References

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

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| CAT Report 1106       | 2017  | <i>Archaeological evaluation at the former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ: April 2017</i> , by L Pooley  |
| CAT Report 1230       | 2018  | <i>Continuous archaeological monitoring and recording and a test-pit evaluation at St James' House and The Waiting Room, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 2PQ, December 2017-January 2018</i> , by A Wightman  |
| CAT Report 1286       | 2018  | <i>Archaeological evaluation at St Botolph's (site of former bus station), Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ: April-May 2018</i> , by A Wightman   |
| CBCAA                 | 2020  | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at former Queen Street Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester</i> , by J Tipper  |
| ClfA                  | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| ClfA                  | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>   |
| Cotter, J P           | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.  |

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Cunningham, C M	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, C M & Drury, P J (eds.), <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford AD 1450-1750</i> . Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report no. 5/CBA Research report no. 54, 1-16. London: Council for British Archaeology.
Dunnett, B R K	1971	'Excavations in Colchester, 1964-8', <i>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society</i> 3 (3rd series), part 1, 1-106
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hawkes, C F C & Hull, M R	1947	<i>Camulodunum. First Report on the Excavation at Colchester 1930-1939</i> . Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no. 14. Oxford: The Society of Antiquaries, London.
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> . Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no. 20. Oxford: The Society of Antiquaries, London.
Magnitude Surveys	2020	<i>Geophysical Survey Report of former Queen Street Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex</i> , by William Rigby & Sophie Peel
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Richardson, K	1961	'Excavations in Lewis's gardens, Colchester, 1955 and 1958', <i>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society</i> 1 (3rd series), part 1, 7-36
Schmid, E	1972	<i>Atlas of Animal Bones</i> Amsterdam, Elsevier Publishing Company.
Symonds, R & Wade S	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
Tomber, R & Dore, J	1989	<i>The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection. A Handbook</i> (MoLAS Monograph 2). London: Museum of London Archaeology Service.
Warry, P	2006	<i>Tegulae. Manufacture, typology and use in Roman Britain</i> . Oxford: BAR British Series 417.
Webster, P	1996	<i>Roman Samian Pottery in Britain</i> . Practical Handbook in Archaeology no.13. York: Council for British Archaeology.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

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

Roman section wsi the period from AD 43 to c AD 410  
(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s  
written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** One box

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1600)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (layer and feature sheets, finds record, sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1600)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under project ref. ECC4557.

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### **Distribution list:**

Alison Fogg, Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd

Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

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

Checked by: Philip Crummy

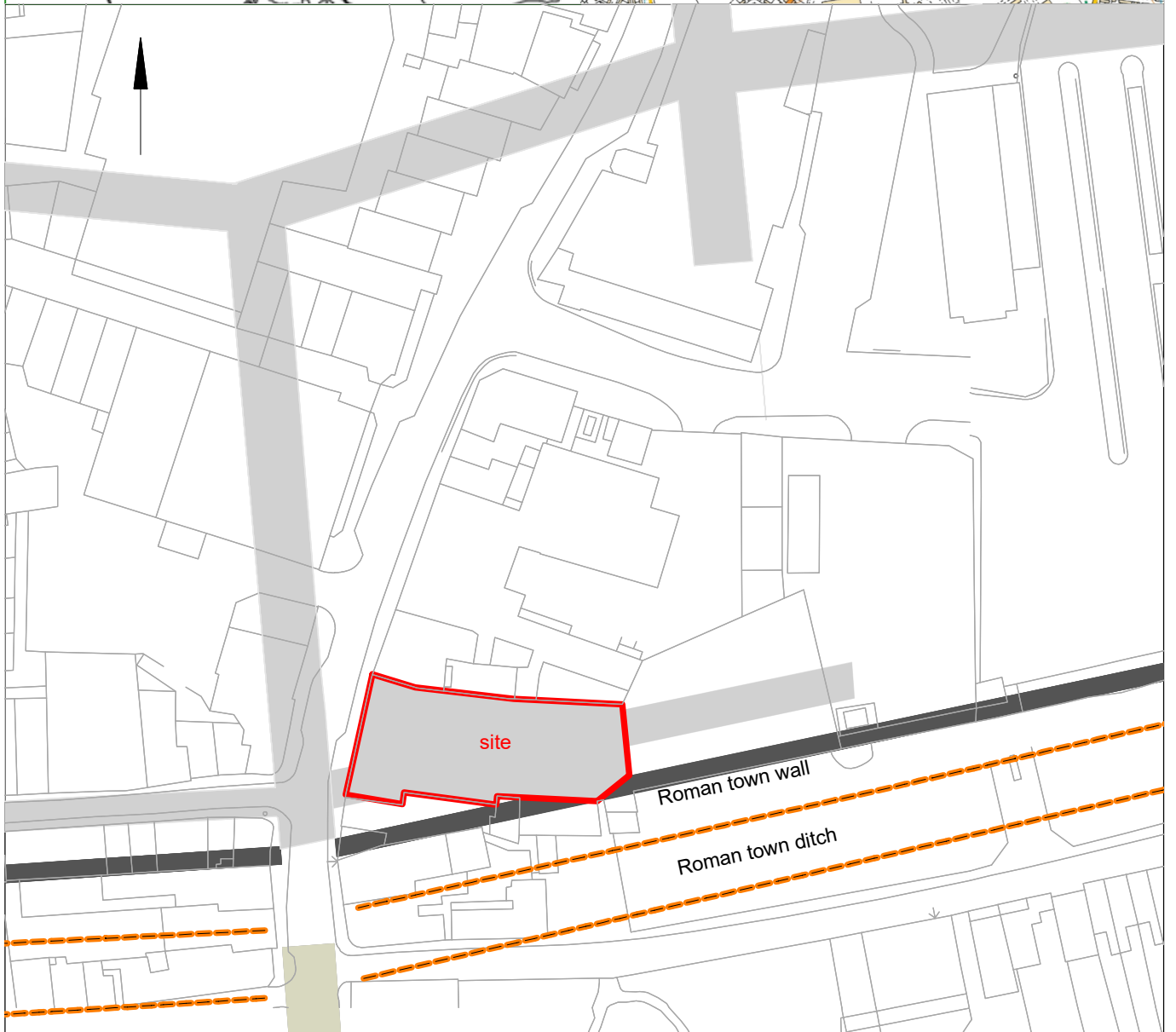
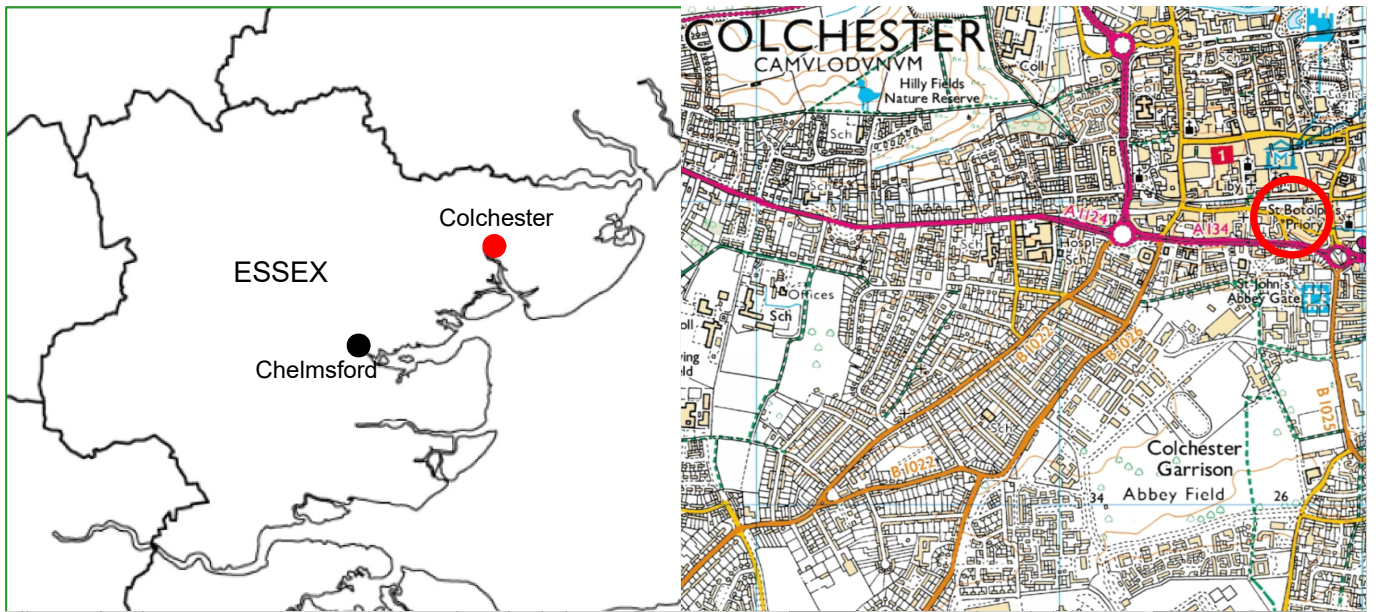
Date: 16.10.2020

## Appendix 1 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR	MS W	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wind	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Hole/Rep h.	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
F1	Pit	1	2	23	12									X											GX					ROMAN
F1	Pit	1	1	20	20		0	0	1																GX					ROMAN
F1	Pit	1	1	10	10																				GB					AD 125-300
F1	Pit	1	1	4	4		1	0	0																KX	CAM 39B	0.02	?		AD 140-300
F3	Ditch	2	3	553	184																				NARB	GAUL				ROMAN
F3	Ditch	2	1	3	3		0	0	1																CZ					AD 125/150-250
F3	Ditch	2	11	233	21		0	0	3																DJ					ROMAN
F3	Ditch	2	2	109	55		2	0	0																MQ	CAM 207/296	0.24	200		AD 49-180/220
F3	Ditch	2	3	74	25		1	0	0																GX	CAM 268	0.12	160		AD 125/150-280/320
F3	Ditch	2	5	61	12																				GX					ROMAN
F3	Ditch	2	1	20	20		1	0	0																KX	CAM 37B/38B	0.08	190		AD 180-275
F3	Ditch	2	5	149	30		3	0	1																GB	CAM 37B/38B	0.20	210		AD 180-275
F3	Ditch	2																							GB	CAM 37B/38B	0.06	240		AD 180-275
F3	Ditch	2	1	9	9																				BAEG				NO SLIP INT	AD 150-250
F3	Ditch	2	1	17	17		1	0	0																BACG	DRAG 31	0.03	?		AD 150-200
F3	Ditch	2	2	42	21		1	0	1																BAEG	DRAG 31	0.11	170		AD 180-250
F3	Ditch	2	1	19	19		0	0	1																GB					AD 125-300
F3	Ditch	2	2	20	10																				GX					ROMAN
F3	Ditch	2	1	6	6																				DJ					ROMAN
F3	Ditch	2	1	23	23		1	0	0																MQ	CAM 207/296	0.08	200		AD 49-180/220
F3	Ditch	2	1	33	33		1	0	0																GB	CAM 278	0.18	140		AD 117-250/260
F4	Pit	3	2	33	17																				GX					ROMAN
F4	Pit	3	1	12	12		1	0	0																GB	CAM 37A/38A	0.07	160		AD 110-180/220
F4	Pit	3	1	22	22		1	0	0																HD	TYPE 36	0.10	190		AD 325/350-425
F4	Pit	3	1	12	12											X									GX					ROMAN
F4	Pit	3	1	13	13											X									GX					ROMAN
F4	Pit	3	1	15	15		0	0	1							X									DJ					ROMAN







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Fig 1 Site location.

Roman street layout

0 50 m

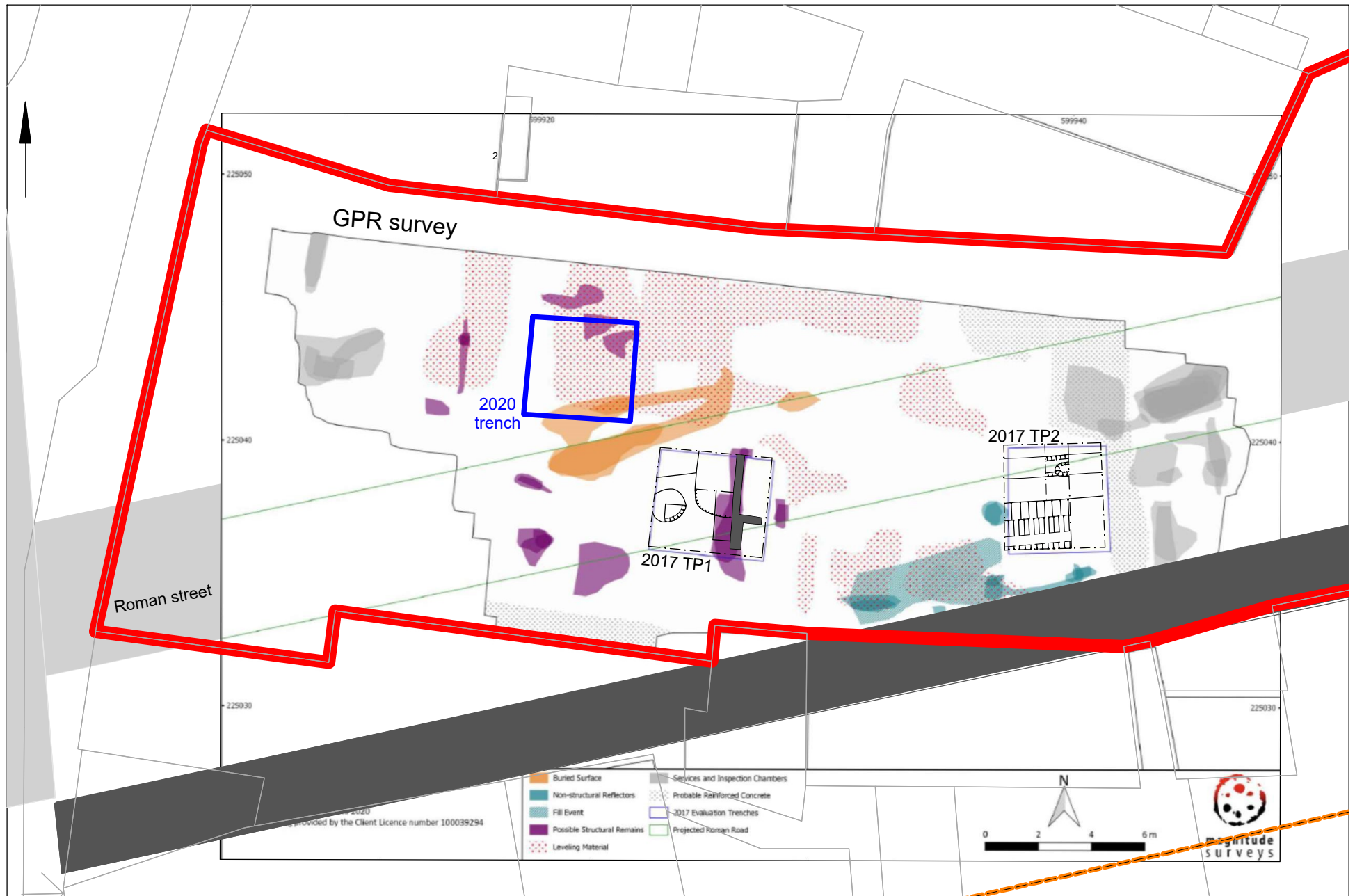


Fig 2 Development site showing the results of the 2020 GPR survey (Magnitude Surveys) alongside the results of 2017 test-pits TP1 and TP2.



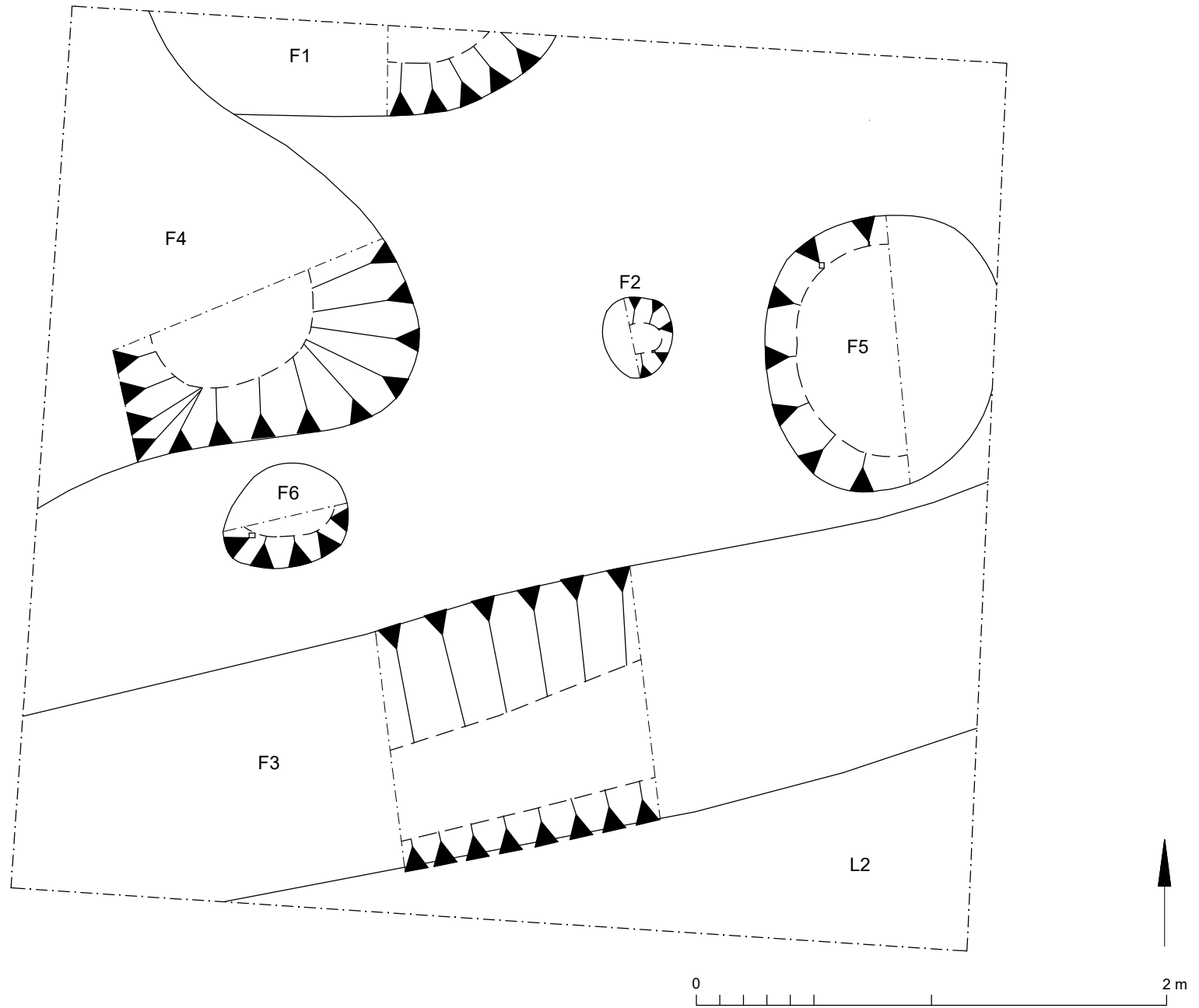


Fig 3 Results

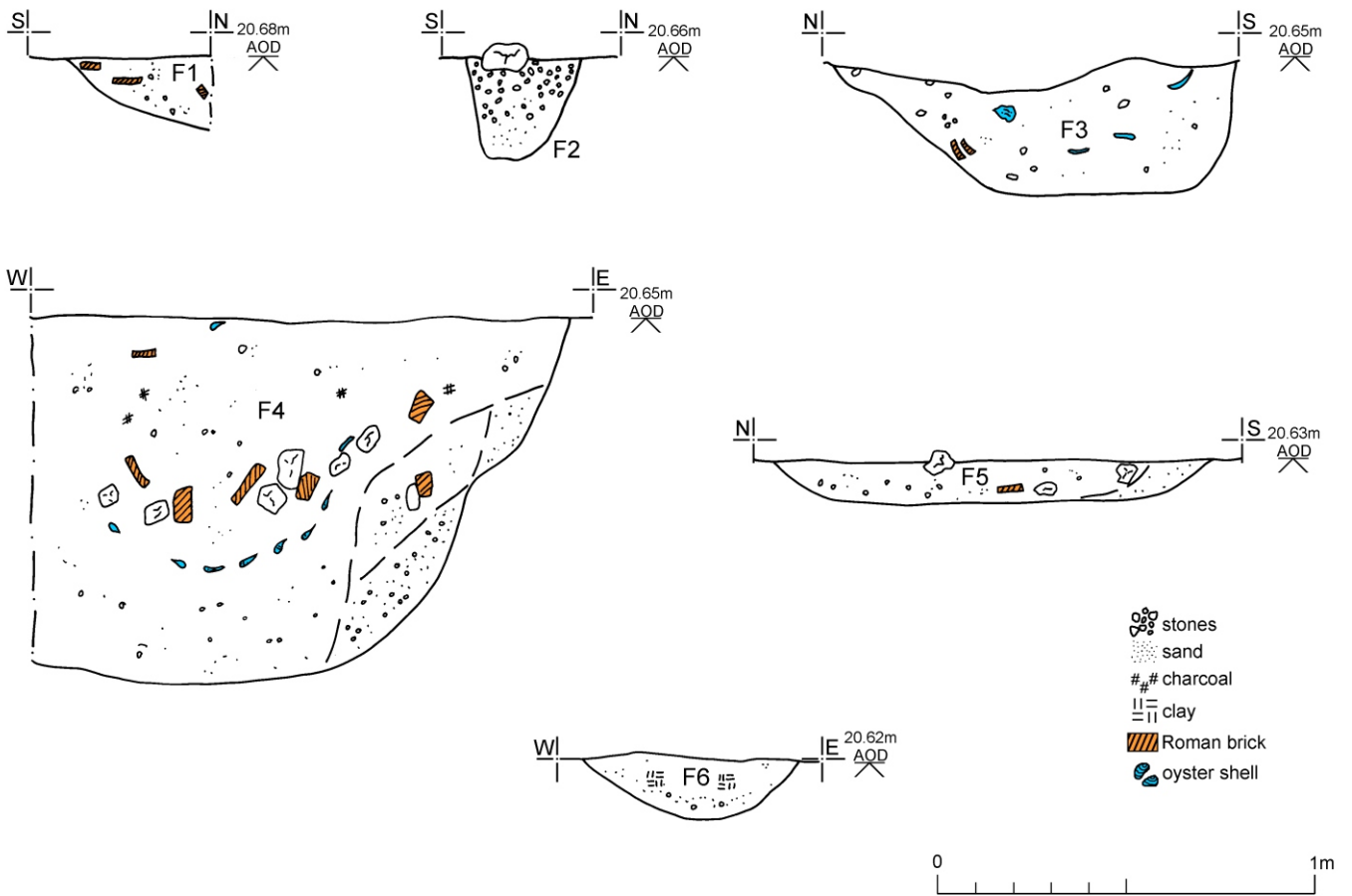


Fig 4 Feature sections.

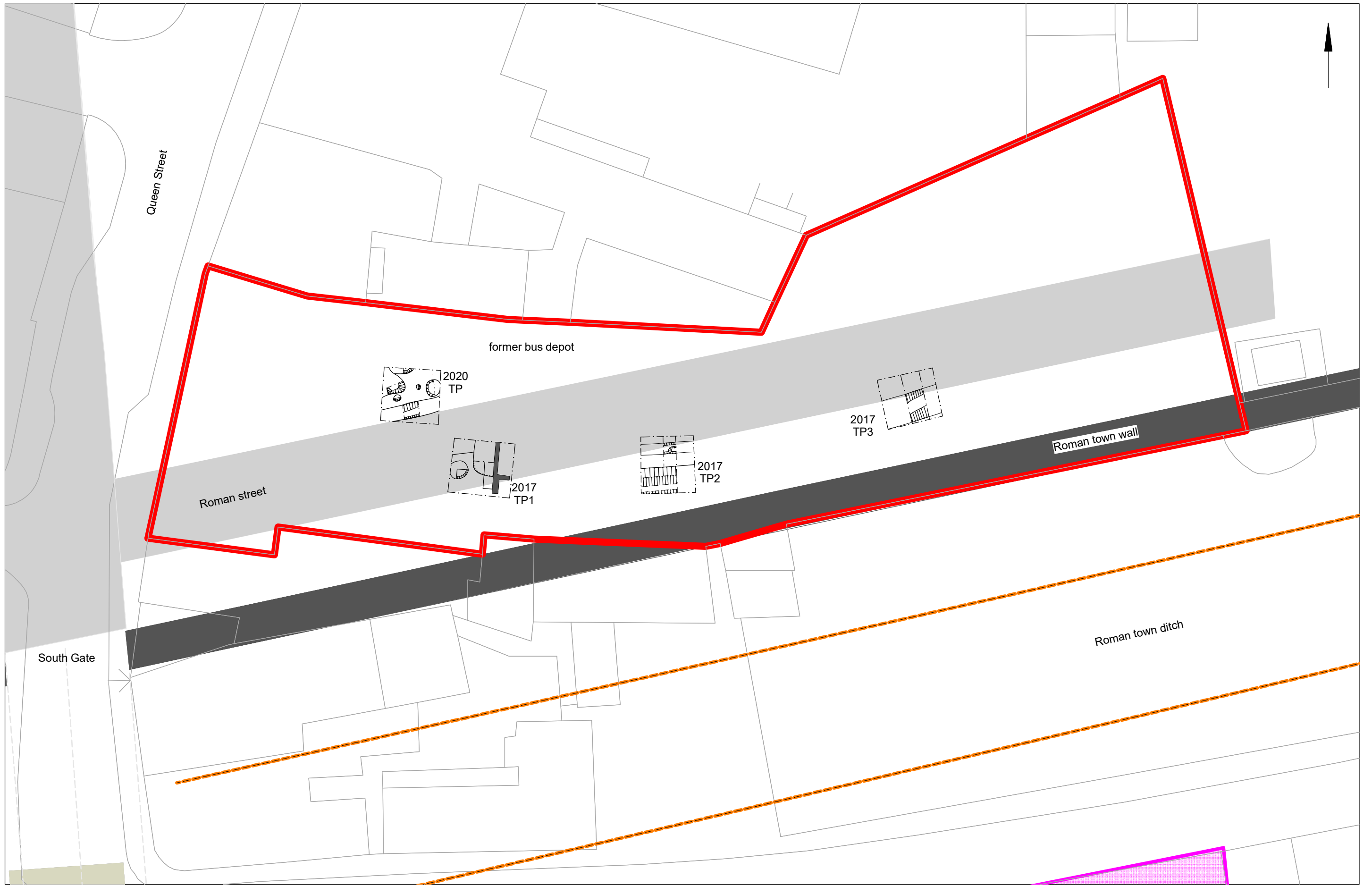


Fig 5 Results shown in relation to the Roman street plot and the results of the 2017 evaluation test pits TP1, TP2 and TP3.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> The former bus depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 99910 25041 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 20/07b CHER ref: ECC4557 OASIS ref: colchest3-401768
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 7th-9th September 2020	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.14ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER ECC1039, ECC2332, ECC9314
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1600	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman, ?Anglo-Saxon	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>An archaeological evaluation (one test-pit) was carried out at the former bus depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex in advance of its redevelopment. The development site is located within Insula 38b of the Roman town, close to the Roman town wall. Previous evaluation within the bus depot has revealed significant archaeological remains including a Roman street, a possible Royalist defensive ditch from the English Civil War, and wall foundations and demolition debris from the Theatre Royal which burnt down in 1917.</i></p> <p><i>Significant Roman remains were encountered c 0.31m below current ground level immediately beneath the modern concrete floor of the bus depot. Within the test-pit was a Roman metalled street surface and roadside ditch, two Roman pits and a pit/posthole, a possible Anglo-Saxon pit and two undated features.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 1106	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2020

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at the former bus depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ

**NGR:** TL 99910 25041 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Planning reference:** pre-application

**Commissioned by:** Alison Fogg (CATL)

**Client:** Colchester Amphora Trading Ltd

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER project code:** [tbc](#)

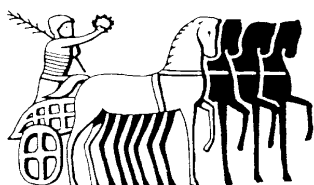
**CAT project code:** 2020/07b

**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-401768

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 20.8.2020



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## Site location and description (Fig 1)

The proposed development site lies in the heart of the historic town centre of Colchester, Essex, within the former Queen Street bus depot. It is situated within the southeast corner of the Roman walled town, immediately to the north of a stretch of the Roman town wall which runs along Priory Street, and to northeast of the Roman South Gate. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99910 25041.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the redevelopment of the former bus depot.

## Archaeological background (Figs 1-2)

The following archaeological background is based on extracts of the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (search MCC/ECC numbers at [www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The former bus depot lies on the east side of Queen Street. It was built in 1920 on the site of the Theatre Royal which burnt down c 1917. It lies within the southeast angle of the Roman walled town (CHER ECC9314), immediately to the northeast of the South Gate (ECC2332) and to the north of the Roman town wall (ECC1039). In fact, one side of the building incorporates approximately 100m of the Roman town wall (Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1003772).

The Roman town wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and tile. A study by Philip Crummy (2003) has concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes Monetales*) and a hypothetical cross-section of the wall shows the foundations as being 3.77m wide. Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 600mm deep (Hull 1958, 25-6), while others were significantly deep. Work by CAT at the Sixth Form College in 2005 revealed stone foundations 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT report 347) although, being water-logged, ground conditions here presumably explain the exceptional depth. Trial-holes confirmed that survival of the foundations varies. Where they have not been robbed away, the foundations extend 2.1m from the existing face of the wall and are in a sound state of preservation. Above ground, the survival of the wall is very patchy. Up to 2.4m width of wall has been lost and nothing of the original exterior facing of the wall survives, only the core. The majority of what is standing has been refaced in brick or stone or completely rebuilt in brick.

The bus depot itself is in insula (town block) 38b of the Roman town. Prior to 2017, there were no archaeological excavations inside the bus depot, the nearest being a trench dug by Rex Hull in 1931, 15m to the rear (east) of the depot building, in which he found Roman wall lines and a drain. Other discoveries of Roman walls and floors within 20m of the development site reinforce the impression that insula 38b was built-up with Roman town houses, in the manner demonstrated by large-scale excavations at Lion Walk and Culver Street to the west. In fact, the bus depot straddles a Roman gravel street, and there are probably Roman buildings on both the north and south sides of this street. The only known and significant remains post-dating the Roman town-houses are the foundations of the Theatre Royal, which occupied this site before the bus depot. It is possible that the walls and foundations of the theatre survive below the depot. Likewise, it is the experience of recent large-scale excavations in the town that although modern infrastructure (such as the bus depot) undoubtedly has a detrimental effect on the buried remains, it does not always destroy them completely, and islands of preserved Roman deposits can survive between modern wall lines.

In 2017, CAT excavated five large test-pits on the development site (CAT Report 1106). Three test-pits (TP1-TP3) (Fig 2) were excavated inside the bus depot revealing significant modern, post-medieval and Roman remains c 0.45-0.5m below current ground level. Modern



wall foundations and demolition debris was associated with the Theatre Royal and its destruction by fire in 1917, and post-medieval remains consisted of two large pits and a ditch. The ditch is probably part of the Royalist defensive position behind the town walls during the English Civil War. Roman remains included two possible phases of Roman street/road metalling, a small section of the Roman rampart, and a mid to late Roman ditch cut through an earlier pit and posthole. Two test-pits (TP4-TP5) were excavated to the rear (east) of the building and revealed modern and post-medieval layers to a depth of c 1.25-1.65m below current ground level, underneath which were significant Roman structural remains. Interestingly, Hull's 1931 archaeological trench was identified cutting through both test-pits. TP4 revealed a tile-lined Roman drain aligned NNW-SSE which probably branched-off from Hull's E-W tile-lined drain (located immediately to the south of TP4). One of the Roman wall foundations identified by Hull was also located in TP5. In addition were two possible floor layers and other surfacing material.

In July 2020 a ground penetrating radar survey was carried out inside the former bus depot (Magnitude Surveys 2020) revealing the remains of the projected Roman road, the Civil War ditch and the foundations of the Theatre Royal (see Fig 2).

A number of significant archaeological investigations have also taken place within the southeast angle of the Roman town, around the development site, within insulas 31-32, 38b, 39 and 40. These have revealed that the whole area was largely residential in the Roman period, for significant reports see: Hull 1958; Richardson 1961; Dunnett 1971; Crossan 1990; CAR 6, 375-8; CAT Reports 205, 234, 295, 385, 477, 520, 1230 and 1286.

## **Project background**

The current archaeological work has been commissioned as part of the pre-application process.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as a site with little information about any buried archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

## **Requirement for work (Fig 1)**

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

The brief requires a single test-pit, 4m by 4m, to be excavated within the development site to target remains identified by the GRP survey that have not previously been evaluated. It is proposed to locate this test-pit to the north of TP1 to target structural remains (the Theatre Royal?), levelling material and a buried surface (probably the Roman road) identified by the GPR (see Fig 1).

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

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

Contingencies will be in place, if required, for absolute dating (radiocarbon and/or archaeomagnetic dating) and for soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits, with particular attention given to the collection of micro-remains preserved within and/or directly over floors.

There will be a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation. Excavation will be undertaken with a view to avoiding/minimising damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be demonstrably worthy of preservation *in situ*. However, the evaluation must be sufficient to establish the significance of the stratigraphic sequence across the site.

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

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2020)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2020).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to CHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## **Staffing**

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

In charge of day-to-day site work: Adam Wightman/Ben Holloway/Mark Baister.

## **Evaluation methodology**

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

However, as per the brief, if 'dark-earth' or similar deposits exist, machine excavation will cease at the top of these deposits until they have been adequately hand-excavated and sampled, this will include a provision for soil micromorphological analysis if suitable deposits are present.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Site surveying**

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of evaluation trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

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

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

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

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

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

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

## **Human remains**

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

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

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

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

## **Photographic record**

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

## **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

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

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton  
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)  
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley  
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley  
flints: Adam Wightman  
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn  
project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)  
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray  
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow  
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

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

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey  
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby / Gwladys Monteil  
Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)  
Roman glass: Hilary Cool  
small finds: Nina Crummy  
other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

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

## **Results**

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015b).

The report will be submitted within three months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the

project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

## Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum. If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

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

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

## Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

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

- |                |      |   |
|----------------|------|---|
| Brown, D       | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . 2nd Edition  |
| CAR 6          | 1992 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy  |
| CAT            | 2020 | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT Report 234 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the First Eastern National bus station, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex: May-June 2003</i>   |
| CAT Report 295 | 2004 | <i>An archaeological evaluation and watching brief on the site of a new visual arts facility, East Hill House and Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex - 1 interim results, October 2004</i> |

CAT Report 305	2005	<i>An archaeological evaluation and watching brief in the grounds of East Hill House and the Colchester bus station, Colchester, Essex, October 2004. 2: main report</i>
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b, 9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex: April 2005-March 2006</i>
CAT Report 372	2006	<i>An archaeological evaluation at the Central Clinic, High Street, Colchester, Essex, May 2006</i>
CAT Report 385	2006	<i>Archaeological monitoring at firstsite:newsite and in Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, April 2006</i>
CAT Report 477	2011	<i>Roman houses and streets in Insulas 31/32 of Roman Colchester: excavations in advance of the construction of the Visual Arts Facility, East Hill, Colchester, Essex November 2006- December 2007 and June 2008</i>
CAT Report 520	2010	<i>An archaeological evaluation at East Hill House, Colchester, Essex, April-June 2009</i>
CAT Report 1230	2018	<i>Continuous archaeological monitoring and recording and a test-pit evaluation at St James' House and The Waiting Room, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 2PQ, December 2017-January 2018.</i>
CAT Report 1286	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation at St Botolph's (site of former bus station), Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ: April-May 2018</i>
CBCAA	2020	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at former Queen Street Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester. By J Tipper</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Crossan, C	1990	<i>The archaeological aspects of redevelopment of the Queen Street bus station and car park, unnumbered CAT archive report</i>
Crummy, P	2001	<i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
Crummy, P	2003	'Colchester's town wall' in <i>The archaeology of Roman towns: studies in honour of John S Wachter</i> , ed by P Wilson
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0
Dunnett, B R K	1971	'Excavations in Colchester, 1964-8', in <i>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society</i> , <b>3</b> (3rd series), part 1, 1-106
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester, RRCSAL, 20</i>
Magnitude Surveys	2020	<i>Geophysical Survey Report of former Queen Street Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex.</i> By William Rigby & Sophie Peel
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Richardson, K M	1961	'Excavations in Lewis's gardens, Colchester, 1955 and 1958', in <i>Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society</i> , <b>1</b> (3rd series), part 1, 7-36

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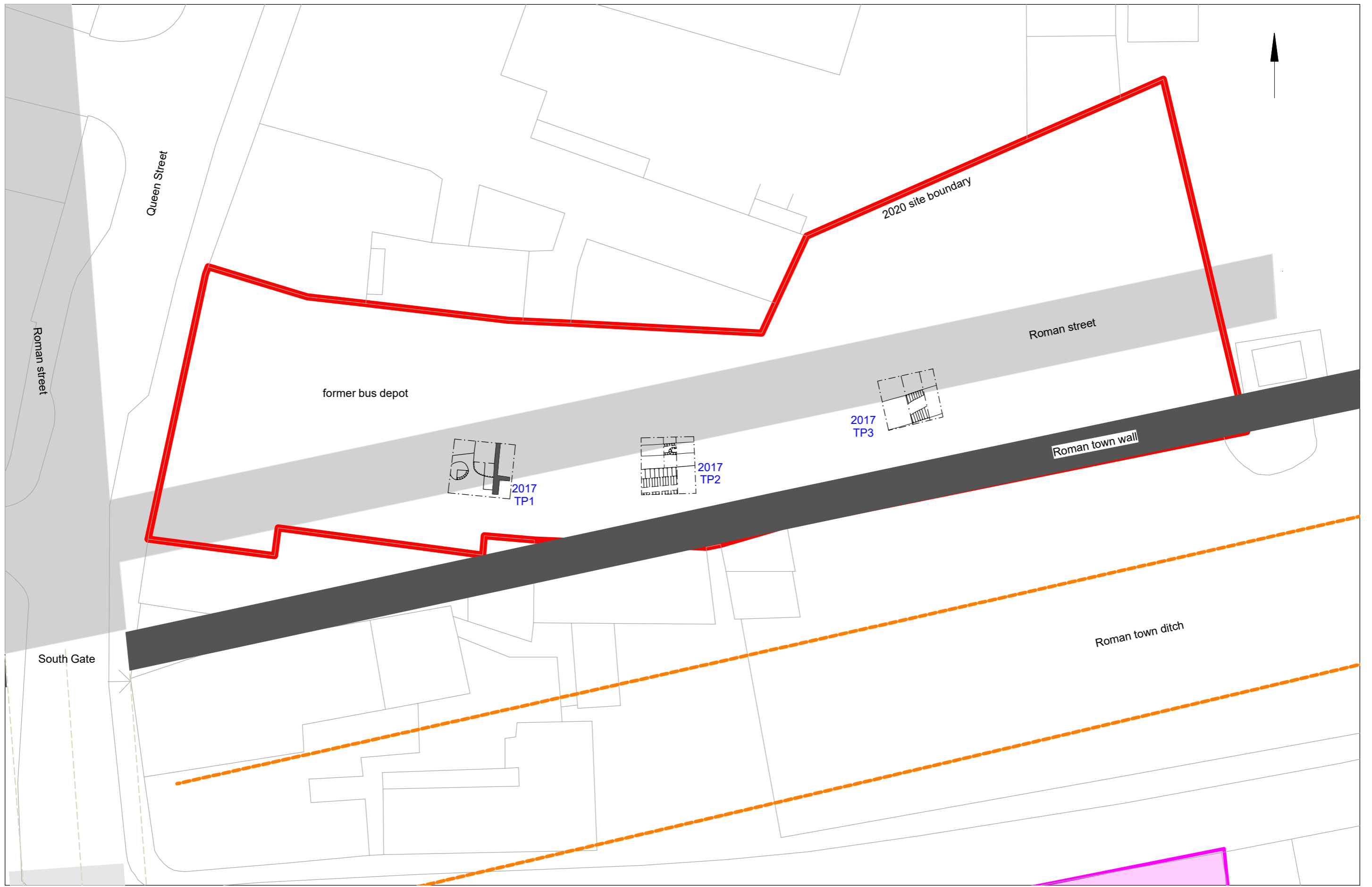


Fig 1 Development site shown in relation to the Roman town wall and ditch and the 2017 evaluation test pits TP1, TP2 and TP3.



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Fig 2 Development site showing the results of the 2020 GPR survey and the 2017 test-pits TP1 and TP2. Proposed new test-pit is outlined in blue.

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-401768**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at the former Bus Depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (one test-pit) was carried out at the former bus depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex in advance of its redevelopment. The development site is located within Insula 38b of the Roman town, close to the Roman town wall. Previous evaluation within the bus depot has revealed significant archaeological remains including a Roman street, a possible Royalist defensive ditch from the English Civil War, and wall foundations and demolition debris from the Theatre Royal which burnt down in 1917. Significant Roman remains were encountered c 0.31m below current ground level immediately beneath the modern concrete floor of the bus depot. Within the test-pit was a Roman metalled street surface and roadside ditch, two Roman pits and a pit/posthole, a possible Anglo-Saxon pit and two undated features.
Project dates	Start: 07-09-2020 End: 09-09-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2020/07b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4557 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	STREET Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	PIT/POSTHOLE Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	GLASS Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER former Bus Depot, Queen Street
Postcode	CO1 2PQ
Study area	0.14 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 99910 25041 51.887497680972 0.905300781384 51 53 14 N 000 54 19 E Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
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Physical Archive ID ECC4557  
Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass"  
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Digital Archive ID ECC4557  
Digital Contents "other"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Paper Archive ID ECC4557  
Paper Contents "other"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological evaluation at the former bus depot, Queen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PQ: September 2020  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.  
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1600  
Date 2020  
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
Place of issue or publication Colchester  
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf  
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>  
  
Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)  
Entered on 19 October 2020

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