

Colchester Archaeological Trust

CAT Report 1953

Archaeological monitoring at Colchester Holiday Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester, CO3 4AG: October 2022 – February 2023

Report issued June 2023

CAT code: 2021/04b

Planning reference: 183053 CHER event no.: ECC4624 OASIS ref.: colchest3-421456

Grid Reference: TL 96816 25610 (centre)

Number of site visits: 5

Dates of visit: 2022 – 3rd October.

2023 – 23rd & 27th January, 1st & 14th

February.

Nature of the work

Observation of groundworks for extension of static caravan moorings, roadway and other associated groundworks.

Reason for condition

In September 2016 archaeological evaluation (nine trial-trenches) on the development site revealed Roman features in seven trenches (CAT Report 1024, CHER ECC3880/MCC10061). Roman ditches, pits and post-holes were excavated. These were probably associated with agriculture or settlement. A subsequent watching brief on an extension to this area in 2017 did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. However, most of the monitored areas did not penetrate the modern topsoil (CAT Report 1180, ECC3930).

% of total seen

50% of the groundworks.

Results

The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a Project Brief written by the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor. The WSI was written by Emma Holloway of CAT.

All groundworks were carried out by a mechanical excavator under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist, unless otherwise stated.

Foundation pads

Groundworks within an area covering 630m² (for location see Fig 2) were carried out without archaeological supervision. This was centred over Trench 4 of the 2016 evaluation (CAT Report 1024) where a Roman ditch and pit were excavated. If unsupervised groundworks at this location did extend into natural, then they may have negatively impacted the features encountered in the evaluation.

An area covering approximately 155m² was reduced to a depth of 0.25-0.35m through modern topsoil (L1) and post-medieval/modern made-ground (L2), with natural (L3) only encountered in a small corner of the reduction area. No archaeological remains were uncovered.

The remainder of the foundations pads were built up above ground level with additional drainage set at ground level and covered by imported topsoil. Grass was removed in these areas but no other groundworks took place, so any archaeological remains have been preserved beneath.

Road

An area covering approximately 1200m² (241m long by 5m wide) was reduced to a depth of 0.07-0.27m through modern topsoil (L1) and into made-ground (L2). Finds, identified by Dr Matthew Loughton, from L2 of the road strip consisted of three fragments of Roman tile (535g), including a type D15 lower cutaway dating to AD 240-380, and one fragment of medieval/post-medieval pegtile sherd (46g). None were retained.

Context information

- modern topsoil (L1, soft moist dark grey/brown silt and inclusions of: stone 2%, 0.06m to 0.15m thick) sealed
- post-medieval/modern made-ground (L2, soft moist medium grey/brown silt and inclusions of: stone 1%, 0.18m to 0.2m thick), above
- natural (L3, friable dark orange sand from c 0.28 to 0.33m below current ground level).



Photograph 1 Foundation pad 1, looking south-east.



Photograph 2 Representative section of foundation pad 1, looking south-west.



Photograph 3 Foundation pad 2, looking north-west.



Photograph 4 Example of a built-up foundation pad with drainage set at ground level, looking west.



Photograph 5 The road strip, looking east.



Photograph 6 The road strip, looking south.

Prepared by: Alexander Smith (as@catuk.org)	Date: 16/06/2023
Reviewed by: Laura Pooley	Date: 26/06/2023
Reviewed and approved by: Philip Crummy	Date: 13/07/2023

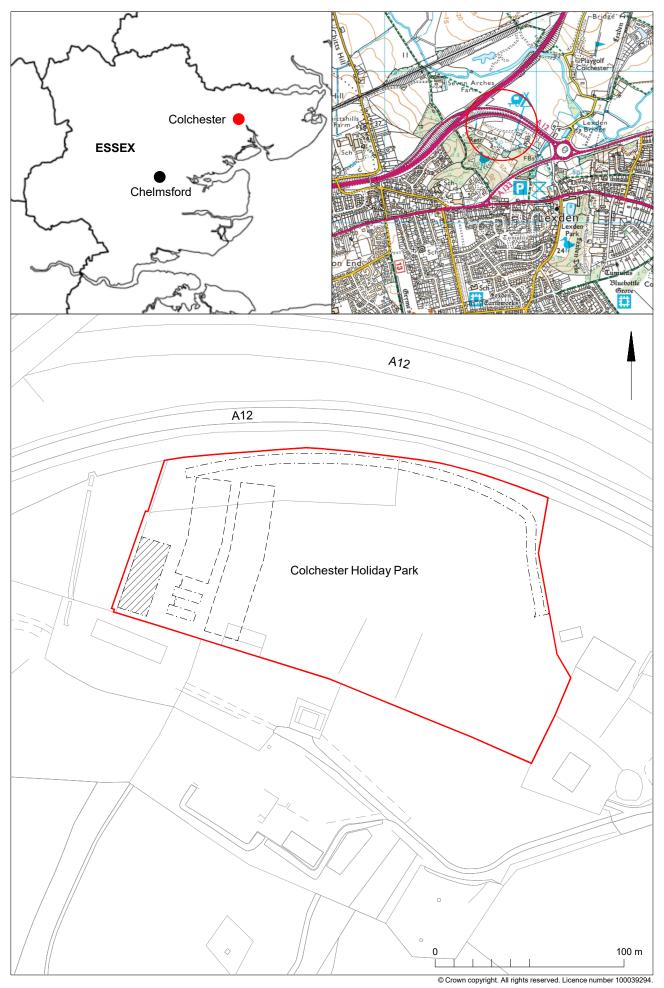


Fig 1 Site location.

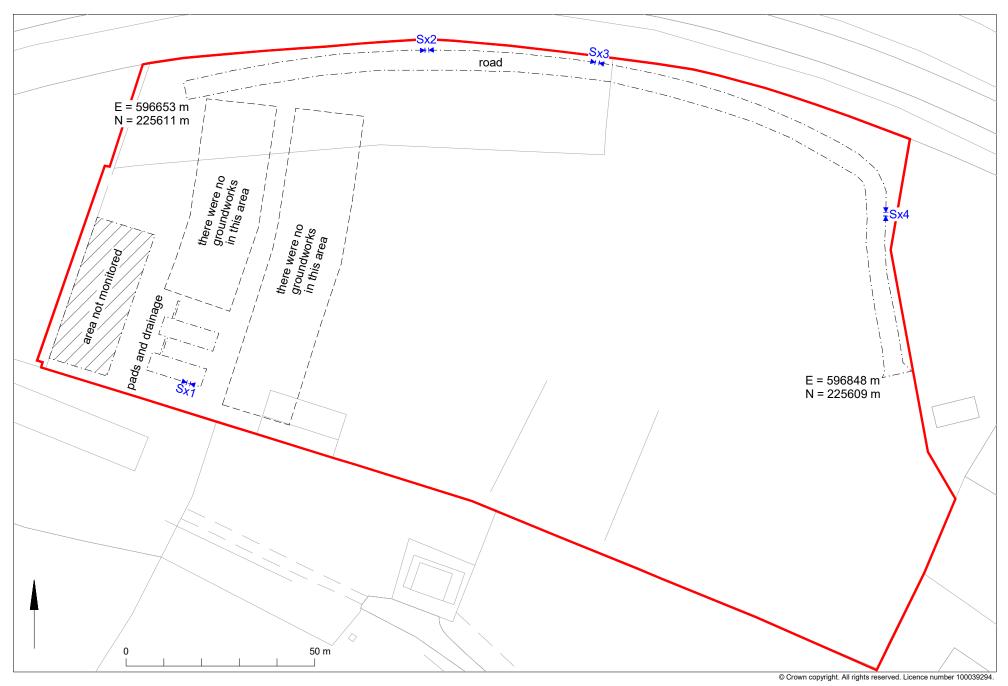


Fig 2 Results.

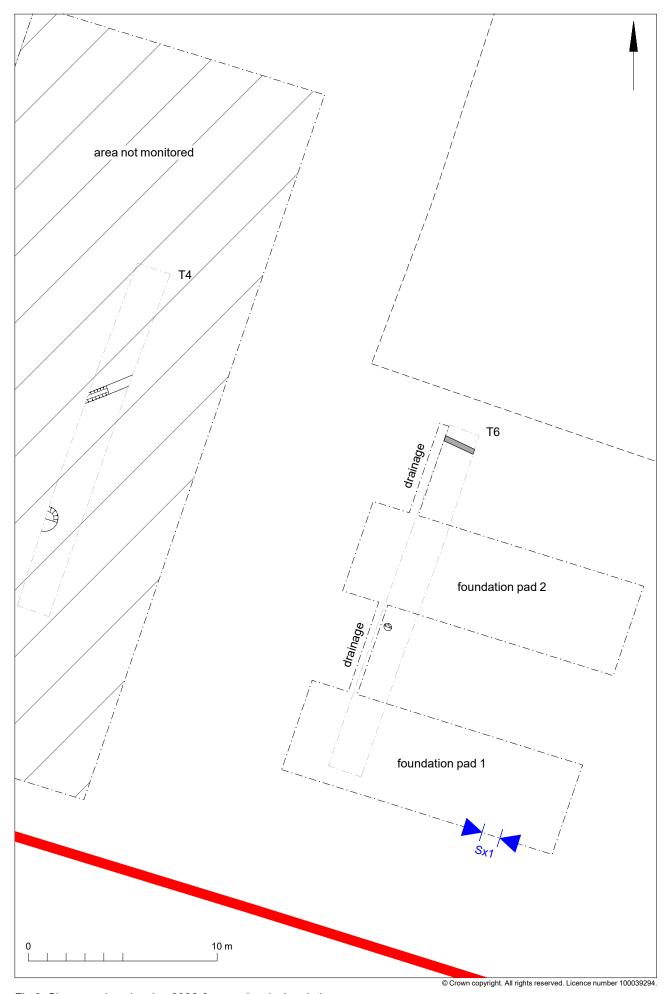


Fig 3 Close-up plan showing 2022-3 groundworks in relation to trenches T4 and T6 of the 2016 evaluation.

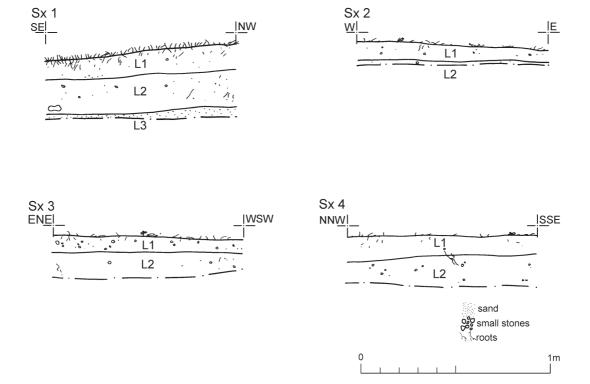


Fig 4 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Colchester Holiday Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester, CO3 4AG		
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester	
NGR: TL 96816 25610 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2021/04b CHER ref: ECC4624 OASIS ref: colchest3-421456	
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust	
Date of work: 3rd October 2022 – 14th February 2023	Size of area investigated: 2.64ha	
Location of curating museum:	Funding source: Owner	
Further seasons anticipated?	Related CHER/SMR number:	
Final report: CAT Report 1953		
Periods represented: Modern		
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the Colchester Holiday Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester during groundworks for a new access road and the siting of static caravans. Previous archaeological evaluation on the site had revealed a small scattering of Roman ditches, pits and post-holes. However, as most of the groundworks took place within a modern topsoil and post-medieval/modern made-ground, no archaeological remains were impacted by the development.		
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Repo	orts 1024 & 1180	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood & Dr Richard Hoggett		
Keywords: -	Significance: -	
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: June 2023	

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at Colchester Holiday Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AG.

NGR: TL 96816 25610 (centre)

District: Colchester

Planning reference: 183053

Commissioned by: Mark Southerton **Client:** Colchester Holiday Park Ltd

Curating museum: Colchester CHER number: ECC4624

CAT project code: 2021/04b

OASIS project number: colchest3-421456

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett

This WSI written: 13/05/2021



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at Colchester Holiday Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 96816 25610. The site is located to the immediate north of the Lexden Conservation area (DEX22995).

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises development of part of the holiday park for the siting of static caravans, including any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of CAT Report 1180 and draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map).

The development site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains. It lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, which was defined by a system of defensive dykes. The Triple Dyke (MCC7041) extends roughly north-south 800m to the west to the site. The Triple Dyke was added to the dyke system after the Roman conquest to strengthen the line of Shrub End Dyke (MCC7467) at its northern end (*CAR* 11, 52-61) The Moat Farm Dyke (the northern extension of the Lexden Dyke; MCC2099), also extends roughly northeast-southwest 550m to the east of the site (*CAR* 11, 34-45).

To the north a sub-circular enclosure has been identified as cropmarks at Seven Arches Farm (formerly Motts Farm) (MCC7741) with linear cropmarks identified to the west of Westhouse Farm (MCC7759). A watching brief on a new water-main to the east of Spring Lane revealed two or three sand quarry pits dated to the Roman period. One pit contained Roman bricks which would have formed a voussoir over a door or window, indicating the presence of a high-status Roman building nearby (CAT Report 180; MCC2698-9). An Iron Age enclosure is known to the northeast at West House Farm (*CAR* 11, 137; EHER 12671). Immediately to the southeast, Maltings Farm House is a timber-framed listed 16th century building (MCC3414)

In September 2016 archaeological evaluation (nine trial-trenches) on the development site revealed Roman features in all but two of the trenches (CAT Report 1024, CHER ECC3880/MCC10061). Roman ditches, pits and postholes were excavated and were probably associated with agriculture or settlement. However, large quantities of Roman ceramic building material were recorded which may also suggest the presence of a structure with tiled-roof and hypocaust somewhere nearby. A subsequent watching brief on an extension to this area in 2017 did not reveal any significant archaeological remains, however, most of the monitored areas did not go below modern topsoil (CAT Report 1180, ECC3930).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in December 2018 (planning ref. 183053) proposing the *use of part of approved caravan park for the siting of static caravans.*

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). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work was for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020). However, as over half the proposed

development area is already approved for use by static caravans and caravan storage and in light of more recent information from a topographical survey showing the land will need to be built up for drainage it is believed the impact on the archaeological remains is lower than previously thought. The CBCAA therefore agreed that instead of evaluation the archaeological work will involve an archaeological investigation by enhanced watching brief (R Hoggett, personal communication, 18th April 2021).

Specifically:

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

- Excavation of caravan bases to be under intense archaeological observation to ensure no archaeological horizons are reached
- Services monitored as a normal monitoring and recording

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA 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 CBCAA 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)
- 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) and subsequent changes by personal communication (R Hoggett, personal communication, 18th April 2021).

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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). 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 CAT Officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Investigation 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 with a toothless bucket.

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 proforma 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 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 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 CBCAA.

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

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 HE guidance (HE 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 CBCAA 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 (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:

<u>ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material)</u>: Matthew Loughton <u>animal bones</u>: 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

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

<u>radiocarbon dating:</u> SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow <u>conservation/x-ray</u>: 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: Hazel Martingell

<u>prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby / Stephen Benfield / Nigel Rigby / Stephen Benfield / Nigel Rigby / Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby / Stephen Benfield / Nigel Rigby / Nigel</u>

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 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 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA 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).
- 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.

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. 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 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 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.

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

Brown, D	2011 2nd ed	Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation
CAR 11	1995	Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II, by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2020	Health & Safety Policy
CAT Report 180	2001	An archaeological watching brief on one section of an Anglian Water sewer pipeline in Spring Lane, Lexden, Colchester
CAT Report 1024	2016	Archaeological evaluation at Colchester Holiday Park, Cymbeline Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AG: September 2014
CAT Report 1180	2017	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Colchester Holiday Park, Cymbeline Way, Colchester – June-October 2017
CBCAA	2020	Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Colchester Holiday Park Ltd, Colchester Caravan Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester, CO3 4AG. By J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.

		Revised June 2020
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	Code of Conduct. Revised Oct 2019
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015a	Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2015b	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
Historic England (HE)	2018	The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway



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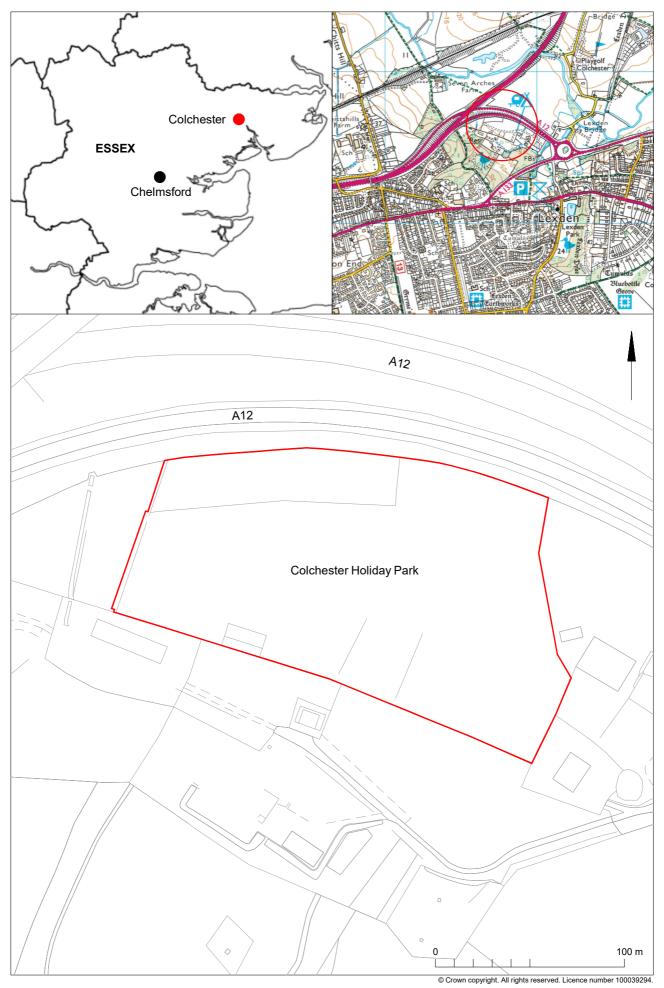


Fig 1 Site location.

Summary for colchest3-421456

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-421456
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at Colchester Holiday Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AG
Sitename	Colchester Holiday Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AG
Activity type	WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	2021/04b
Planning Id	183053
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	03-Oct-2022 - 14-Feb-2023
Location	Colchester Holiday Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AG
	NGR : TL 96816 25610
	LL: 51.8942762632086, 0.858983758647224
	12 Fig : 596816,225610
Administrative Areas	Country : England
	County: Essex
	District : Colchester
	Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring of all groundworks was carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the Colchester Holiday Park, Cymberline Way, Colchester during groundworks for a new access road and the siting of static caravans. Previous archaeological evaluation on the site had revealed a small scattering of Roman ditches, pits and post-holes. However, as most of the groundworks took place within a modern topsoil and post-medieval/modern made-ground, no archaeological remains were impacted by the development.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Alexander, Smith
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4624
Archives	