



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org

CAT Report 1864 Archaeological monitoring at Hilly Fields, north of Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR: October 2022	CAT project code: 2022/10e
	Scheduled Monument no.: NHLE 1002173
	Scheduled Monument consent no.: S00242650
	CHER Event no.: ECC4756
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-510248
	Grid Reference: TL 9840 2530 (centre)
	Number of site visits: 1
Dates of visit: 28th October 2022	
Nature of the work Observation of groundworks for the installation of four new interpretation panels.	
Reason for condition The site lies within the Late Iron Age and Roman Scheduled Ancient Monument known as Sheepen Farm, on land at Hilly Fields, north of Sussex Road, Colchester.	
% of total seen 100% of the groundworks.	
Results The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to conditions specified in the scheduled monument consent from Historic England and by Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments Dr Jess Tipper. The foundation pads for the new interpretation panels varied in size. Panels 1, 2 and 4 were 0.5m ² , and panel 3 0.45m wide by 0.9m long. Only panel 3 had the old interpretation panel removed entirely, panels 1, 2 and 4 were partially removed and remain in the ground below 0.3m. Three horizons were observed, a modern topsoil (L1, c 0.15m thick) sealed a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.3m thick) which overlay natural (L3, identified at 0.45m bcgl). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• L1, topsoil, mid grey brown silty loam with 2% gravel.• L2, subsoil, mid orange brown sandy silt with 5% gravel.• L3, natural sands and gravels. No archaeological remains were impacted by the groundworks.	



Photograph 1 Hole for panel 2, looking north



Photograph 2 Removal of previous interpretation panel (panel 3), looking north-west



Photograph 3 Installation of panel 1

Recorded by: Bronagh Quinn (bq@catuk.org)

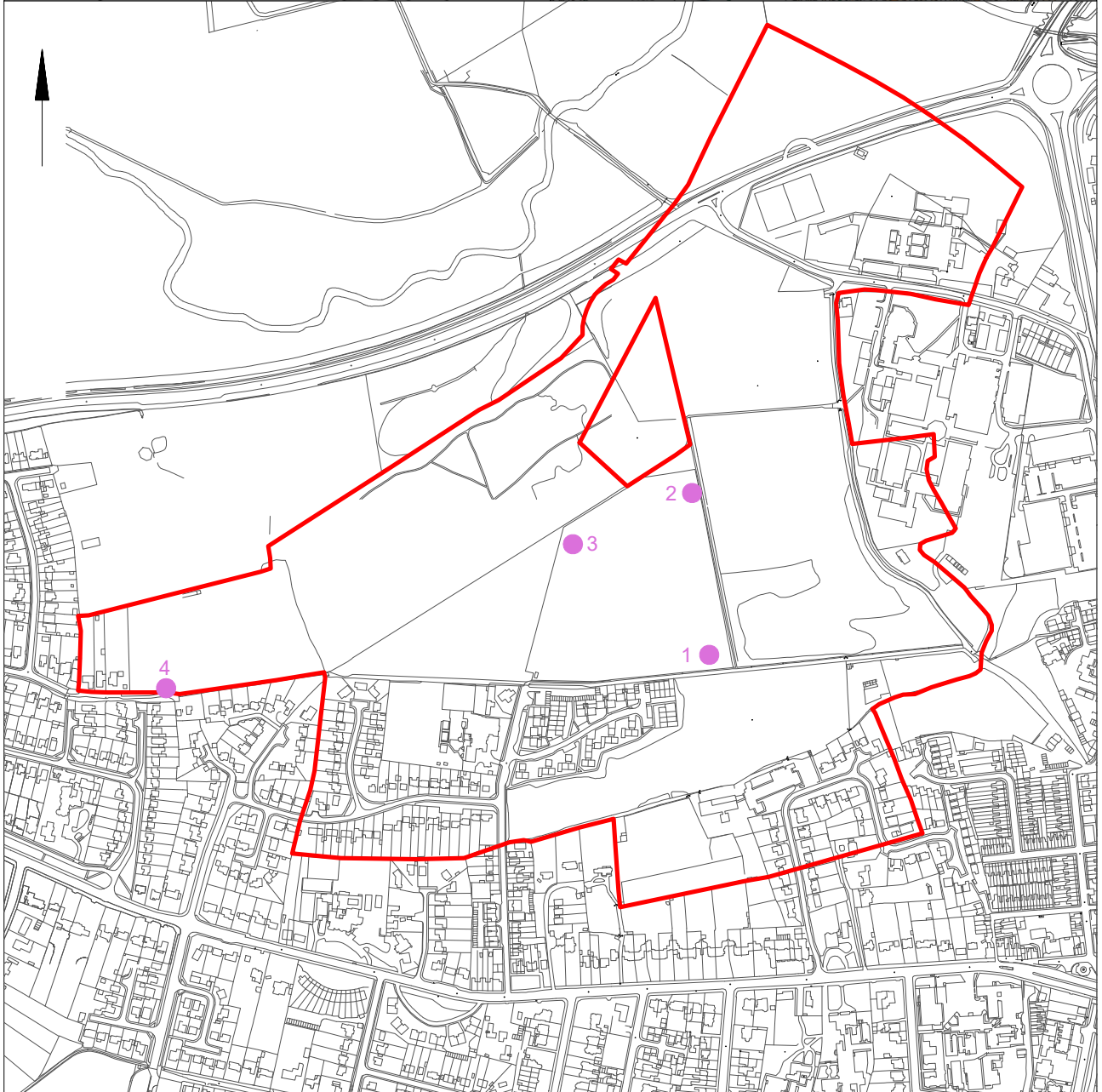
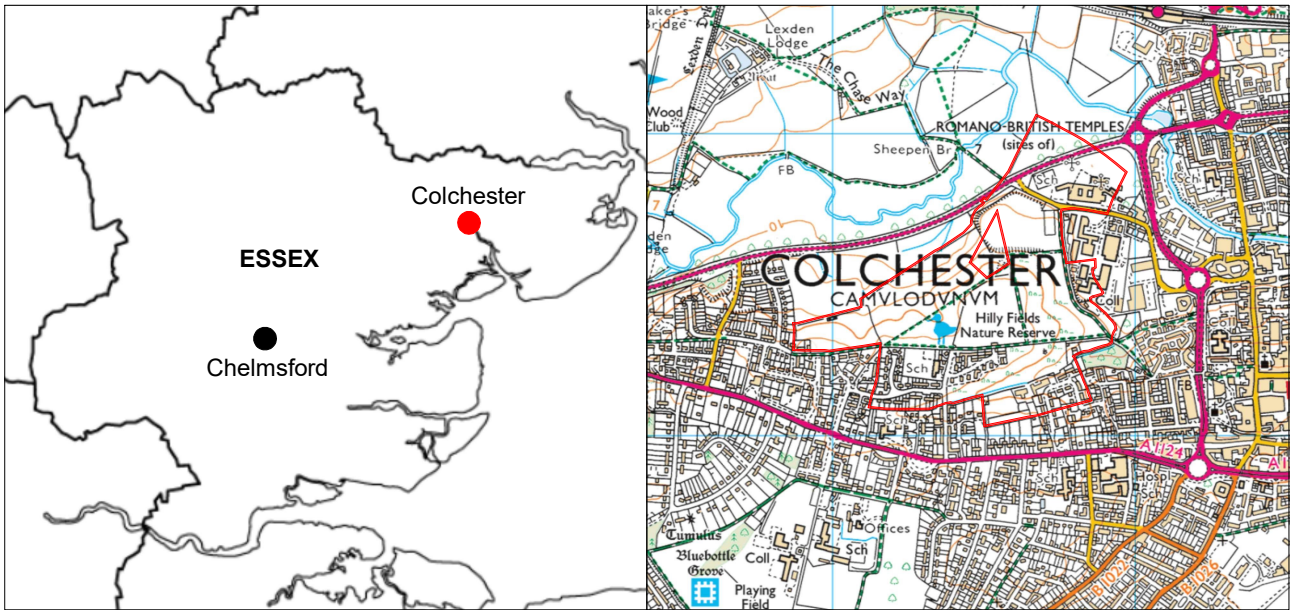
Date: 8/11/2022

Review by: Laura Pooley

Date: 24/11/2022

Reviewed and approved by: Philip Crummy

Date: 25/11/2022

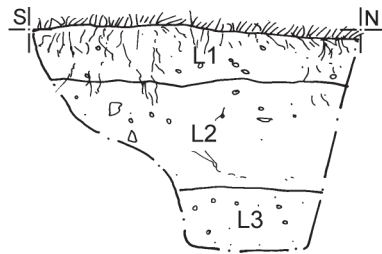


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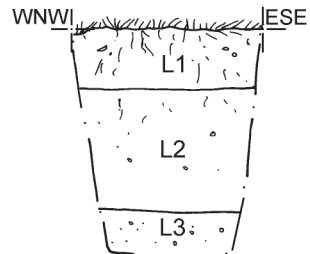
Fig 1 Site location with scheduled monument outlined in red and the location of the new panels highlighted in pink



Panel 3



Panel 4



••• sand
○ small stones
√ roots



Fig 3 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Hilly Fields, north of Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9840 2530 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/10e CHER ref: ECC4756 OASIS ref: colchest3-510248
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 28th October 2022	Size of area investigated: 12.8ha
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: Scheduled Monument number: SM EX 46, NHLE 1002173
Final report: CAT Report 1864	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out on the scheduled ancient monument of Sheepen Farm at Hilly Fields, north of Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex during the removal of old interpretation panels and the installation of new panels. Despite being located within an area of archaeological potential, no archaeological deposits were uncovered.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments: Dr Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Bronagh Quinn	Date of summary: November 2022

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for archaeological monitoring for interpretation
panels on the Hilly Fields, north of Sussex
Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR**

NGR: TL 9840 2530 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Colchester

Scheduled Monument number: SM EX 46, HA 1002173

Scheduled Monument Consent number: S00242650

Commissioned by: Philip Wise (CBC)

Client: Colchester Borough Council

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/10e

OASIS project number: colchest3-510248

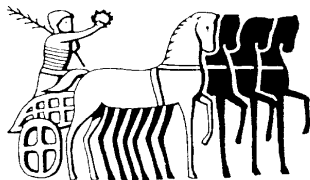
Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation manager: Laura Pooley

Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments: Dr Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 24/10/2022 (revised)



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located 1.3km northwest of the historic core of Colchester within the Hilly Fields, north of Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9840 2530. The 'Hilly Fields' is a 32 hectare site designated as both a local wildlife site and a scheduled ancient monument. The site primarily comprises of open grassland, hedges, scrub and areas of woodland.

Proposed work

The development will involve the removal of four damaged interpretation panels to be replaced with new ones.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The bedrock geology for the site is Thames Group (clay, silt and sand), with superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup (sand and gravel)¹.

The site lies within an area of significant archaeology where evidence of concentrations of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation, and industrial activity, have been recorded in an area known as Sheepen Farm (MCC7488). Sheepen Farm is designated as a heritage asset (Scheduled Monument number 1002173). The Late Iron Age and Roman site at Sheepen involves a main period of occupation between c AD 5-60 (Hawkes & Hull 1946; Niblett 1985), though Bronze Age occupation is also attested there (CAR 11, 132-3).

Panel 1 is in the vicinity of Sheepen Dyke (Scheduled Monument 1002173, MCC498). This was a large earth bank and ditch, which was probably constructed by c AD 10 (CAR 11 161-2). It is also near a group of Roman burials inserted into an abandoned tile clamp site (MCC656 and MCC2238), a Roman ditch (MCC2596) and the site of a Parliamentary Civil War star-shaped fort (MCC7722). Panels 2-3 are located close to areas partially excavated in 1939 recorded by C Hawkes and R Hull (1947). To the immediate southwest of Panel 2 a group of Late Iron Age to early Roman features include ditches, revetments, metalled surfaces, gravel pits and evidence of industrial working (MCC594). Adjacent to Panel 3 are the remains of a Roman building(s) recorded during trenching in 1939. The building(s) were thought to have primarily been used during the 2nd-3rd century AD (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 121. MCC601).

To the east-southeast of the site archaeological investigations were carried out by CAT between 2001 and 2003 on the site of the former St Mary's hospital (now known as Balcerne Heights/St Mary's Fields). Excavations in 2001-3 uncovered early Roman houses destroyed during the Boudiccan revolt of AD 60/61. The suburb was rebuilt and a road leading to Sheepen to the north-west was created, plus smaller lanes connecting the houses. By the 4th century AD, settlement had moved back inside the town walls and the area was turned over to use as a cemetery. In all, 86 Roman burials were excavated, mainly from the north and eastern areas of the site (CAT report in forthcoming). Four Roman inhumations were also recorded at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road in 2001 (MCC5422 and MCC2889-2892), adjacent to the hospital site (CAT Report 134).

Project background

As the site is located within a Scheduled Ancient Monument and therefore an area highlighted as having a high potential for archaeological remains Scheduled Monument consent for the works was sought and an archaeological monitoring was recommended by the HEIAM. The

¹ <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk>

recommended archaeological work is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological monitoring of all groundworks. Details are given in the Scheduled Monument consent documents.

Specifically:

The work will involve the monitoring of hand excavation of post-holes for the interpretation panels. Each of the four panels will be mounted on lecterns which require a single post to be set in the ground. The post will be set into a concrete slab measuring 300mm² and have a maximum depth of 750mm to include the 700mm of post below the ground.

The monitoring is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the HEIAM will be informed immediately and the HEIAM will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the HEIAM immediately.

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-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument consent documents

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 HEIAM 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor 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 CAT Officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done using hand tools.

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

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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

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

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

Site surveying

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 excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to investigate 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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the 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 do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/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.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or the HEIAM.

HEIAM will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the monitoring.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, 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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following Historic England guidance (2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). 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 HEIAM will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

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 (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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/Pip Parmenter, 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): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

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

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

flint: Tom Lawrence
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil
Roman brick/tile: 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 HEIAM.

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 HEIAM 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* (Historic England 2015b).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to HEIAM as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site 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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- 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 HEIAM.

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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

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

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and HEIAM) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to HEIAM. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The HEIAM 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.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. Staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works in partnership with Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785 (option 1).

Monitoring

HEIAM 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 HEIAM one week in advance of its commencement.

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

HEIAM will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Brown, D | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAR 11 | 2nd ed
1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 134 | 2001 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 'Topfield', Rawstorn Road, Colchester.</i>
By Kate Orr |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Revised June 2020 |
| CIfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020 |
| CIfA | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised Oct 2021 |
| Digital Curation Centre (DCC) | 2013 | <i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i> |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Hawkes, CFC and Hull, MR | 1947 | <i>Camulodunum.</i> Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, number 14 |
| Historic England | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse |
| Historic England | 2015b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Historic England | 2018 | <i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell |
| Hull, MR | 1958 | <i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, 20 |
| 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 | 2021 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. |
| Niblett, R | 1985 | <i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum</i> , CBA Research Report 57 |

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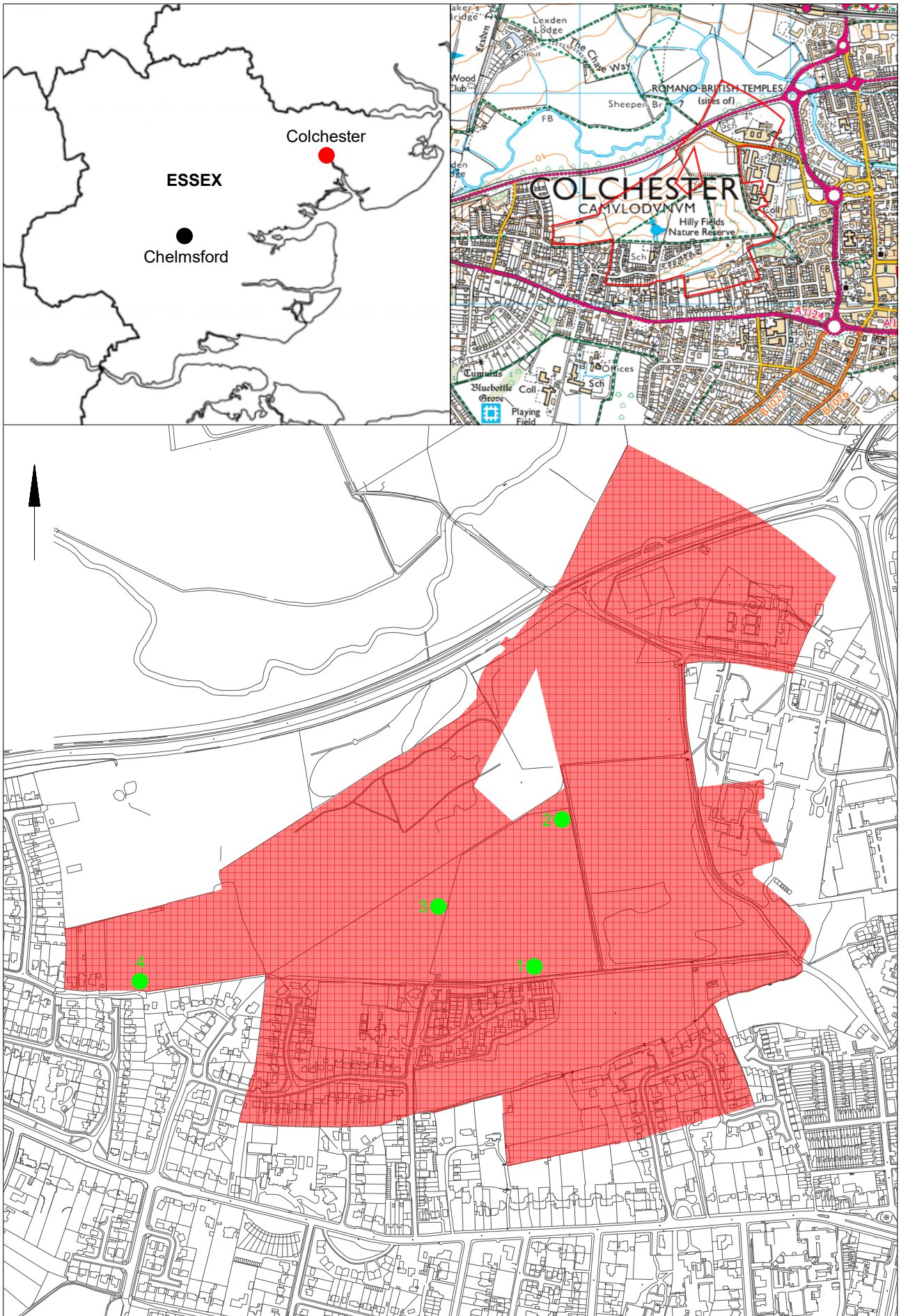


Fig 1 Site location, Sheepen (site of pre-Roman settlement) with indicative locations of the interpretation panels.

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Summary for colchest3-510248

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-510248
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring for interpretation panels on The Hilly Fields, north of Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR
Sitename	Hilly Fields, north of Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR
Activity type	WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	2022/10e
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Scheduled monument consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	28-Oct-2022 - 28-Oct-2022
Location	Hilly Fields, north of Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3PR NGR : TL 98400 25300 LL : 51.8909314903314, 0.881795031150264 12 Fig : 598400,225300
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	All works was undertaken with the WSI and the Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic England.
Project Results	The foundation pads for the new interpretation panels varied in size. Panels 1, 2 and 4 were 0.5m ² , and panel 3 0.45m wide by 0.9m long. Only panel 3 had the old interpretation panel removed entirely, panels 1, 2 and 4 were partially removed and remain in the ground below 0.3m.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Scheduled Monument Casework - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4756
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;