

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1969**  
**issued September 2023**

**Archaeological monitoring at**  
**St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory**  
**Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB: August 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/08d**  
**ECC code: ECC4812**

**Archaeological monitoring at  
St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School,  
Priory Street, Colchester, Essex,  
CO1 2QB: August 2023**

**NGR: TM 00250 25104 (centre)**

**Planning ref.: 231694 (retrospective)**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/08d  
CAT Report 1969**

**ECC code: ECC4812  
OASIS id: colchest3-518071**

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**commissioned by Nick Cooke of RPS Heritage  
on behalf of Rose Builders**

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a replacement boundary wall. The development site is located outside of the south-east corner of Colchester's Roman Town Wall (NHLE No. 1003772) and to the north-east of St Botolph's Priory (NHLE No. 1013764). Despite the sites close proximity to two listed structures, the only archaeological horizon encountered during the site's monitoring was a post-medieval/modern layer of made-ground.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report details the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, from 7th to the 9th August 2023. The work was commissioned by Nick Cooke of RPS Heritage on behalf of Rose Builders during groundworks for the construction of a replacement boundary wall.

In anticipation of potential archaeological deposits or features to be impacted by the works, Nick Cooke of RPS Heritage, on behalf of Rose Builders, sought advice from the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). It was recommended that a watching brief condition would be enforced on the groundworks. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the consultation and agreed with CCCAA in advance of the groundworks (CAT 2023).

In addition to the wsi, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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 monitoring* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

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

The development site is located outside of the south-east corner of Colchester's Roman Town Wall (NHLE no. 1003772). The wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. The Roman town ditch runs the length of the Priory Street car park (adjacent to the development site). It was initially dug as a deep V-shaped ditch along the foot of the wall to improve its defensive capabilities. Around AD 275 this ditch was widened to convert its profile from a deep V-shape to a very wide, truncated U-shape (Crummy 1997, 114-115). There have been three archaeological excavations in the area of the car park (see CAT Report 903 for a full summary of these investigations).

Directly north of the proposed site, in the garden of St Botolph's Vicarage, four Roman cremation urns were found (MCC1481-5, MCC8342). The urns were of a 1st-2nd century date. A tessellated pavement and cremation urn were found under the middle of Priory Street (MCC7948), although an exact location or date for them has not been recorded.

Approximately 300m to the south-west of the development site is St Botolph's Priory (NHLE no. 1013764). The priory was founded in 1104, probably on or near a pre-existing church (Crummy 2001, 150). It was the first Augustinian foundation in Britain but was not wealthy, which probably explains why the church was not finished or dedicated until 1177 (ibid, 149). It was eventually demolished following the Dissolution in 1536. The nave continued to function for parish and civic

services but was badly damaged during the Siege of Colchester in 1648 and the building consequently fell out of use. Now only the walls of the nave of the priory church remain standing. The full extent of the Priory precinct is not known, but it is assumed to stretch from Priory Street southwards to Magdalen Street and west to St Botolph's Street. The eastern boundary is unknown.

Priory Street is known to have been a built-up residential area since at least the 18th century, and probably earlier. Whilst the houses on the northern side of Priory Street were demolished prior to the construction of the car park, some historic terraced houses remain on the southern side of the road. St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School is built on the site of two demolished 17th-century buildings (MCC286, MCC287).

CAT has undertaken a series of small watching briefs in the area surrounding the proposed site. All proved negative.

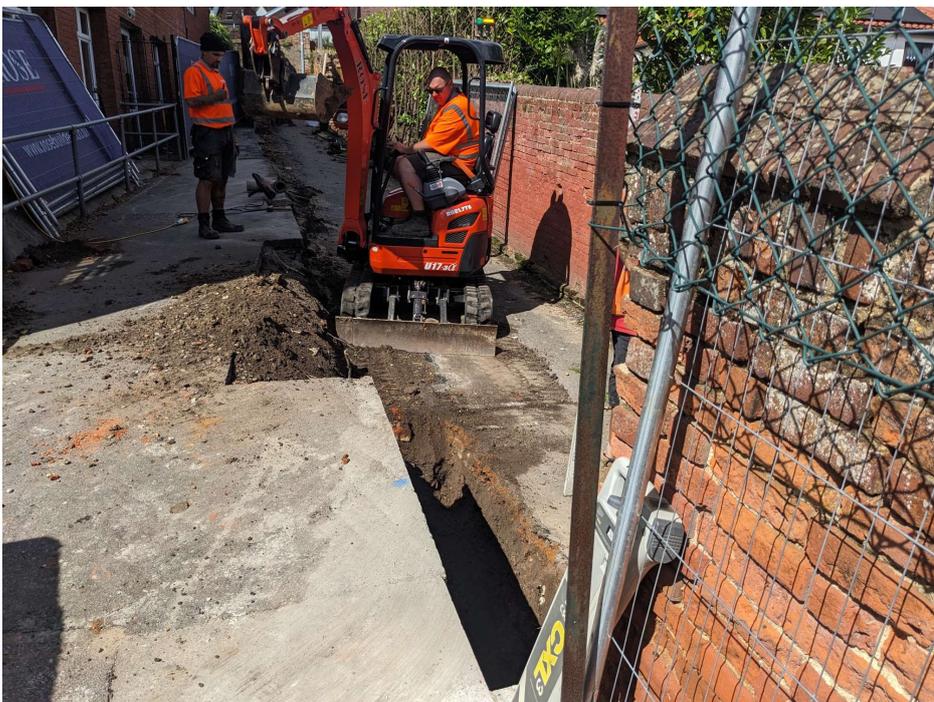
The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be Thames Group (clay, silt and sand).

#### 4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Just over 20m of foundation trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 0.70m wide and c 1-1.75m in depth. The foundation trench was cut through a layer of tarmac and sub-base (L1, c 0.1-0.2m thick) and a layer of post-medieval/modern made-ground (L2, c 0.72-1.24m thick, dark, grey brown, silty-loam with occasional stones and CBM fragments and flecks of charcoal and oyster) into the natural geology (L3, encountered c 0.8-1.45m below current ground level, light grey-blue silty-clay with occasional stones). No archaeological features were identified in the foundation trench.



**Photograph 1** Working shot, looking north north-east.

<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>



**Photograph 2** Trench shot, looking south-west.



**Photograph 3** Trench fully excavated, looking north.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

All of the pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from post-medieval/modern made-ground layer L2 (finds no.1). No of this material was retained.

#### Post-Roman pottery

Post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000) (Table 1) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) (Table 2). There were four sherds of post-Roman pottery with a weight of 164g and EVE of 0.09 (Table 2). This material dates from the post-medieval period till the 19th/20th century. The only sherd of note was a Staffordshire-type slipware (fabric F50) press-moulded dish with a piecrust rim and combed decoration (EVE:0.09) dating to AD 1650-1800.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F45M	Modern English stoneware	19th-20th century
F50	Staffordshire-type slipware	1650-1800
F51	Late slipped kitchenware	19th-20th century

**Table 1** Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	1	22	22	0.00
F45M	Modern English stoneware	1	67	67	0.00
F50	Staffordshire-type slipware	1	65	65	0.09
F51	Late slipped kitchenware	1	10	10	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0.09</b>

**Table 2** Summary of the post-Roman pottery.

#### Ceramic building material (CBM)

The CBM consists of one fragment (93g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and one fragment (2,794g) of Roman brick.

### 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

All of the finds came from post-medieval/modern made-ground layer L2 (finds no.1):

- Approximately half of a clay tobacco pipe bowl (12g), with facing section and stem missing, possibly a Colchester Type 7 bowl (CAR 5, 49) dated to c 1670-1700 with a plain rim and line across the base of the rounded foot.
- Three fragments from the base of an olive green straight-sided wine bottle (157g) of post-medieval/modern date.
- One piece of oyster shell (18g).

All of the finds have been discarded.

### 6.3 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

Thirteen disarticulated pieces of horse, cattle and sheep or goat bone were collected from post-medieval/modern made-ground layer L2. This small assemblage consisted of good-sized fragments, all robust but with some slight dark discolouration and loss of surface detail. Most of the pieces were identifiable as cattle bone, including two horn cores, with the remaining pieces consisting of leg and foot fragments. The sheep or goat bone were all leg fragments, both front

and hind legs represented. The horse bone consisted of shoulder and leg pieces. Signs of gnawing by scavenging dogs were noted on three fragments, a usual sign of residuality. Possible cut marks associated with butchery were noted on two pieces.

Two pieces of bone had been worked. Part of the cylindrical-shaped lower shaft of a cattle metatarsal had been sawn or cut on four sides to create a tapering, wedge-like object approximately 98mm long. The other worked piece, part of a horse scapula, may possibly have been used as a crude scraping tool such as a leatherworking scudder. The projecting rim of the scapula's glenoid cavity and the associated coracoid process on the fragment's medial face had been heavily abraded, presumably by a repeated rubbing action. On the opposite side, most of the projecting spine had been flattened and smoothed, possibly to more comfortably accommodate the user's hand.

No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
3	632	Horse (Equus caballus)	(1) Left scapula (proximal fragment – worked? possibly used as a tool?). (1) Right scapula (proximal fragment). (1) Right humerus (distal fragment, some excavation damage to articular joint ?).
7	876	Cattle (Bos taurus)	(2) Left horn cores/frontlets. (1) Left radius (proximal fragment). (1) Left humerus (distal fragment). (1) Left metatarsal (proximal fragment, dog gnawed with possible short, multiple very fine cut marks on anterior surface below joint). (1) Right metatarsal (complete, metaphysis unfused). (1) Metatarsal diaphysis fragment (worked).
3	106	Sheep or goat (Ovis aries/ Capra hircus)	(1) Right humerus (proximal fragment). Has three transverse parallel fine cut marks on posterior of shaft. (1) Right femur (proximal fragment, possibly dog gnawed). (1) Left femur (proximal fragment, dog gnawed).
<b>13</b>	<b>1614</b>	<b>Total</b>	

**Table 3** The animal bone from L2 (finds no.1).

## 7 Conclusion

Despite being located within close proximity to the Roman Town Wall and the medieval St Botolph's Priory, the only archaeological horizon encountered at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School was a layer of made-ground dated to the post-medieval/modern period. The finds recovered from L2 were domestic in nature and contribute to the already extensive evidence of the post-medieval/modern occupation around Priory Street.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the Nick Cooke and RPS Group for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey and A Wade. Figures are by S Veasey. The project was monitored for CCC by Dr Richard Hoggett.

## 9 References

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

- Baker, P. & Worley, F 2019 *Animal bones and archaeology: recovery to archive*
- Brown, N & Glazebrook, J 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional

Paper 8 (EAA 8).

CAR 5	1988	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 5: The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> by N Crummy
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> by J P Cotter
CAT	2023	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy.</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitoring at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB</i> by S Veasey
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Revised October 2021</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Revised October 2020.</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct. Revised October 2022.</i>
Cohen, A & Serjeantson, D	1996	<i>A manual for the identification of bird bones from archaeological sites</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).</i>
Hilson, S	2016	<i>Mammal bones and teeth: an introductory guide to methods of identification</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>
Schmid, E	1972	<i>Atlas of Animal Bones</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
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
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsI	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of digital archive

CAT Report 1969  
 CAT written scheme of investigation  
 Digital photographs  
 Survey data  
 Site data

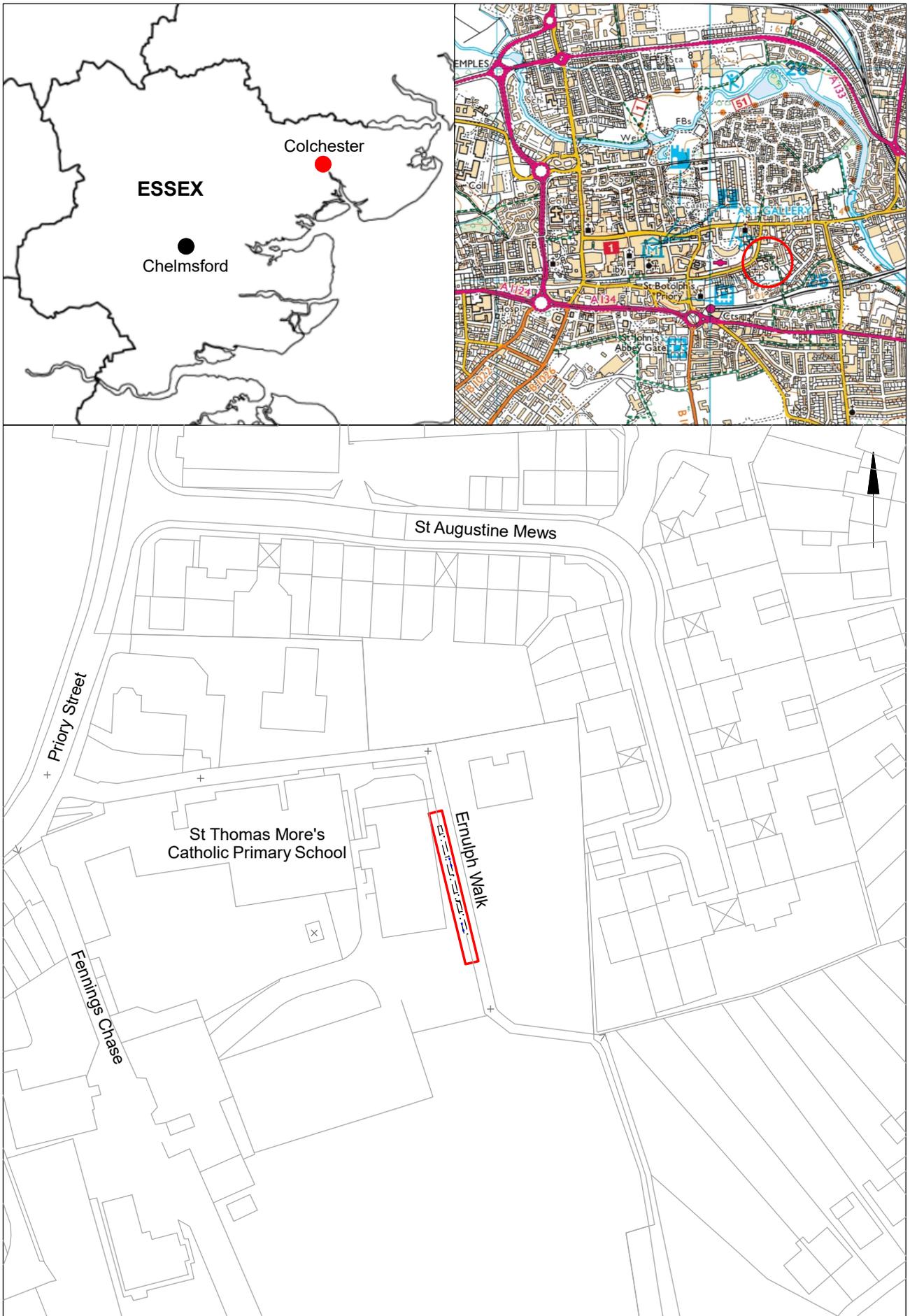
## **12 Archive deposition**

The 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

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**Distribution list:**

RPS Group  
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council  
Colchester Historic Environment Record



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

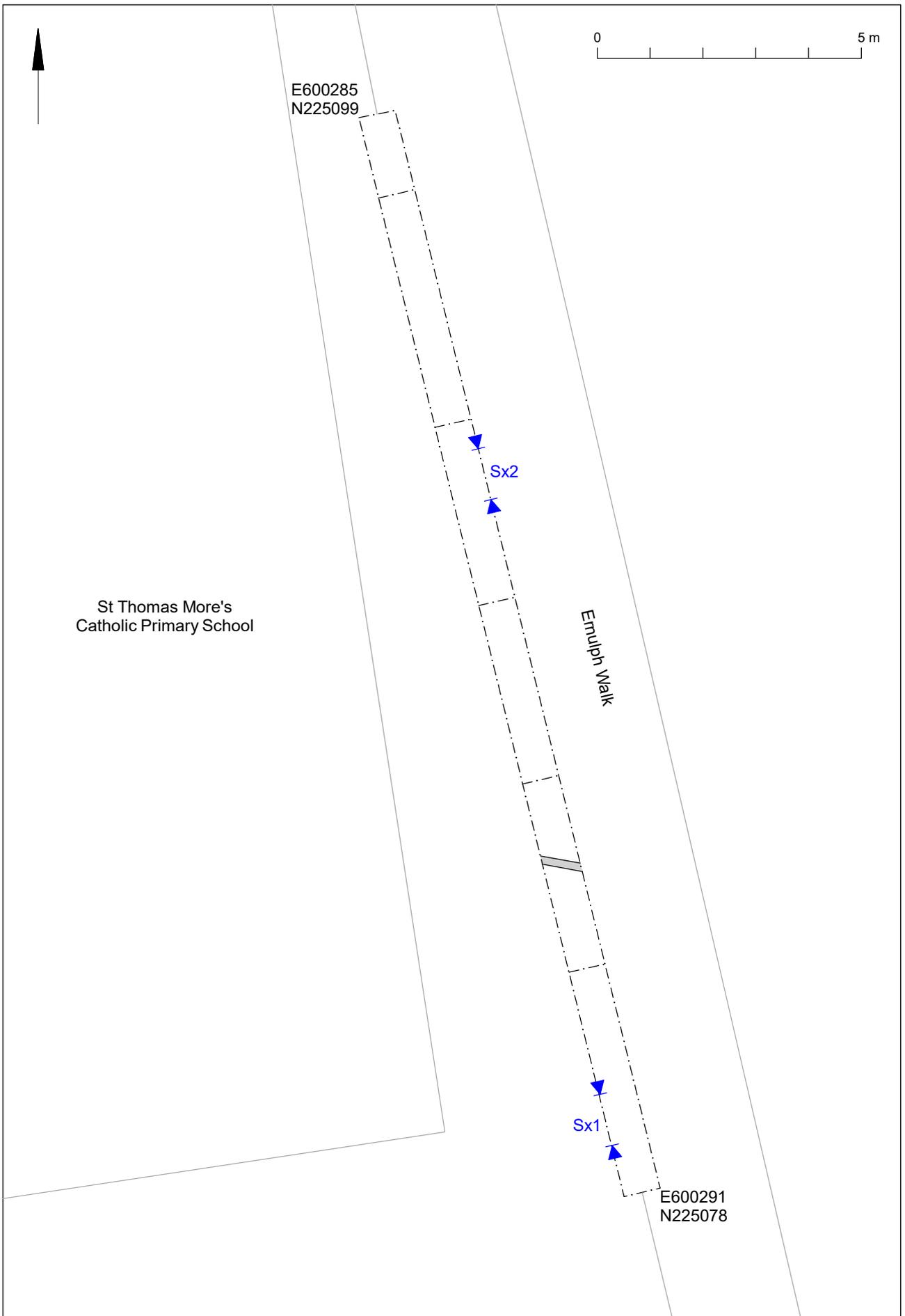
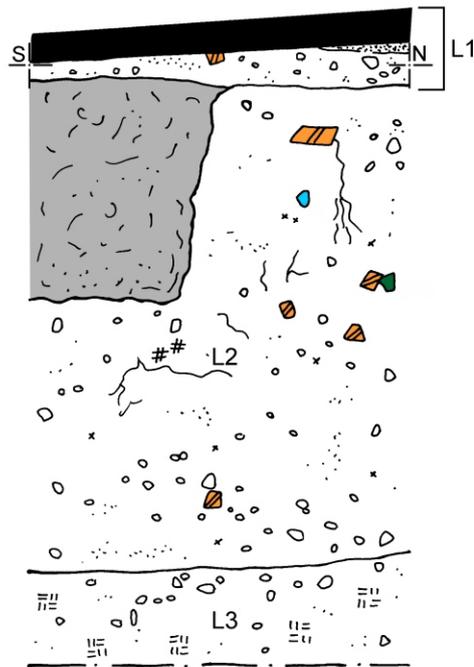
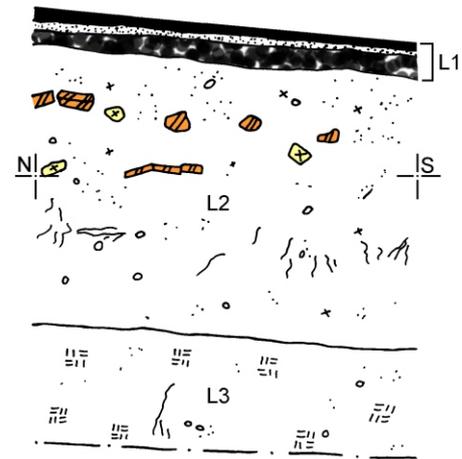


Fig 2 Monitoring results.

Sx1



Sx2



- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| # # charcoal        | ▨ post-Roman CBM |
| clay                | √ roots          |
| ■ glass             | ○ sand           |
| x x mortar flecks   | ⊙ stones         |
| xx mortar fragments | ■ tarmac         |
| ○ oyster shell      |                  |



Fig 3 Representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, CO1 2QB	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 00250 25104 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2023/08d CHER ref.: ECC4812 OASIS ref.: colchest3-518071
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 7th-9th August 2023	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.007ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Archaeology Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1969	
<b>Periods represented:</b> post-medieval/modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  Archaeological monitoring was carried out at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a replacement boundary wall. The development site is located on outside of the south-east corner of Colchester's Roman Town Wall (NHLE No. 1003772) and to the north-east of St Botolph's Priory (NHLE No. 1013764). Despite the sites close proximity to two listed structures, the only archaeological horizon encountered during the monitoring was a post-medieval/modern layer of made-ground.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CCC monitor:</b> Dr Richard Hoggett	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Sarah Veasey	<b>Date of summary:</b> 04/09/2023

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written scheme of investigation  
for archaeological monitoring at  
St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School,  
Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB**

**August 2023**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/08d  
CHER code: [tbc](#)**

**Written scheme of investigation  
for archaeological monitoring at  
St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School,  
Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB**

**August 2023**

**NGR: TM 00250 25104**

**Planning district.: Colchester  
Planning ref.: 231694 (retrospective)**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/08d**

**CHER code: tbc  
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett  
OASIS id: colchest3-518071**

**WSI prepared by: Sarah Veasey  
Figure by: Chris Lister**

**Commissioned by: Nick Cooke (RPS)  
On behalf of: RPS Group**

Prepared by:	Sarah Veasey	Junior Project Office
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	04/08/2023	

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## Site location and description

The development site is located at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 00250 25104.

## Proposed work

The proposed works comprise the demolition and replacement of a boundary wall. Due to safety concerns, the wall has already been partially demolished.

## Geological and archaeological background

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

The development site is located outside of the south-east corner of Colchester's Roman Town Wall (NHLE no. 1003772). The wall was built around the town in the later 1st century AD following the revolt led by Boudica. The Roman town ditch runs the length of the Priory Street car park (adjacent to the development site). It was initially dug as a deep V-shaped ditch along the foot of the wall to improve its defensive capabilities. Around AD 275 this ditch was widened to convert its profile from a deep V-shape to a very wide, truncated U-shape (Crummy 1997, 114-115). There have been three archaeological excavations in the area of the car park (see CAT Report 903 for a full summary of these investigations).

Directly north of the proposed site, in the garden of St Botolph's Vicarage, four cremation urns were found (MCC1481-5, MCC8342). The urns were of a 1st-2nd century date. A tessellated pavement and cremation urn were found under the middle of priory street (MCC7948), although an exact location or date for them has not been recorded.

Approximately 300m to the south-west of the development site is St Botolph's Priory (NHLE no. 1013764). The priory was founded in 1104, probably on or near a pre-existing church (Crummy 2001, 150). It was the first Augustinian foundation in Britain but was not wealthy, which probably explains why the church was not finished or dedicated until 1177 (ibid, 149). It was eventually demolished following the Dissolution in 1536. The nave continued to function for parish and civic services but was badly damaged during the Siege of 1648 and the building consequently fell out of use. Now only the walls of the nave of the priory church remain standing. The full extent of the Priory precinct is not known, but it is assumed to stretch from Priory Street southwards to Magdalen Street and west to St. Botolph's Street. The eastern boundary is unknown.

Priory Street is known to have been a built-up residential area since at least the 18th century, and probably earlier. Whilst the houses on the northern side of Priory Street were demolished prior to the construction of the car park, some historic terraced houses remain on the southern side of the road. St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School is built on the site of two demolished 17th century buildings (MCC286, MCC287).

CAT has undertaken a series of small negative watching briefs in the area surrounding the proposed site.

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be Thames Group (clay, silt and sand).

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<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

## Planning background

A planning application (231694) was retrospectively submitted to Colchester City Council in July 2023 for the *Demolition and rebuilding of a school boundary wall (Retrospective)*.

Due to concerns of the stability of the wall and the risk it imposed, the wall was partially demolished prior to the submission of the planning application.

In anticipation that there was a potential for archaeological deposits or features to be impacted by the proposed works, Nick Cooke of RPS Heritage, acting on behalf of Rose Builders, discussed the site with the Colchester City Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA) and agreed that a watching brief on the excavation of any foundation trenches for the wall or other intrusive works was appropriate.

## Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an archaeological monitoring of all groundworks.

*Specifically*, the monitoring is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered Nick Cooke of RPS Heritage will be informed immediately and will engage in discussions with the CCCAA in order to 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 Nick Cooke of RPS Heritage and the CCCAA 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 2023)

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

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 the EHER. This will include an uploaded PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CCCAA 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 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), at least 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 1:10 and 1:20 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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological 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.

- 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.

## 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 CCCAA.

Nick Cooke of RPS Heritage and the CCCAA 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.

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 CCCAA 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.

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  
flint: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn  
osteology: (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: Han Li (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 the CCCAA.

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 the CCCAA by Nick Cooke of RPS Heritage 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 the CCCAA as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- 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 CCCAA.

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 City 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 the CCCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the CCCAA. 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 CCCAA 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 CCCAA for integration into the HER.

### **Monitoring**

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

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

The CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

### **Public outreach**

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

## Events, activities and social media

In addition, the CAT website (<https://catuk.org/>) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

## References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2023	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CCC	2023	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepend Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE</i> by Dr R Hoggett
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> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2022
Crummy, P	2001	<i>City of Victory: the Story of Colchester – Britain's First Roman Town</i>
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)
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 & J Sidell
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.

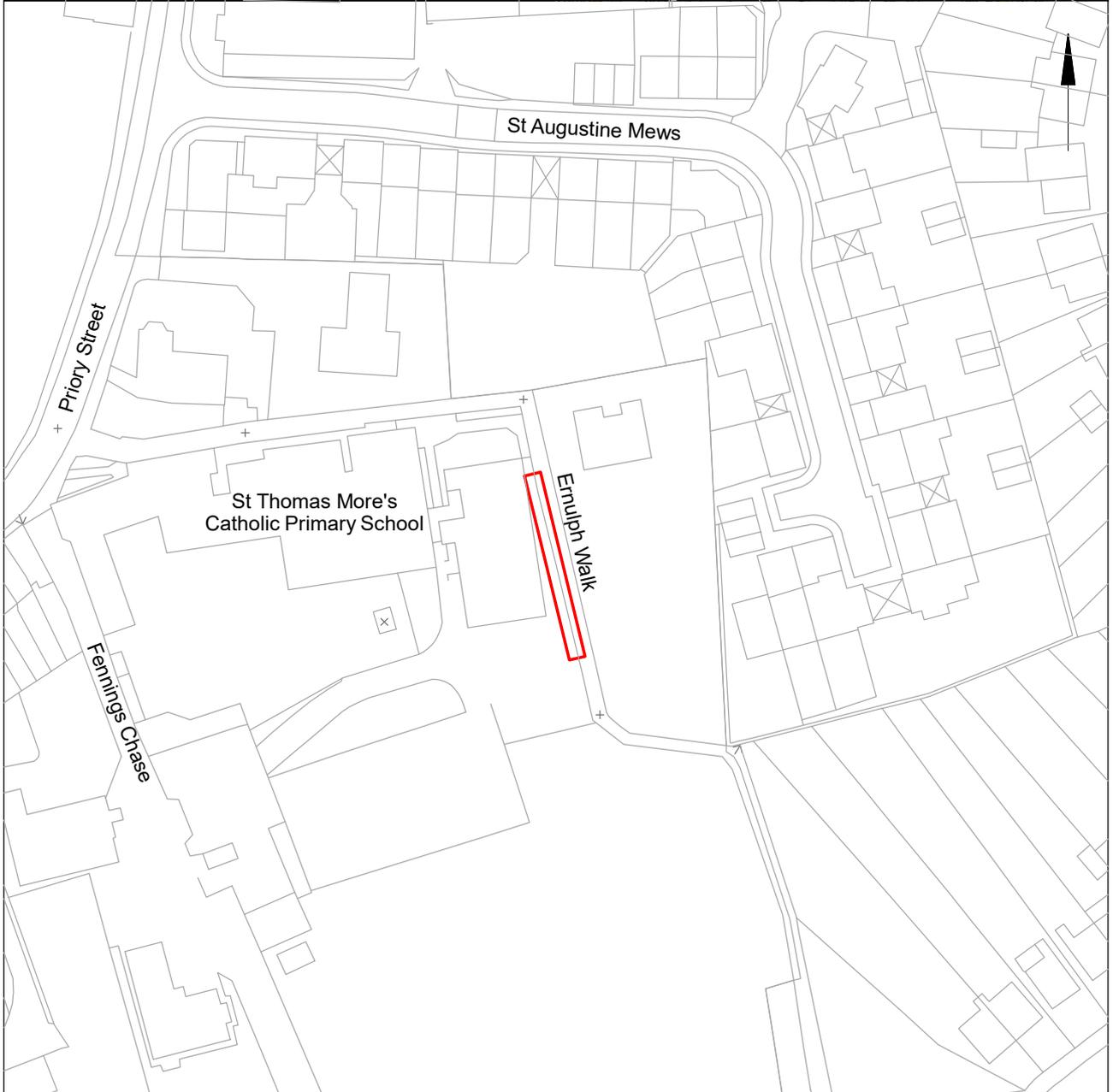
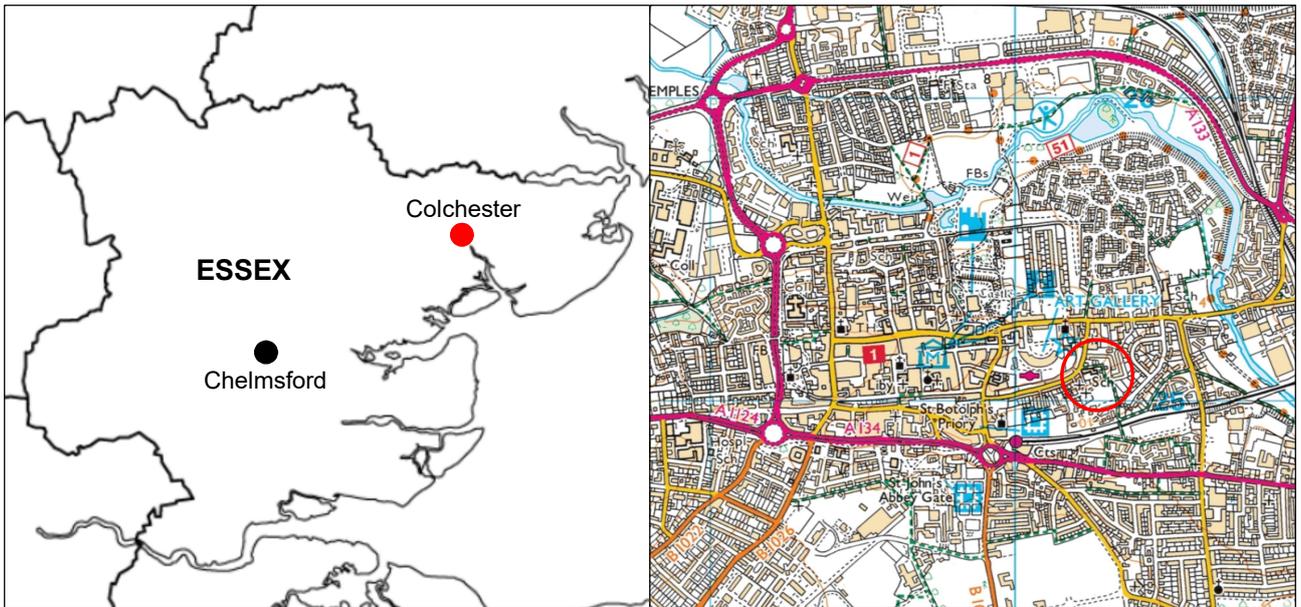


Fig 1 Site location

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# OASIS Summary for colchest3-518071

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-518071
Project Name	Watching Brief at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
Sitename	St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2023/08d
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	231694 (retrospective)
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	07-Aug-2023 - 09-Aug-2023
Location	St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2QB NGR : TM 00250 25104 LL : 51.88851056638243, 0.908528840404094 12 Fig : 600250,225104
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Just over 20m of foundation trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 0.70m wide and c 1-1.75m in depth.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a replacement boundary wall. The development site is located outside of the south-east corner of Colchester's Roman Town Wall (NHLE No. 1003772) and to the north-east of St Botolph's Priory (NHLE No. 1013764). Despite the sites close proximity to two listed structures, the only archaeological horizon encountered during the monitoring was a post-medieval/modern layer of made-ground.
Keywords	Dish - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Butchered Animal Remains - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Other educational institution St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A Wightman, C Lister, L Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4812
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;