

Colchester Archaeological Trust



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issued February 2025**

**Archaeological evaluation at 67-70 North Hill,
Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PX: December 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/10h
CHER code: ECC4883**

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**commissioned by Liam Boyd of b3 Architects
on behalf of Nammos Properties Ltd**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, in advance of the construction of a rear extension to the existing building. The development site is located in an area of the highest archaeological potential, within Insula 17b of the Roman walled town. Roman remains were identified from 1.1m below current ground level (bcgl) and included a metalled surface and maybe a wall foundation, with a possible compacted clay surface found deeper at 1.56m bcgl. In addition, post-medieval brick-built wall foundations and a brick floor were uncovered, being representative of two separate buildings seen on early editions of the OS maps.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex from 16th-19th December 2024. The work was commissioned by Liam Boyd of b3 Architects on behalf of Nammos Properties Ltd, and took place ahead of the partial demolition, conversion and subsequent extension of the extant building to form a boutique hotel.

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 City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

All work was carried out in accordance with the *Brief for an evaluation at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, CO1 1PX* written by Dr Richard Hoggett (CCCAA 2023). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT (2024) in response to the brief and agreed with the CCCAA in advance of the groundworks.

In addition to the project Brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2025).

3 Archaeological background

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

The proposed development site is located within the early Roman legionary fortress (MCC477). It is also located on the southern edge of *Insula* 17b of the later Roman walled town (MCC9314), straddling the *insula* and the adjacent Roman street to the south (see Fig 1). It is less than 150m from the Roman Balkerne Gate (MCC555, NHLE 1123668) and the adjoining Roman town wall (MCC859, NHLE 1003772 and 112668).

The legionary fortress was surrounded by a V-shaped ditch and rampart, with streets laid out internally. The plan of the fortress is broadly understood, with barrack blocks found during excavations at Lion Walk, Culver Street and the Gilberd School (now Colchester Sixth Form College) (CAR 6), as well as during recent excavations at the Mercury Theatre (CAT Report 1033). The blocks were at least 69m long and provided accommodation for a century of soldiers, with one third of the block occupied by the centurion who had his own block at the end of the building (*ibid*). Other buildings in the fortress would have included the headquarters (*principia*), legionary commander's house (*praetorium*), granaries, store buildings, workshops, latrines and a hospital. None, however, have so far been identified. It is likely that remains associated with the early Roman fortress do survive on the development site.

Balkerne Gate is the west gate of the Roman town. A free-standing monumental arch, probably constructed when the colonia was founded in AD 49, was incorporated into a larger gateway when the town wall was built. The surviving (south) pedestrian archway and the southern guardroom together form a small part of what was a massive entranceway (30m long north to south) into Roman Colchester from the west. A street leading from Balkerne Gate into the Roman town is projected to pass through the southern third of the development site.

The following archaeological discoveries have been made within *Insula* 17b:

- Morant recorded the presence of a Roman tessellated pavement 'about 44ft square, lying about 40ft west of 60 North Hill' (MCC838).
- The old 'Waggon and Horses' public house (directly adjacent to the development site) was pulled down and rebuilt in 1935. The works uncovered an undated timber drain (MCC1103) along with a Roman hearth sealed by the Boudiccan destruction layers (MCC2564). A shoulder fragment of an amphora, two Roman coins and a few other pottery fragments were also discovered (MCC8024).

- In 1965, excavations at 60 North Hill (MCC1945, MCC1948, MCC1952, MCC1954) identified a north/south aligned Roman wall, constructed from mortar and chunks of septaria. The wall seemed to form the eastern wall of a room, which contained a probable mosaic floor. The floor was surrounded by large red tesserae, but the central mosaic panel had been largely destroyed. In the north-east corner, the floor had a cobbled repair which was thought to be medieval. The room was built on a heavily burnt layer, which appeared to partly consist of broken blocks of clay. The discoveries were sealed by a late medieval midden heap.
- Following the demolition of 5 Balkerne Gardens in 1965, excavations identified several Roman pits and ovens along with the remains of at least two buildings (ECC659, MCC1590-4, MCC2393, MCC2394, MCC2399). A later watching brief on the same site uncovered a Roman wall foundation, the Roman street surface and traces of a Roman yard (ECC1487, MCC1724, MCC1726) as well as a hoard of 120 4th-century coins (MCC1730).
- In 1992, CAT undertook a watching brief at Freda Gunton House, to the west of the development (CAT Report 52, ECC2814). During the works, a portion of the Roman metalled street was uncovered. The street was sealed by deposits of burnt daub.
- Another watching brief at Freda Gunton House identified successive layers of metalling and several robber trenches (ECC1722), a possible timber lined gully or drain (MCC2365) as well as the Boudiccan destruction layer upon which were an un-mortared stack of five tiles, possibly part of an oven (MCC1542, MCC2539).
- During the excavation of stanchion pits and a cellar refurbishment at 67-70 North Hill, Boudiccan destruction layers (1.85m deep) as well as a possible clay wall were identified by the builders. It was also reported that a possible wooden plank was located at the base of one of the stanchion holes, sealed by the destruction layers (MCC1879, MCC1553).
- A single trial-trench at 63 North Hill in 2000 identified a robbed out Roman wall foundation (CAT Report 64, MCC2669).
- A watching brief carried out in 2001 at St Peter's Vicarage, uncovered a possible tessellated floor and a probable robber trench (CAT Report 156, MCC2818). An almost complete Roman jar was also discovered and might be part of a votive offering associated with the building. Previous work at the vicarage, in the late 19th century, recorded foundations, floors and painted plaster (MCC835, MCC836).

Later dated discoveries in the area include a possible Tudor wall and a tile-lined pit in the basement of 67-70 North Hill (ECC1879, MCC1554, MCC1555), a possible medieval glass blowers works, and a 13th or 14th century small tile kiln (MCC834, MCC8023).

A number of listed buildings are located in close proximity to the proposed development, the most significant of which is a Victorian brick-built water tower, colloquially known as Jumbo (NHLE 1123669, MCC3211).

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CCCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

One trial-trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was T-shaped, totalling 10m long north to south, 5m long east to west, and 1.8m wide. The trench cut through a modern surface (L1, 0.35m thick comprising of three layers of tarmac on top of a layer of concrete) and two layers of post-medieval made ground (L2, c 0.3m thick sealing L3, c 0.5-0.55m thick). Post-medieval structural remains had been cut into L2/L3 and were sealed by L1.

At the north end of the trench were the remains of a brick floor/yard which abutted a brick wall foundation, F1 and F2 respectively. Both had been cut to the east by modern services. The floor/yard was constructed from cut down and unfrogged yellow bricks. The bricks were set on edge in an approximate running bond arrangement without mortar. Wall foundation F2 was aligned east/west. The foundation comprised three courses and was constructed using white mortar in English bond. It was 0.6m wide.

Further to the south was another brick wall foundation (F3 and F4). The main wall foundation was aligned north-west/south-east and was recorded for a distance of 7.2m at 0.4m wide. At a right-angle and aligned north-east/south-west was another wall recorded for a distance of 0.8m at 0.35m wide. The wall foundations were two courses high in a stretcher bond with the bricks dated to the late 17th to early 18th century.

Due to the high level of modern services and post-medieval structural remains crossing the trench, it was only possible to continue excavating in three slots. All revealed a dark earth deposit (L4, over 0.75m thick) that produced a large quantity of Roman material, including some 4th-century pottery, but also medieval pottery and fragments of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile. Although no clearly defined edges were distinguishable, it is possible that L4 is not a single layer but the result of pitting to the rear of the properties on North Hill/Head Street.

Sealed by L4 and exposed in the base of Slot 2 was F5, a possible remnant of clay floor at 1.56m below current ground level (31.48m AOD). This comprised light grey-brown compacted clay and was associated with a 0.09m thick cassy deposit which contained shell and charcoal fragments. However, given the limited nature of the excavation, it was impossible to be certain that F5 represented an *in situ* Roman surface or redeposited pit material.

Two Roman features were revealed in Slot 3 at a depth of 1.1m below current ground level (31.94m AOD). This was metalled surface F6 and possible mortar wall foundation F7. Both were sealed by L4. Surface F6 was well preserved in the southern end of the slot, with poor or variable preservation at the northern end. It was comprised of compacted gravel with some Roman CBM fragments pressed into the surface. Possible wall foundation F7 was aligned east/west, made of mortar and pebbles, and was truncated on its northern edge by a modern service.



Photograph 1 The trench with F4 in the foreground and one of the excavated slots behind, looking north.



Photograph 2 The trench with F3 in the foreground, looking east.



Photograph 3 Brick floor F1 and foundation F2, looking east.



Photograph 4 Metallised surface F6 with possible wall foundation F7, looking north.



Photograph 5 Representative trench section and the second excavated slot, looking east.



Photograph 6 Possible clay floor F5 in base of slot, looking north.

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic and Pottery finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered a modest-sized assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 381 sherds with a weight of 48.7kg and 2.54 vessels according to the rim EVE (Table 1). CBM accounts for the majority of the assemblage by sherd count and by sherd weight (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	114	2,552	22.4	2.54
CBM	267	46,199	173.0	-
All	381	48,751	127.9	2.54

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

6.1.1 Roman pottery (Fig 4.1)

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

There was a small assemblage of Roman pottery at 87 sherds with a weight of 1,861g and EVE of 2.16 (Tables 3-4). The mean sherd weight is 21g. This material was recovered from just two layers although most came from L4 (Table 5). The assemblage includes a variety of Roman pottery with a noticeable presence of later Roman wares dating from the early to late 3rd century onwards (fabrics CH, EA, MP, TK). There are also occasional sherds of pottery dating to the very end of the Roman period, that include a sherd of Mayen coarse ware (fabric HG), dating to AD 300/350-425, and a sherd of a Argonne red-slipped (fabric ARG RS) roller-stamped bowl, decorated with group 2 style decoration (squares/rectangles) (Fig. 4.1), which dates from AD 320/330 onwards (Gazenbeek ed. 2023, 121-122 fig. 152). Finally, there is a sherd from a possible Cam 407 folded beaker in fabric UX (Romano-Saxon grey ware and types in similar fabric), which is possibly a late Hadham black surface style ware and dates to the 4th century. Other sherds of interest include a rim from a late Baetican Dressel 20 olive oil amphorae (DR20F) dating to AD 150-210. Another feature of the assemblage is the greater representation of late black-burnished vessels with examples of the Cam 305A and Cam 305B in fabrics GA, GB and KX (Table 4).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
ARG RS	Argonne red-slipped ware	AD 250/300-425
BAXX	Unidentified plain Samian	AD 43-460
BAET	Inland Baetican (Guadalquivir) amphorae	Roman
BSW 2	Black surface ware (sandier, coarser)	Roman
CH	Oxidised Hadham wares	AD 225/250-425
CL (NF)	Trier colour-coated	AD 200-300
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	AD 100-300
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman
DJ (M)	Coarse oxidised and related wares (micaceous)	Roman
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	AD 225/250-425
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	AD 110/125-400
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	AD 110/125-300
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	Roman
HG	Eifelkeramik/Mayen ware	AD 300/350-425

HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	Late Iron Age-Roman
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	AD 125/150-300
MP	Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware	AD 275-425
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae (Gauloise)	30 BC-AD 300
TK	Oxford mortaria, white/cream fabric, unslipped with pink grits	AD 250/275-400
TZ (COL)	Mortaria, Colchester	AD 43-225
UX	Romano-Saxon grey ware and types in similar fabric	AD 275/300-425
WA	Silvery micaceous wares	Roman
WC	Miscellaneous grey and pale grey wares	Roman

Table 2 Roman pottery fabrics recorded. *NRFRC

Fabric code	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
ARG RS	Argonne red-slipped ware	1	16	16	0.00
BAXX	Unidentified plain Samian	4	294	74	0.28
BAET	Inland Baetican (Guadalquivir) amphorae	1	6	6	0.02
BSW 2	Black surface ware (sandier, coarser)	2	21	11	0.00
CH	Oxidised Hadham wares	2	28	14	0.00
CL (NF)	Trier colour-coated	1	3	3	0.00
CZ	Colchester and other red colour-coated ware	4	56	14	0.00
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	5	73	15	0.17
DJ (M)	Coarse oxidised and related wares (micaceous)	1	14	14	0.00
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	3	48	16	0.23
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	6	101	17	0.22
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	4	85	21	0.15
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	35	569	16	0.56
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	2	20	10	0.00
HG	Eifelkeramik/Mayen ware	1	29	29	0.00
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	3	143	48	0.03
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	4	154	39	0.28
MP	Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware	2	7	4	0.00
NARB	Narbonensis Amphorae (Gauloise)	1	26	26	0.07
TK	Oxford mortaria, white/cream fabric, unslipped with pink grits	1	72	72	0.08
TZ (COL)	Mortaria, Colchester	1	16	16	0.00
UX	Romano-Saxon grey ware and types in similar fabric	1	31	31	0.00
WA	Silvery micaceous wares	1	3	3	0.00
WC	Miscellaneous grey and pale grey wares	1	46	46	0.07
Total		87	1861	21	2.16

Table 3 Summary of the Roman pottery.

Fabric code	Form	EVE
BAET	AII	0.28
	DR20F	0.28
BAXX	AII	0.02
	DRAG 18/31-31	0.02
DJ	AII	0.17
	CAM 167	0.17
EA	AII	0.23
	?	0.08
	CAM 305B	0.15
GA	AII	0.22
	CAM 305A	0.22
GB	AII	0.15
	CAM 37A/38A	0.08
	CAM 40A	0.02
	CAM 305B	0.05
GX	AII	0.56
	CAM 268	0.47
	JAR	0.09
HZ	AII	0.03
	CAM 273	0.03
KX	AII	0.28
	CAM 40A	0.05
	CAM 278	0.13
	CAM 305B	0.10
TK	AII	0.07
	M22	0.07
TZ	AII	0.08
	CAM 192	0.08
WC	AII	0.07
	CAM 307	0.07
Total		2.16

Table 4 Late Iron Age-Roman pottery quantification via vessel form.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)	EVE
L3	Dark earth	5	63	13	0.20
L4	Dark earth	82	1,798	22	1.96
Total		87	1,861	21	2.16

Table 5 Quantities of Late Iron Age-Roman pottery from specific contexts.

6.1.2 Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery (Fig 4.2)

Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000) (Table 6) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). There was a small assemblage at 27 sherds with a weight of 691g and EVE of 0.38 (Table 7). The mean sherd weight is 26 g. This material was recovered from two layers (Table 8).

Most of this material consists of medieval pottery (fabrics F21, F22) dating from the mid-12th/early 13th century onwards, and post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric F40). Diagnostic material included a Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) jug, bowl (EVE:0.08) and large bowl/pancheon (EVE:0.18). In post-medieval red earthenwares there was a large storage jar (EVE:0.09) dating from 1575/1600 onwards. Finally, a pearlware? (fabric F48D) rococo edgeware green glaze plate or soup plate, decorated with asymmetrical undulating scalloped rim with impressed curved lines dating to 1775-1810 came from L3 (Fig. 4.2).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F21	Colchester-type ware	c 1200-1550
F22	Hedingham ware	c 1140-1325/1350
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F45D/E	Cologne and Frechen stonewares	c 1500-1700
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	1800-2000

Table 6 Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric Code	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F21	Colchester-type ware	14	236	17	0.26
F22	Hedingham ware	1	8	8	0.00
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	9	430	48	0.09
F45D/E	Cologne and Frechen stonewares	2	12	6	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	1	5	5	0.03
Total		27	691	26	0.38

Table 7 Summary of the medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)	EVE
L3	Dark earth	22	660	30	0.38
L4	Dark earth	5	31	6	0.00
Total		27	691	26	0.38

Table 8 Quantities of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery from specific contexts.

6.1.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

There was a modest-sized assemblage of CBM at 267 sherds with a weight of 46kg and a mean sherd weight of 173g (Table 9). This material was recovered from three features and three layers

although the majority of the CBM came from L4 (Table 10). The bulk of the CBM consists of a variety of Roman building material which came from L3, L4 and L6. Notable elements included several tegulae with type C lower cutaway's dating to AD 160-260, some combed flue tile fragments and a possible lydion brick (305/300 mm x ? x 40/35 mm). A fragment of tegula from L4 has the feint imprint of a hob-nailed boot on its upper surface. Post-Roman CBM mostly consisted of fragments of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile including 31 (1,291g) pieces from L4. Complete unfrogged bricks (215/210 mm x 100 mm x 50/60 mm), dating to the late 17th/early 18th century, came from wall foundations F3 and F4. Finally, a cut down unfrogged yellow brick was reused as a floor brick in the brick floor/yard surface F1.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Roman				
RB	Roman brick	55	22,308	406
RI	Roman imbrex	16	1,891	118
RT	Roman tegulae	42	8,820	210
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	36	962	27
RFT	Roman flue-tile	6	950	158
TESS	Tesserae	7	167	24
Op. Sig.	Opus signinum	3	77	26
Post Roman				
BR	Brick	13	5,436	418
PT	Peg-tile	55	2,170	39
Undated				
Baked clay		4	104	26
Mortar		30	3,314	110
Total		267	46,199	173

Table 9 Building material by period and type.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Brick floor/yard surface	1	1,326	1326
F3	Wall foundation	4	1,850	463
F4	Wall foundation	1	2,100	2100
L3	Dark earth	41	2,152	52
L4	Dark earth	218	38,424	176
L6	Metalled surface	2	347	174
Total		267	46,199	173

Table 10 Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.

6.1.4 Conclusion

Table 11 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which contained dateable pottery and CBM.

Context	Description	Roman pottery	Medieval-modern pottery	CBM	Date Approx.
F1	Brick floor/yard surface	-	-	BR (UNFROGGED)	Post-medieval
F3	Wall foundation	-	-	BR (UNFROGGED)	late 17th-early 18th century
F4	Wall foundation	-	-	BR (UNFROGGED)	late 17th-early 18th century
F6	Metalled surface	-	-	RI, RT	Roman
L3	Dark earth	BAXX (DRAG 18/31-31), CL (NF), DJ, EA (BEAKER), KX (CAM 305B)	F21 (bowl, jug, large bowl/pancheon), F40 (large storage jar), F45D/E, F48D (plate/soup dish)	RB, RT, TESS, PT, BR	late 18th-early 19th century
L4	Dark earth	ARG RS, BAET (DR20F), BSW 2, CH, CZ, DJ (CAM 167), DJ (M), EA (CAM 305B), GA (CAM 305A), GB (CAM 37A/38A, CAM 40A, CAM 305B), GX (CAM 268), HD, HG, HZ (CAM 273), KX (CAM 40A, CAM 278), MP, TK (M22), TZ (CAM 192), TZ (COL), UX (CAM 407), WA, WC (CAM 307)	F21, F22	RB, RI, RT (LCA C5, C5/56), RFT, TESS, OP SIG, PT	Medieval/post-medieval

Table 11 Approximate dates for the individual contexts.

6.2 Small finds

by Laura Pooley

The evaluation revealed three small finds. A ceramic rough-out counter made from a piece of Roman storage vessel (SF1) came from L4, and two contemporary copies of 4th-century Roman nummi (SF2-SF3) were metal-detected from the spoil heap.

SF1 L4, finds no. 16. Ceramic rough-out counter made from a piece of Roman storage vessel (Fabric HZ), 28.9g, 37.7mm by 36.9mm and 16.4mm thick.

SF2 U/S (metal detected from the spoil heap), finds no. 17. Contemporary copy of a 4th-century Roman copper-alloy nummus, worn with reverse in poor condition, 14.1mm diameter, 0.8g.

Obverse: Bust of Constantinopolis.

Reverse: Outline of Victory on prow just about visible.

Die axis: 10

Official Constantinopolis coins were issued AD 330-340.

SF3 U/S (metal detected from the spoil heap), finds no. 17. Contemporary copy of a 4th-century Roman copper-alloy nummus, very worn, 11.5mm diameter, 1.5g.

Obverse: Bust right.

Reverse: Possible standing figure.

6.3 Glass, clay tobacco pipe, shell, stone and metal

by Laura Pooley

Finds from L2, L3, L4 and those recovered as unstratified finds included fragments of glass, clay tobacco pipe, shell, slate, stone (septaria and flint), an iron nail, lead lumps and a copper-alloy hook, sheet fragments and unidentifiable lumps. They have all been recorded in Table 12 below and discarded. The only datable finds were the glass and copper-alloy hook from L3, which date to the 19th-20th century, and the post-medieval clay pipe stem.

Context	Finds no.	Description
L2	2	Copper-alloy: Two small fragments of copper-alloy sheet, 9.8g.
L3	5	Copper-alloy: Unidentifiable fragment of copper-alloy, 0.8g.
	6	Glass: Two fragments of olive green straight-sided wine bottle, four fragments of pale green cylindrical bottle glass, one fragment of pale blue rectangular bottle, 458.1g, all 19th-20th century. Clay tobacco pipe: One stem fragment, 5.1g. Oyster shell: Six fragments, 75.7g. Slate: Two fragments, 117.6g. Stone: Five fragments of septaria, 1487g. Coal/coke: Two fragments, 30.5g.
	8	Copper-alloy hook: with straight round-sectioned shaft and curved flattened hook, 9.9g, probably 19th-20th century.
	15	Shell: Three fragments of oyster shell, 21.8g; one fragment of mussel shell, 2.8g; one whelk shell, 5.1g.
L4	3	Iron nail: Complete, bent at 90° mid shank, flat round head, 70mm long, 14.5g. Oyster shell: Ten fragments, 58.4g. Stone: Three fragments of septaria, 1607g.
	4	Copper-alloy: Unidentifiable lump of copper-alloy, 4.8g.
	7	Oyster shell: Four fragments, 27.6g. Stone: Flint nodules and septaria fragments, 1592g.
	9	Copper-alloy: Two unidentifiable lumps of copper-alloy, 1.3g.
U/S	17	Lead: Five small lumps of lead, 28.7g.

Table 12 Glass, clay tobacco pipe, shell, stone and metal listed by context.

6.4 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

Introduction

The animal bone assemblage amounted to 91 pieces of disarticulated hand collected animal and bird bone weighing a total of 2310g. The material derived came from L3 and L4.

Methodology

The hand collected assemblage was recorded using a system based upon the rapid method devised by S.J.M. Davis (*Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 19/92*). Briefly, all the bone and teeth fragments are examined but only a restricted suite of skeletal parts are recorded as a matter of course – these being chosen because they are relatively easy to identify and represent most regions of the mammalian body (head, girdles, limbs and feet). When these parts are present in sufficient numbers, they can provide the maximum useful information regarding sex, age, butchery practice and metrical data. These skeletal parts are referred to as the parts of skeleton always counted (POSAC). The remaining pieces of bone are referred to as non-countable specimens (NCS) and consist largely of undiagnostic fragments. Beyond a basic level of quantification these are of no further interest unless these are found to offer the only evidence for the presence of a species otherwise not represented amongst the POSACs.

Results

In general, the character of the assemblage was quite typical of an urban site. The material was fragmented¹, discoloured with irregular dark speckles and patches, and the surface condition of the bone was poor with much detail being eroded.

Seven species were identified in the assemblage by countable element and amongst the NCS material. These were cow (14 pieces), sheep or goat (eight), pig (four), dog (two), chicken, goose, and cat (one each). All these species were represented in the L4 but only the three most common, cow, sheep/goat and pig, were present in L3².

Tables 13-14 shows the distribution of the animal bone by context, taxon and number of individual skeletal parts (NISP).

Evidence of activities related to butchery including cut/slice marks, chopped bones and deliberate bone breakage were present in both contexts. A small amount of the bone from both layers had been dog gnawed. One piece from L4 had been rodent gnawed.

¹ Only two bones being complete, both cattle third phalanges.

² There were, however, two pieces of indeterminate bird bone, one piece possibly domestic goose.

Taxon	POSAC or NCS	NISP	POSAC (%) ³	Comments
Bird	NCS	2		Diaphysis (goose sized?) and radius fragments.
Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Metatarsal (distal) metaphysis U	1	25%	Deliberate breakage.
Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	NCS	4		Ulna, tibia, skull and upper tooth fragments. Signs of bone breakage and marks from butchery.
Cow or horse sized		15		Chopped and sliced rib pieces, deliberately split vertebrae, diaphysis and scapula fragments. One rib fragment has an inflammation or swelling along its body.
Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	Calcaneum - tuber calcis U	1	80%	Excavation damage to lateral side.
Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	Tibia (distal) F	1	30%	Chop mark on medial shaft. GL broken, Bd 25.7mm.
Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	NCS	3		Radius, tibia and rib fragments.
Sheep or goat sized	NCS	11		Some cut rib pieces, split vertebrae, femur and tibia diaphysis fragments. Two pieces have been dog gnawed and there are chop marks on the tibia fragment.
Sus domesticus (domestic pig)	Femur (distal) metaphysis U	1	20%	
Sus domesticus (domestic pig)	Single mandibular tooth: C	1	66%	Boar tusk.
Total		40		

Table 13 Animal bone from L3 (finds no.6) list by taxon and NISP. All measurements taken with digital callipers to the nearest tenth of a millimetre. 'a' = abraded surface.

³ Each POSAC is given a percentage value based upon its estimated completeness with 100% representing a complete example of its type. For example, a femur rated 100% represents an entire intact femur, not just the complete distal lateral condyle that qualifies it as a POSAC. An exception to this is the ischium where a rating of 100% represents the complete acetabulum and not a complete pelvis consisting of ischium, pubis, and ilium.

Finds no.	Taxon	POSAC or NCS	NISP	POSAC (%) ⁴	Comments
3	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Mandible	1	70%	Broken in three pieces. TWS M1 (k), M2 (k), M3 (J) = MWS 44 (Mature individual). (L 37mm, wl broken, measured biting surface).
	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	NCS	2		Fragments from a cow skull. Possible deliberate bone breakage. Multiple fine diagonal marks (mostly parallel) across frontale. These look more like post-deposition marks or abrasion than fine cut marks.
	Canis familiaris (dog)	NCS	1		Atlas, near complete (GB 56mm, H 20.7mm).
	Cow or horse sized	NCS	13		Includes atlas (deliberate breakage), skull, cut rib and tibia fragments.
7	Anser anser domesticus (domestic goose)	NCS	1		Coracoid.
	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Third phalanx	1	100%	(DLS 81.5a mm, MBS 22.8mm, Ld 59.4a mm).
	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Third phalanx	1	100%	(DLS 61.8mm, MBS 17.2mm, Ld 48mm).
	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Tibia (distal) F	1	10%	Localised black scorching?
	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	NCS	1		Mandible fragment (deliberate breakage).
	Cow or horse sized	NCS	6		Cut rib pieces, scapula, skull and diaphysis fragments.
	Cat or small dog sized	NCS	1		Rib fragment.
	Gallus domesticus (chicken/domestic fowl)	NCS	1		Coracoid.
	Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	NCS	2		Radius and metatarsal fragments.
	Sheep or goat sized	NCS	2		Rib and a lumbar vertebrae fragment that has been chopped down its left side.
	Sus domesticus (domestic pig)	NCS	1		Ulna fragment.
	Unidentified	NCS	1		

⁴ Each POSAC is given a percentage value based upon its estimated completeness with 100% representing a complete example of its type. For example, a femur rated 100% represents an entire intact femur, not just the complete distal lateral condyle that qualifies it as a POSAC. An exception to this is the ischium where a rating of 100% represents the complete acetabulum and not a complete pelvis consisting of ischium, pubis, and ilium.

12	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	NCS	2		Metacarpal (deliberate bone breakage) and a rodent gnawed tibia fragment.
	Cow or horse sized	NCS	2		Pelvis (chopped/deliberately broken) and a rib fragment. Slight dog gnawing.
	Canis familiaris (dog)	Scapula - Coracoid	1	40%	
	Cat or small dog sized	NCS	3		Two rib and one vertebrae fragment (excavation damage?). Based upon the condition and colour of the fragments these are likely to be associated with the dog scapula identified above.
	Felis catus (cat)	Mandible	1	80%	Based upon the uncharacteristically good condition of this piece it may be intrusive?
	Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	NCS	1		Metacarpal fragment.
	Sheep or goat sized	NCS	1		Rib fragment.
	Sus domesticus (domestic pig)	NCS	1		Radius fragment.
	Unidentified	NCS	3		Possible slice marks on some fragments.
	Total		51		

Table 14 Animal bone from L4, listed by finds number, taxon and NISP. All measurements taken with digital callipers to the nearest tenth of a millimetre. 'a' = abraded surface.

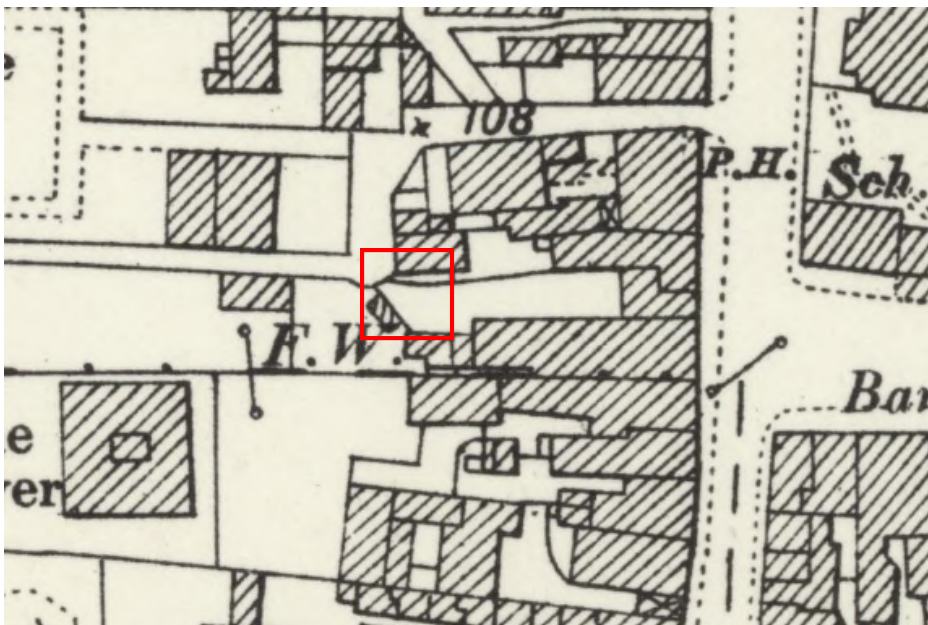
Conclusion

The character of the assemblage is typical of that from urban sites. The amount of fragmentation, due to both taphonomy and deliberate breakage related to butchery is high with just two bones being in a complete condition. These were both cow 3rd phalanges, which are very compact and dense skeletal elements with a high durability. Discolouration and poor bone surface condition was common, and the presence of dog and rodent gnawed bone suggests a high degree of residuality in the assemblage.

Layer L4 produced a relatively wide range of species including the most common of cow, sheep or goat and pig, as well as chicken, goose, dog and cat. Butchery activity amongst this material was typical of the general waste often encountered in urban assemblages and included cow and sheep/goat cut rib pieces, chopped or split vertebrae and pelvis fragments as well as deliberately broken pieces for marrow extraction such as metapodials.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, revealed post-medieval and Roman features. At only 0.35m below ground level were the remains of two buildings visible on the 1875 and 1896 OS maps. They show a building aligned north-west/south-east along a boundary wall that corresponds to brick wall foundations F3/F4. Brick wall F2 is either the boundary wall for the building to the north, making floor F1 a yard surface around the building, or it is the southern wall of that building, making floor F1 an internal surface.



Map 1 1896 6-inch OS map with the site indicated by the red square.

The presence of a significant number of modern services along with the post-medieval building remains meant that assessing the Roman remains was difficult. Metalled surface F6 was identified at c 1.1m below current ground level and had Roman building material pressed into the gravel surface. The Roman street that separates *insula* 17b to the north from *insula* 25b to the south is projected to pass through approximately half of the site, and F6 could be this Roman street. As projected though, the northern edge of F6 should be c 3m further to the north. There are several possible explanations, which include:

- F6 does represent the northern edge of the Roman street meaning that the street grid would need to be realigned accordingly. F7 would then represent a wall foundation on the southern edge of *Insula* 17b.
- F6 represents part of the Roman street which has been truncated to the north by a later feature, meaning that the feature identified as F7 is highly unlikely to be a Roman wall foundation.
- F6 is not part of the Roman street.

This discrepancy can only be resolved by further excavation and investigation of the remains.

To the north of F6/F7 and at a greater depth (1.56m below current ground level) was a possible remnant of clay floor. This would need further investigation to determine if it is *in situ* or had been disturbed by later pitting, but if it is a clay floor it could represent the remains of an earlier building, possibly relating to the Roman fortress or pre-Boudiccan colonia.

The evaluation has demonstrated that Roman horizons survive from 1.1m below current ground level (31.94m AOD), with the potential for earlier colonia and fortress remains beneath. Figure 5 plots the depths of the highest significant archaeological remains from investigations surrounding the development site, revealing the depths involved here to be fairly typical of those on the brow of the hill.

8 Acknowledgements

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

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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 1540
modern	period from AD 1901 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Post Medieval	period from AD 1540 to 1901
Modern	period from AD 1901 to current
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 archive

Finds: Part of one box

Digital record

CAT Report 2132

CCC brief; CAT wsi

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 Colchester Museum (finds) and the Archaeological Data Service (digital record).

Distribution list:

Liam Boyd, b3 Architects

Nammos Properties Ltd

Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor

Colchester Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Hard top	Tarmac/concrete yard surface. Three layers of tarmac overlaying an earlier concrete surface.	Modern
L2	2	Made ground	Friable, dry mid grey-brown sandy silt, tile fragments, mortar fragments.	Post-medieval
L3	5, 6, 8, 15	Dark earth	Firm dark brown-black sandy silt. Frequent oyster shell fragments.	Post-medieval, late 18th-early 19th century
L4	3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16	Demolition horizon	Firm moist medium grey silty clay, containing Roman CBM fragments (including box tile fragments), pottery and oyster shells.	Medieval/post-medieval
F1	1	Yard surface	Yellow/cream unfroged bricks and concrete veneer.	Post-medieval
F2	-	Wall foundation	Unfroged red bricks and which mortar.	Post-medieval
F3	14	Wall foundation	Unfroged red brick.	Late 17th to early 18th century
F4	13	Wall foundation	Unfroged red bricks.	Late 17th to early 18th century
F5	-	Clay floor?	Light grey-brown compacted clay, with an associated cessy deposit containing charcoal and shell fragments. Sealed by L4.	Roman
F6	11	Compacted gravel surface	Gravel, with Roman CBM fragments impressed into it. Sealed by demolition horizon L4. Abuts F7. Sealed by L4.	Roman
F7	-	Wall foundation	Mortar and pebble construction. Abuts F6.	Roman

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Context	Feature type	Find number	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	W/mid	Sooting (ext)	Charring (int)	Burning	Misfired	Overfired	Deformed	Vitrified	Gritted	Abraison	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam	Comments	Start Date	End Date
L3	DARK EARTH	6	2	27	14										X					F21						1200	1550
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	33	33		0	1	0											F21	JUG	JUG				1200	1550
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	3	3											X				CL (NF)						200	300
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	43	43		1	0	0											KX	CAM 305B	BOWL	0.10	220		275	425
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	6	6		1	0	0				X	X		X				BAXX	DRAG 18/31-31	DISH	0.02	?	BL SLIP BURNT, DEEP RED OF NR FUSED FINE CORE, PULBOROUGH SAMIAN?	120	150
L3	DARK EARTH	6	2	12	6															F45D/E						1500	1700
L3	DARK EARTH	6	4	28	7															F21						1200	1550
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	5	5															DJ					WH/CR	43	425
L3	DARK EARTH	6	4	236	59		0	0	4											F40					GR GLAZE	1500	1800/1900
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	46	46		1	0	0											F21	LARGE BOWL/PANCHEON	BOWL/PANCHEON	0.18	170	OR GLAZE INT, SPLASHES GL EXT	1200	1550
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	45	45		1	0	0											F21	BOWL	BOWL	0.08	270	GR GLAZE INT, SIMILAR TO F20 BOWL (FIG.61)	1200	1550
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	6	6		1	0	0											EA	?	BEAKER	0.08	100		225	425
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	5	5		1	0	0											F48D	PLATE/SOUP PLATE	PLATE	0.03	?	ROCOCO EDGEWARE, GR GLAZE WITH ASYMMETRICAL UNDULATING SCALLOPED RIM WITH IMPRESSED CURVED LINES. PEARLWARE	1775	1810
L3	DARK EARTH	15	1	34	34										X					F21					GREY SURF, GREY CORE, OR MARGIN	1200	1550
L3	DARK EARTH	15	1	35	35		1	0	0											F40	LARGE STORAGE JAR	STORAGE JAR	0.09	220	GLAZE INT, FINER FABRIC	1575/1625	1800/1900
L3	DARK EARTH	15	2	112	56		0	0	2											F40					OR/RED GLAZE INT & EXT	1500	1800/1900
L3	DARK EARTH	15	1	19	19		0	0	1											F40					VG BL GLAZE INT & EXT	1500	1800/1900
L3	DARK EARTH	15	1	28	28		0	0	1											F40					BL GLAZE INT	1500	1800/1900
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	63	32															GX						43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	18	9					X										GX						43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	10	10															HD					LATE	350	425

Context	Feature type	Find number	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wind	Sooting (ext)	Charring (int)	Burning	Misfired	Overfired	Deformed	Vitrified	Gritted	Abraision	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam	Comments	Start Date	End Date	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	11	11															DJ					PY/BUFF	43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	4	4															GX						43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	4	4															GX						43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	2	2															GX						43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	14	14		1	0	0											GA	CAM 305A	BOWL	0.05	150		275	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	46	46		1	0	0											WC	CAM 307	BOWL/JAR	0.07	220	BL SIRF, PLAE GREY CORE, SAND, MICA, BLACK NODS	180/220	400	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	22	22															CH						225/250	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	23	23		1	0	0											GB	CAM 305B	BOWL	0.05	240		275	300	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	36	36		0	0	1											GX						43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	27	27		0	0	2											GB						110/125	300	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	10	10						X									HD							350	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	25	13		1	0	1											GX	JAR	JAR	0.09	170		43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	213	213		1	0	0				X							BAET	DR20F	AMPHORAE	0.28	180		150	210	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	16	16															ARG RS					GROUP 2 STAMPS SQ'S (GAZENBEEK ED. 2023, 121-122 FIG. 152)	320/330	420	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	69	69	X							X							HZ						-100	200/300	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	6	6															EA						225/250	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	3	46	15															GX						43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	66	66		0	0	1											KX						125/150	300	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	43	43															GX						43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	29	29		1	0	0		X									KX	CAM 278	JAR	0.13	190		125/150	260/260	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	6	6					X										GA						110/125	400	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	9	9							X								GA						110/125	400	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	16	16															BSW 2						43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	26	26		1	0	0									X		TK	M22	MORTARIA	0.07	250	SHORT STUBBY FLANGE	250/275	400	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	16	16													X		TZ (COL)						43	225	

Context	Feature type	Find number	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wind	Sooting (ext)	Charring (int)	Burning	Misfired	Overfired	Deformed	Vitrified	Gritted	Abraision	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam	Comments	Start Date	End Date
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	3	3															F21					FINER, LATER, MORE MICA	1200	1550
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	8	8															GX						43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	62	62		1	0	0										X	HZ	CAM 273	STORAGE JAR	0.03	?		43	200/300
L4	DARK EARTH	7	2	11	6															GX						43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	5	5		0	0	1											CZ						100	300
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	72	72		1	0	0									X		TZ	CAM 192	MORTARIA	0.08	240	; P-BR/PY	20	69
L4	DARK EARTH	7	3	81	27	X														BAET	DR20	AMPHORAE				20/30	270
L4	DARK EARTH	7	3	51	17		0	0	1											CZ						100	300
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	31	31															UX	CAM 407	BEAKER			FOLDED BK	275/300	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	14	14															DJ					PBUFF	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	4	4															DJ					PY/P BUFF	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	36	36		1	0	0											EA	CAM 305B	BOWL	0.15	170		275	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	6	6															CH						225/250	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	39	39		1	0	0											DJ	CAM 167	FLAGON	0.17	90		43	180/220
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	8	8															F22					SPLASHES GREEN BLAZE, MICA	1140	1325/1350
L4	DARK EARTH	7	2	17	9															F21					OR GLAZE SPLASHES EXT	1200	1550
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	3	3															F21					? WHITE SLIP	1200	1550
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	12	12	X														HZ						-100	200/300
L4	DARK EARTH	7	7	45	6		1	0	1											GX	CAM 268	JAR	0.18	70		125/150	280/320
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	12	12		1	0	0		X									GX	CAM 268	JAR	0.14	115		125/150	280/320
L4	DARK EARTH	7	5	41	8		2	0	0		X									GX	CAM 268	JAR	0.09	130		125/150	280/320
L4	DARK EARTH	7									X									GX	CAM 268	JAR	0.06	170		125/150	280/320
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	3	3															MP					ROUL	275	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	4	4								X							MP						275	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	26	26		0	0	1											GA					BURNISHED LINES UNDERSIDE BASE	110/125	400
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	34	34		1	0	0											GA	CAM 305A	BOWL	0.08	200	BURN CURVES EXT BELOW FL	275	425

Context	Feature type	Find number	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wind	Sooting (ext)	Charring (int)	Burning	Misfired	Overfired	Deformed	Vitrified	Grittied	Abraision	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam	Comments	Start Date	End Date
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	3	3															WA					BL, DENSE BL CORE, SLIVER MICA	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	16	16		1	0	0											KX	CAM 40A	DISH	0.05	200		125/150	275
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	14	14		0	0	1				X							DJ (M)					RED/OR	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	1	29	29					X	X									HG					GREY	300/350	420
L4	DARK EARTH	12	1	12	12		1	0	0		X									GA	CAM 305A	BOWL	0.09	250	SOOTING UNDERISDE FLANGE SIM F6.37.90,92	275	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	2	35	18		2	0	0											GB	CAM 37A/38A	BOWL	0.08	220		120	180/220
L4	DARK EARTH	12																		GB	CAM 40A	DISH	0.02	?		110/125	275
L4	DARK EARTH	12	4	149	37		0	0	1											GX						43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	1	5	5															BSW 2						43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	1	62	62	X														GX						43	425

Appendix 2 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	JCA	JCA L.	Sign.	Tally	Shoe	Comb.	Circ. Vent	PH R	PH diam. mm	L.	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Comments	Start Date	End Date
F1	BRICK FLOOR/YARD SURFACE	1	1	1326	1326		BR	UNFROGGED															220	?	55					YELLOW, CUT DOWN SMOOTH EDGE RESUED AS FLOOR BR	?	?
F3	WALL FOUNDATION	14	4	1850	463	X	BR	UNFROGGED															215	100	50	X				OR/BR	1675	1725
F4	WALL FOUNDATION	13	1	2100	2100	X	BR	UNFROGGED															210	100	60	X				BR/OR BLNODS	1675	1725
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	15	15		MORTAR																			X				COMBED, BL	43	425
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	16	16		MORTAR																			X				BL	43	425
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	5	5	X	RBT																								43	425
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	20	20		MORTAR																			X				COMBED, BL	43	425
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	26	26	X	TESS																								43	425

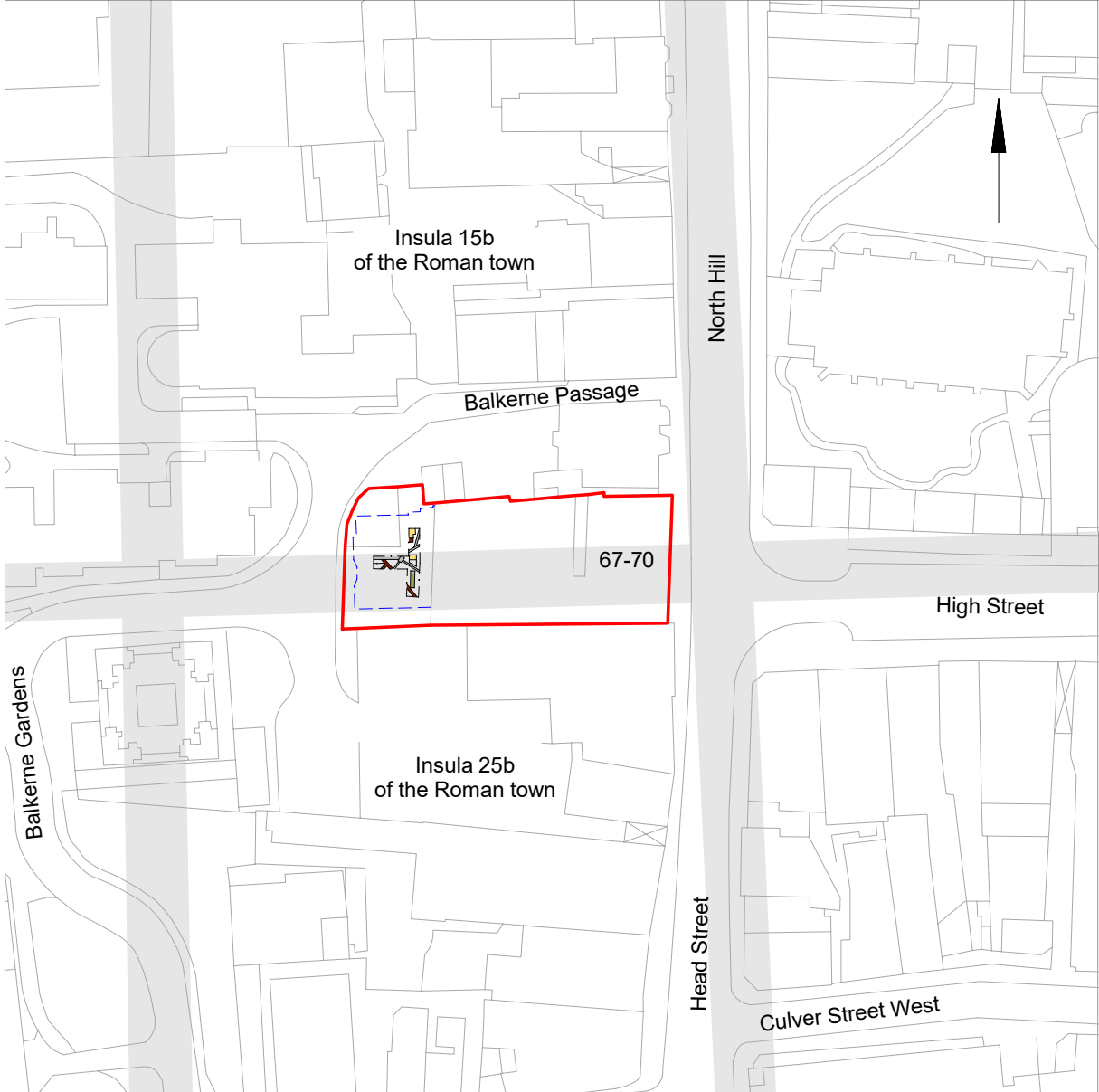
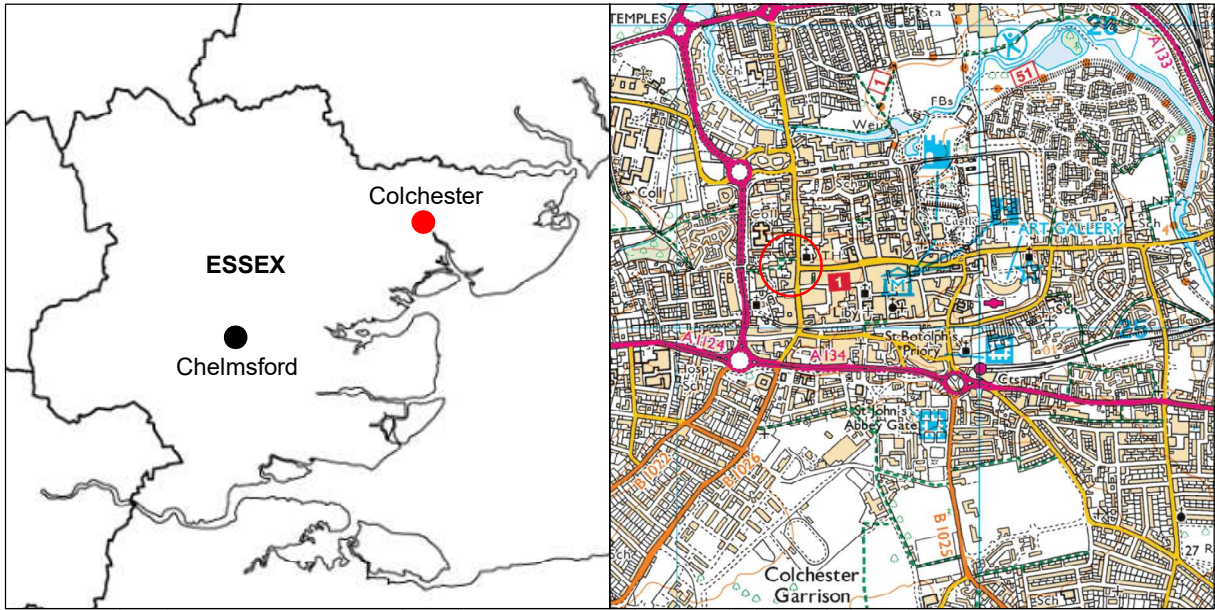
Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Sign.	Tally	Shoe	Comb.	Circ. Vent	PH R	PH diam. mm	L.	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Comments	Start Date	End Date				
L3	DARK EARTH	6	9	209	23	X	PT																								1200/1250	1600				
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	86	86	X	RT																									43	425			
L3	DARK EARTH	6	4	51	13	X	BR																									1400/1500	1900			
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	58	58	X	PT																									1200/1250	1600			
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	156	156	X	PT																									1200/1250	1600			
L3	DARK EARTH	6	12	418	35	X	PT														X	15										1200/1250	1600			
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	148	148	X	RT																									43	425			
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	146	146	X	RT																										43	425		
L3	DARK EARTH	6	2	82	41	X	BR																									1400/1500	1900			
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	51	51	X	MORTAR																									?	?			
L3	DARK EARTH	6	2	627	314	X	RB																										43	425		
L3	DARK EARTH	6	1	38	38	X	PT																			X						1200/1250	1600			
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	5	5	X	OP SIG																										43	425		
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	17	17	X	TESS																			X							43	425		
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	3	3	X	RBT																											43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	82	82		RFT												X															43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	26	26	X	TESS																											43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	6	80	13	X	RBT																												43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	65	65	X	RB																												43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	72	36	X	RBT																												43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	22	22	X	RT																												43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	188	94	X	RT																												43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	51	51	X	RFT																												43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	227	227	X	RI																												43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	106	106	X	RT																												43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	1049	525	X	RB																												43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	39	39	X	RBT																												43	425

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Sign.	Tally	Shoe	Comb.	Circ. Vent	PH R	PH diam. mm	L.	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Comments	Start Date	End Date	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	733	733	X	RB																	45					SANDIER	43	425		
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	405	405	X	RI																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	886	443	X	RB																	30,40							43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	539	539	X	RB																	40		X					43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	205	205	X	MORTAR																								?	?	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	364	364		RT		45	30	23																				43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	919	919	X	RB																	36							43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	2172	2172	X	RB																	36/38							43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	48	48	X	OP SIG																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	55	55	X	RI																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	448	224	X	RB																	32,40							43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	170	170		RFT																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	171	171		RFT												X	X											43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	293	293		RFT												X									X			43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	183	183		RFT												X												43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	140	140		RT		50	30	25																				43	425	
L04	DARK EARTH	3	1	307	307	X	RT																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	1458	1458	X	RB																	35	X						43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	4620	4620	X	RB	LYDION									X						300/305	290+	40/35					SIGN CURVES	43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	24	24	X	OP SIG																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	57	57	X	MORTAR																								?	?	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	140	70	X	RI																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	84	84	X	RI																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	3	562	187	X	RB																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	237	237	X	RT																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	113	113		RT																								SHALLOW GROVE 15 MM UP SURF	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	1981	1981	X	RB																	35							43	425	

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Sign.	Tally	Shoe	Comb.	Circ. Vent	PH R	PH diam. mm	L.	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Comments	Start Date	End Date	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	1859	1859	X	RB																		50	X					43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	100	100	X	RB																				X				43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	4	1549	387		RT							B4	?																43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3					RT		46	30	22	C5/56	50																		160	260	
L4	DARK EARTH	3					RT		?	?	25	C5				X															SIGN CURVE	160	260
L4	DARK EARTH	3					RT		50	20	15																				43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	23	23	X	TESS																			X					43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	44	44	X	RI																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	191	191	X	RT																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	263	263		RT		60	35	22																X			VB GREY	43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	2059	2059	X	MORTAR																								WITH RBT FRAGS	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	3	75	25	X	TESS																			X					43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	3	422	141	X	RT									X															CURVE	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	221	221	X	RI																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	2	271	136	X	RB																			X					43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	147	147	X	RT																				X				43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	57	57	X	RI																				X				VB GREY	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	3	1	793	793		RT		45	20	21			B1	36																HOBNAIL BOOT IMP	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	5	5	X	PT																								1200/1250	1600	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	27	27	X	BR																								?	?	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	43	43		RT																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	128	128	X	RB																				X	X			GREY	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	165	165		RT																								PALE BUFF/YELLOW	43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	79	79	X	RB																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	19	723	38	X	PT																								1200/1250	1600	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	2	448	224	X	RT																								43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	22	22	X	RI																								43	425	

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Sign.	Tally	Shoe	Comb.	Circ. Vent	PH R	PH diam. mm	L.	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Comments	Start Date	End Date			
L4	DARK EARTH	7	3	40	13	X	PT																									1200/1250	1600		
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	13	13	X	PT																					X					1200/1250	1600	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	3	41	14	X	PT																										1200/1250	1600	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	2	24	12		BAKED CLAY																										?	?	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	8	248	31	X	RB																										43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	56	56	X	RT																										43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	10	162	16	X	RBT																										43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	28	28		BAKED CLAY																				X	X					?	?	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	2	119	60	X	RB																					X				43	425		
L4	DARK EARTH	7	2	371	186	X	PT																										1200/1250	1600	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	6	2153	359	X	RB																	35,45									43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	18	681	38	X	MORTAR																										43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	2	98	49	X	PT																										1200/1250	1600	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	2	150	75	X	RT																										43	425	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	314	314		RI																				X							43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	104	104	X	RBT																											43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	35	35	X	RI																											43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	3	530	177	X	RB																											43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	157	157	X	RT																											43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	6	178	30	X	RBT																											43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	128	128	X	RT																											43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	52	52	X	BAKED CLAY																											?	?
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	69	69	X	RI																				X							43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	99	99	X	RBT																											43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	126	126	X	RI																				X							43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	7	4	172	43	X	MORTAR																											?	?

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Sign.	Tally	Shoe	Comb.	Circ. Vent	PH R	PH diam. mm	L.	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Comments	Start Date	End Date
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	38	38	X	MORTAR																						WHITE	?	?	
L4	DARK EARTH	7	1	3	3	X	RBT																								43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	1	72	72	X	RI																								43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	3	30	10	X	RBT																								43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	9	656	73	X	RB																								43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	3	623	208	X	RT																								43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	3	789	263	X	RT																								43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	2	575	288		RT		50	30	25																				43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12					RT					C5	67																		160	260
L4	DARK EARTH	12	1	70	70	X	RBT																								43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	2	106	53	X	RB																			X	X				43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	1	76	76	X	RBT																								43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	1	41	41	X	RBT																								43	425
L4	DARK EARTH	12	1	137	137		RT		?	?	20	C5																	OR C5/D15	160	260	
L6	METALLED SURFACE	11	1	20	20	X	RI																								43	425
L6	METALLED SURFACE	11	1	327	327	X	RT							B6																	43	425



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Fig 1 Site location. Roman street grid shown in grey.



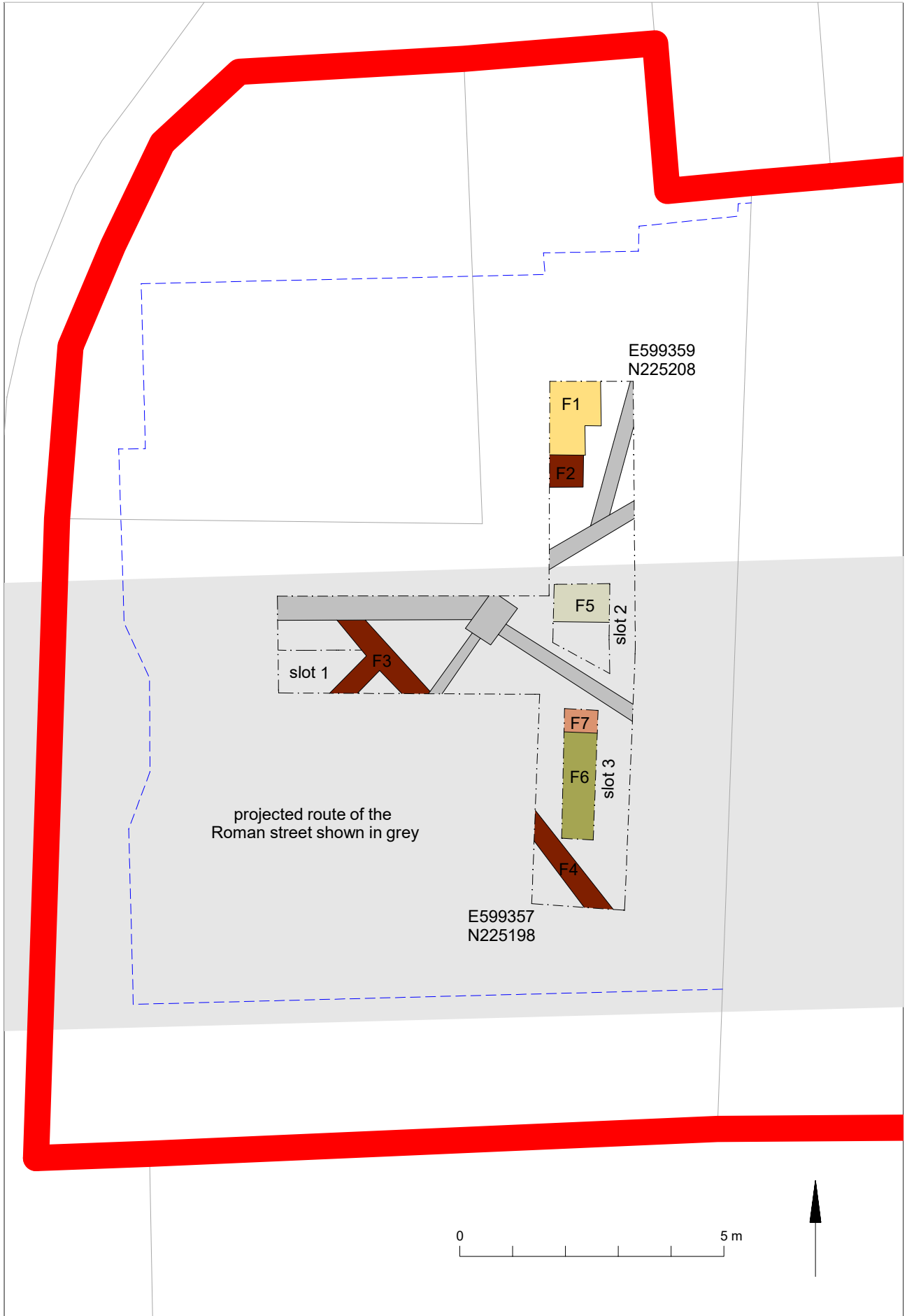


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

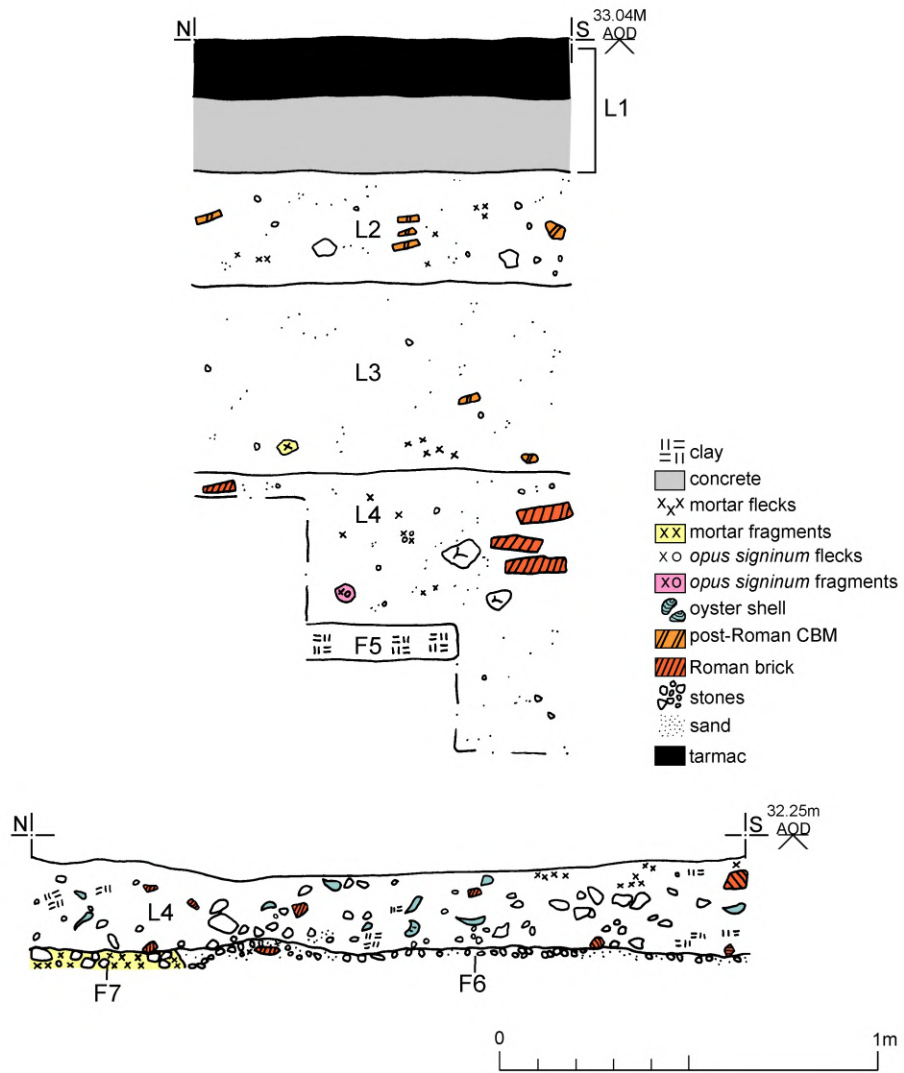


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

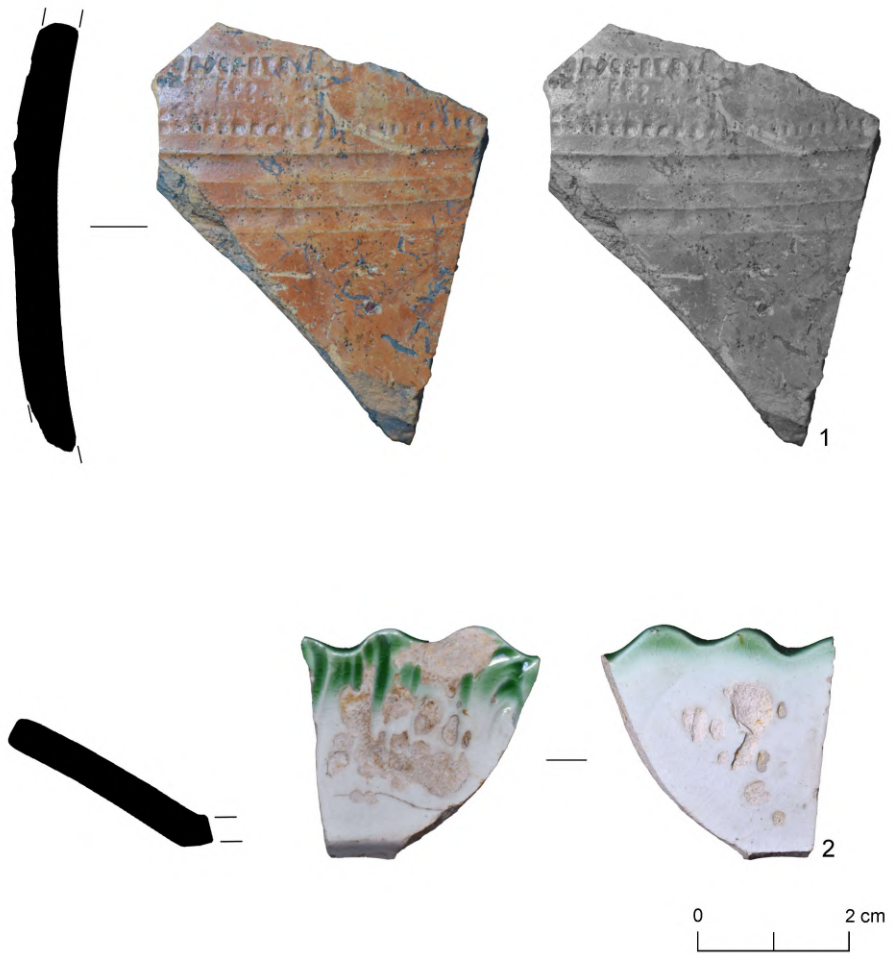


Fig 4 Pottery: Roman Argonne red-slip ware sherd from L4 (1) and a post-medieval Rococo edgeware sherd from L3 (2).

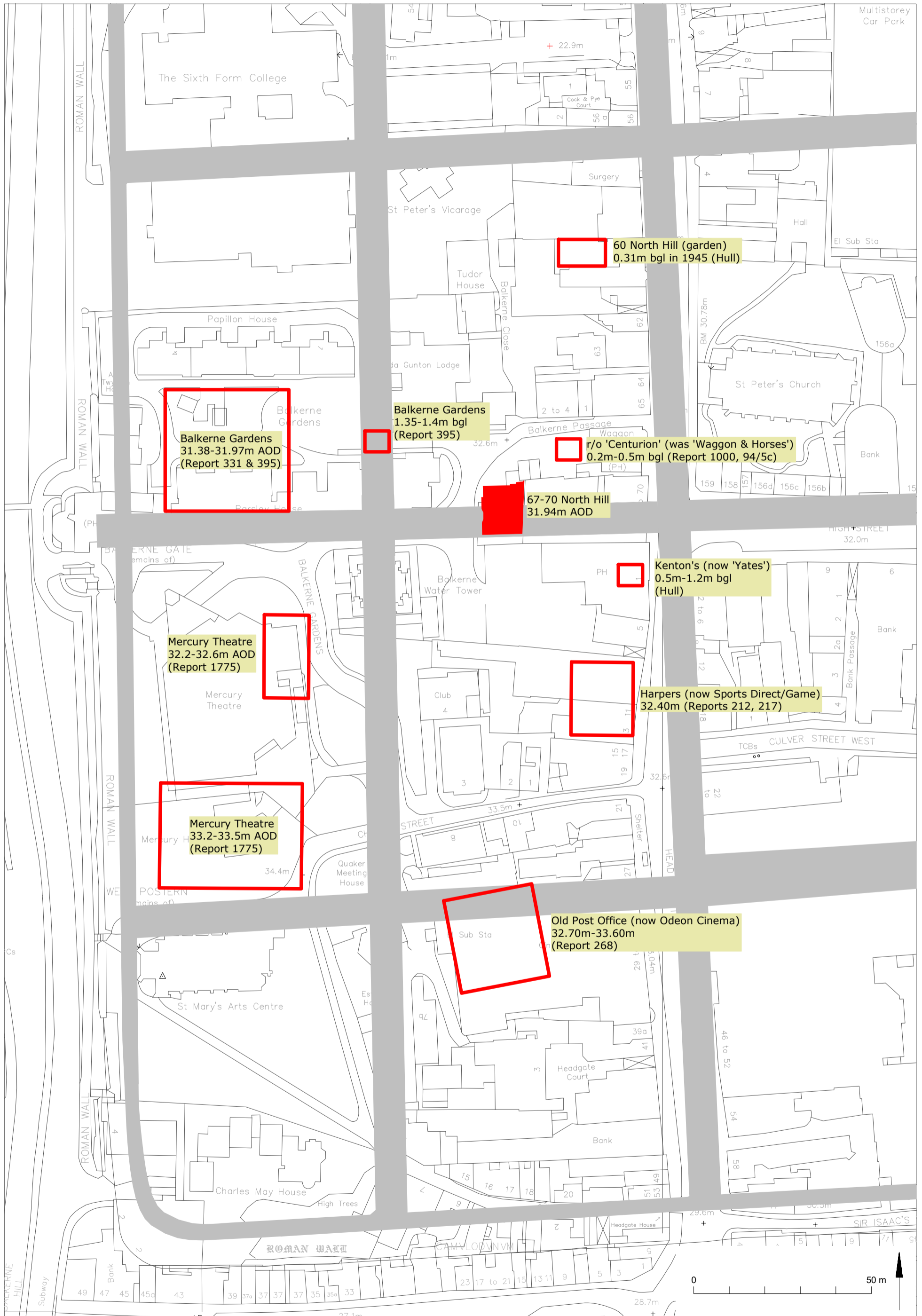


Fig 5 Depths of highest significant archaeological deposits on sites surrounding 67-70 North Hill. Depths are given in either m AOD or m below ground level (bgl). References - 'Report' = CAT report number; 'Hull' = Roman Colchester 1958.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PX	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99388 25207 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2024/10h CHER ref.: ECC4883 OASIS ref.: colchest3-529847
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 16th-19th December 2024	Size of area investigated: 175 square metres
Location of curating museum: Archaeology Data Service Colchester Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: -
Final report: CAT Report 2132	
Periods represented: Roman, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, in advance of the construction of a rear extension to the existing building. The development site is located in an area of the highest archaeological potential, within Insula 17b of the Roman walled town. Roman remains were identified from 1.1m below current ground level (bcgl) and included a metalled surface and maybe a wall foundation, with a possible compacted clay surface found deeper at 1.56m bcgl. In addition, post-medieval brick-built wall foundations and a brick floor were uncovered, being representative of two separate buildings seen on early editions of the OS maps.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: n/a	
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett	
Keywords: <i>Insula 17b, Roman street</i>	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: 10th February 2025

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written Scheme of Investigation
for an historic building recording and
an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching
at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PX**

November 2024

**CAT project ref.: 2024/10g
CHER code: [tbc](#)**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for an historic building recording and
an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching
at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PX**

November 2024

NGR: TL 99388 25207 (centre)

**Planning district.: Colchester
Planning ref.: 223132**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/10g (HBR)
2024/10h (EVAL)**

**CHER code: [tbc](#)
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett
OASIS id: colchest3-529846 (HBR)
colchest3-529847 (EVAL)**

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

**commissioned by: Liam Boyd (b3 Architects)
on behalf of: Nammos Properties Ltd**

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Issued:	25/11/2024	

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Site location and description (Fig 1)

The site proposed for development is located within the historic core of Colchester at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99388 25207.

Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the conversion, partial demolition and subsequent extension of the extant building to form a boutique hotel.

Geological background

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the site has a Thames Group bedrock geology (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup (sands and gravels).

Archaeological background

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

The site proposed for development is located within the early Roman legionary fortress (MCC477) as well as on the southern side of *Insula* 17b of the later Roman walled town (MCC9314), straddling the *insula* and the adjacent Roman street. It is less than 150m from the Roman Balkerne Gate (MCC555, scheduled monument no. 1123668) and the adjoining Roman town wall (MCC859, scheduled monument nos. 1003772 and 112668).

The legionary fortress was surrounded by a V-shaped ditch and rampart, with streets laid out internally. The plan of the fortress is broadly understood, with barrack blocks found during excavations at Lion Walk, Culver Street and the Gilbert School (*CAR 6*). The blocks were at least 69m long and provided accommodation for a century of soldiers, with one third of the block occupied by the centurion who had his own block at the end of the building (*ibid*). Other buildings in the fortress would have included the headquarters (*principia*), legionary commander's house (*praetorium*), granaries, store buildings, workshops, latrines and a hospital. None, however, have so far been identified.

The Roman town wall was built in the later 1st century AD, following the revolt led by Boudicca. It is constructed of a core of layered septaria and mortar faced with coursed septaria and tile. A study by P Crummy (2003) concluded that the wall has an average width of 2.67m (including offsets) which is equivalent to precisely nine Roman feet (*pedes monetales*), with a hypothetical cross-section of the wall showing the foundations as being 3.77m wide. Previous work shows that some of the wall foundations were surprisingly shallow at 0.6m deep (Hull 1958, 25-6), with other sections being 1.2m deep with wooden piles below (CAT Report 347), although water-logged ground conditions at this location might explain the exceptional depth. A deep V-shaped ditch was dug along the foot of the wall to improve its defensive capabilities, and a rampart was later piled up behind it (Crummy 2001).

Balkerne Gate is the west gate of the Roman town. A free-standing monumental arch (MCC718), probably constructed when the colonia was founded in AD 49, was incorporated into a larger gateway when the town wall was built. The surviving (south) pedestrian archway and the southern guardroom together form a small part of what was a massive entranceway (30m long north to south) into Roman Colchester from the west.

The following archaeological discoveries have been made within *Insula* 17b:

- Morant recorded the presence of a Roman tessellated pavement '*about 44ft square, lying about 40ft west of 60 North Hill*' (MCC838).

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

- The old 'Waggon and Horses' public house (directly adjacent) was pulled down and rebuilt in 1935. The works uncovered an undated timber drain (MCC1103) along with a Roman hearth sealed by the Boudiccan destruction layers (MCC2564). A shoulder fragment of an amphora, two Roman coins and a few other pottery fragments were also discovered (MCC8024)
- In 1965, excavations at 60 North Hill (MCC1945, MCC1948, MCC1952, MCC1954) identified a north/south aligned Roman wall, constructed from mortar and chunks of septaria. The wall seemed to form the eastern wall of a room, which contained a probable mosaic floor. The floor was surrounded by large red tesserae, but the central mosaic panel had been largely destroyed. In the north-east corner, the floor had a cobbled repair which was thought to be medieval. The room was built on a heavily burnt later, which appeared to partly consist of broken blocks of clay. The discoveries were sealed by a late medieval midden heap.
- Following the demolition of 5 Balkerne Gardens in 1965, the site was excavated. The excavations identified several Roman pits and ovens along with the remains of at least two buildings (ECC659, MCC1590-4, MCC2393, MCC2394, MCC2399). A later watching brief on the same site uncovered a Roman wall foundation, the Roman street surface and traces of a Roman yard (ECC1487, MCC1724, MCC1726) as well as a hoard of 120 4th century coins (MCC1730).
- In 1992, CAT undertook a watching brief at Freda Gunton House, to the west of the development (CAT Report 52, ECC2814). During the works, a portion of the Roman metalled street was uncovered. The street was sealed by deposits of burnt daub.
- Another watching brief at Freda Gunton House identified successive layers of metalling and several robber trenches (ECC1722), a possible timber lined gully or drain (MCC2365) as well as the Boudiccan destruction layer upon which were an un-mortared stack of five tiles, possibly part of an oven (MCC1542, MCC2539)
- During the excavation of stanchion pits and a cellar refurbishment at 67-70 North Hill, Boudiccan destruction layers as well as a possible clay wall were identified by the builders. It was also reported that a possible wooden plank was located at the base of one of the stanchion holes, sealed by the destruction layers. (MCC1879, MCC1553).
- CAT excavated a single trial-trench at 63 North Hill in 2000, during which a robbed out Roman wall foundation was identified (CAT Report 64, MCC2669)
- A watching brief carried out in 2001 by CAT, at St Peter's Vicarage, uncovered a possible tessellated floor and a probable robber trench (CAT Report 156, MCC2818). An almost complete Roman jar was also discovered and suggested to be part of a votive offering associated with the building. Previous work at the vicarage, in the late 19th century, recorded foundations, floors and painted plaster (MCC835, MCC836).

Later dated discoveries in the area include a possible Tudor wall and a tile-lined pit in the basement of 67-70 North Hill (ECC1879, MCC1554, MCC1555) and a possible medieval glass blowers works and with a 13th or 14th century small tile kiln (MCC834, MCC8023).

A number of listed buildings are located in close proximity to the proposed development, the most significant of which is a Victorian brick-built water tower, colloquially known as Jumbo (NHLE No. 1123669, MCC3211).

67-70 North Hill was rebuilt in 1936. It is three storeys with three front-facing gables, constructed in a 'mock Tudor' style. The building occupies a prominent location in the city centre, looking directly down the High Street. While 67-70 North Hill is not officially listed, it is included on the local list for Colchester.

Project background

A planning application (223132) was submitted to Colchester City Council in December 2023 proposing *The change of use from former post office to a hotel and restaurant, including partial demolition of the rear of the PO building and erection of new rear extension.*

As the site is highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits and the building has historic origins, a full archaeological condition was recommended for both a Historic Building Recording and a phase of archaeological evaluation. This recommendation follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2023).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required work comprises two parts, the details of which are given in the project brief (CCC 2024).

- 1) An Historic England Level 3 historic building recording of the building.

This will include a suitably lower-level recording for any recent additions or structures, prior to any conversion or demolition work to make a permanent record of any surviving original fabric of the building.

Specifically, the record will consider:

- Plan form of the site
- Materials and method of construction
- A measured survey including floor plans, elevation and sections
- Photographic record accompanied by appropriate photographic register
- Date(s) of the structure
- Function and internal layout
- Fixtures and fittings
- Original and later phasing, additions and their effect on the internal/external fabric and the level of survival of the original fabric
- The significance of the site in a regional context
- To identify the original structural elements, features and fittings of the buildings

- 2) Followed by archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching.

Specifically, CAT proposes to excavate a single T-shape, located within the footprint of the proposed rear extension. The trench will be 1.8m and have a total length of 15m. This equates to an area of 27m².

The evaluation will be followed by a site meeting with the CCCAA. Further archaeological excavation work may be required, this will be decided by the CCCAA on completion of the evaluation and report.

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 2020, 2022 & 2023 a-b)
- 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 2024)

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

A project or site code will be sought from the CCCAA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows:

- HBR: two historic building recorders for one day
- Evaluation: one CAT Project Officer and one archaeologist for four days

In charge of historic building recording: Sarah Veasey

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner

Historic building recording methodology

An Historic England Level 3 building survey of the interior and exterior will be carried out prior to the demolition of the buildings. The resultant report will include the following:

A brief documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the buildings and the site will be made. Sources consulted will include:

- Essex Historic Environment Record.
- Essex Records Office.
- Local Studies Library
- The site owner/developer.

A large-scale block plans will be made of the site using existing architect's drawings or the current OS 1:2500 map extract. The position of the buildings will be shown and any adjacent buildings will be given a unique identifier noting date of construction and function (where known).

The buildings will be described in as much detail as possible. The description will address materials, dimensions, method of construction, joinery, fenestration, spatial configuration, phasing, and any evidence of original fixtures/fittings.

Based on existing architect's plans and using Historic England (2016a and RCHME 1996) conventions floor plans at scale 1:100 will be made of the buildings affected by the proposals. Doors, windows, internal divisions, truss positions, together with any surviving fixtures/fittings will be shown together with any evidence of phasing.

A full photographic record will be made comprising both general and detailed shots (external and internal/features/joinery/timber marks/etc). A photographic scale will be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record will be accompanied by a photographic register detailing (as a minimum) location and direction of shot; where possible, the photographic record will be tied into the drawn record.

The guidelines contained in Historic England: *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice* (2016) will be adhered to. In addition, RCHME: *Descriptive Specification* 3rd Edition, ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014) and the appropriate sections of the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (East Anglian Archaeology occasional paper 14, 2003) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24 2011) and *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (Historic England 2015) will be used for additional guidance in the design of the project specification, the contents of the report, and for the general execution of the project.

Evaluation and excavation methodology

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

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

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

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth, and nature of any archaeological deposit. All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), at least 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens will be carefully cleaned, planned, and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/ feature is likely to be detrimentally affect by reburial, and only then after discussion with the CCCAA, will it be removed.

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

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated the natural geology.

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

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Evaluation trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the CCCAA.

Site surveying

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

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas 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 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.

Environmental samples will be processed by trained CAT staff and the flots will be analysed and reported by CAT Senior site/post-excavation assistant Bronagh Rae-Quinn or sent to external specialists Val Fryer / Lisa Gray.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, BRQ, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of BRQ/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. Where necessary, BRQ, VF or an appropriate specialist will be invited to site to advise on sampling strategies.

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. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the evaluation, 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. 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 Department of Justice licence 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 photographic register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in the site archive.

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 Adam Wightman (Director of Archaeology), Howard Brooks (Senior Associate) 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, Tabitha Gulliver Lawrence
environmental processing and assessment: Bronagh Rae-Quinn
osteology: (human remains): Megan Beale

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:

Historic England 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

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

The report will be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated trench 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.
- Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011. <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).

- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet will be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the CCCAA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the *Essex Archaeology and History Journal* for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects (paul.gilman@me.com).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork.

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

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If finds are retained from the site they will be deposited with Colchester Museum, unless otherwise agreed in advance. A full digital archive (to include scans of any paperwork) will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

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

If finds are to remain with the landowner, additional uploads to the ADS could include photography, illustration and detailed analysis (as appropriate).

The digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk) to safeguard the long-term curation of the digital records. The CCCAA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive. A summary of the contents of the archives shall be supplied to the CCCAA at the time of their deposition.

The CCCAA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited.

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.

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

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 Junior Project Officer, 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 of Archaeology.

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

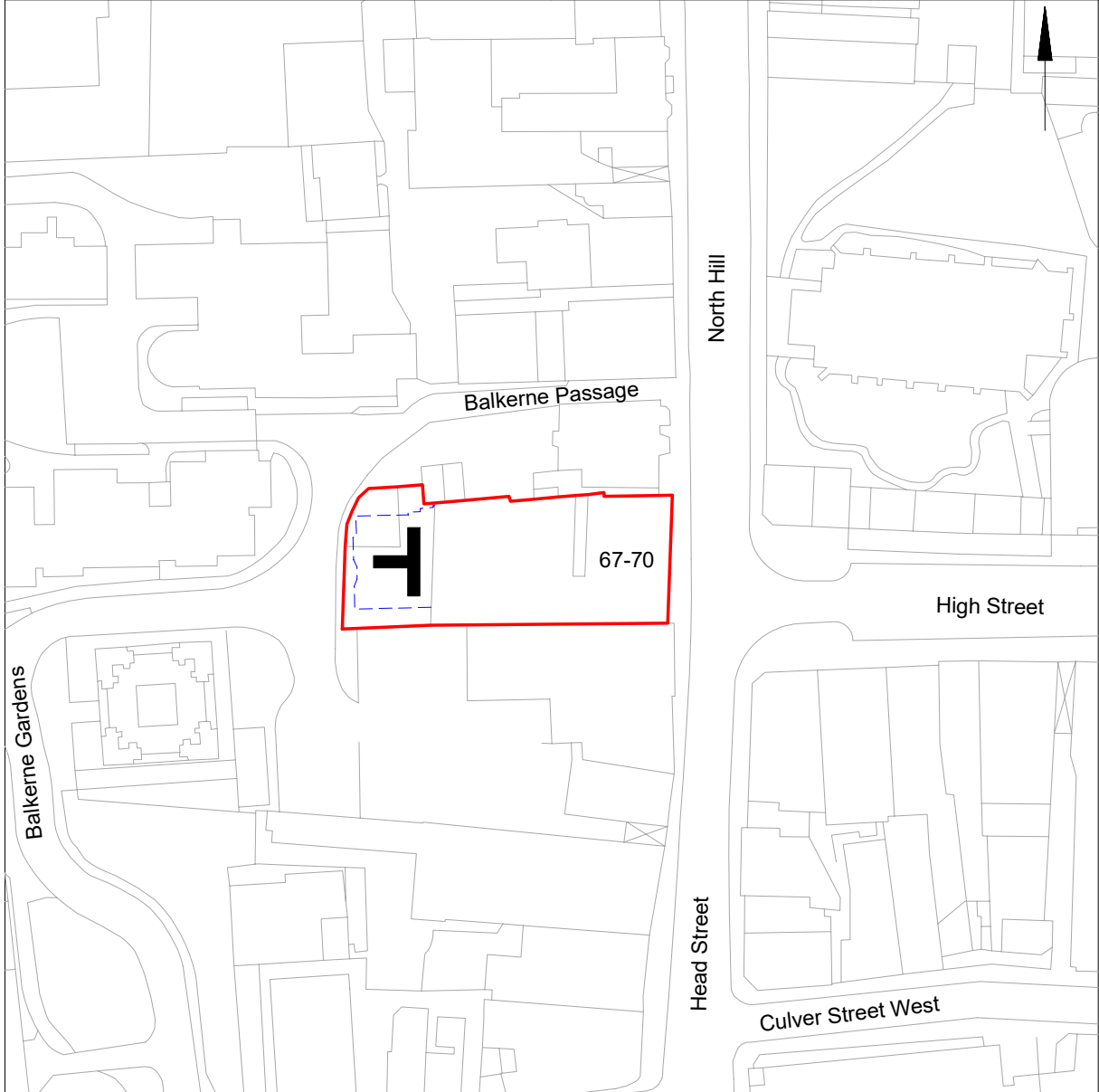
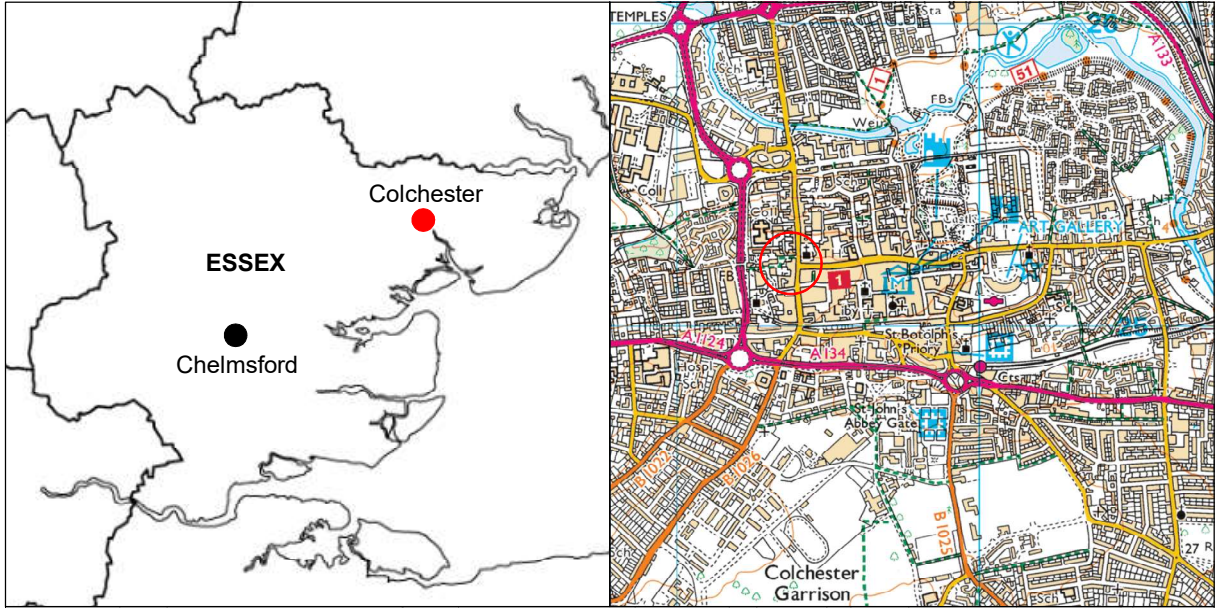
In addition, the CAT website (www.catuk.org) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information 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)
CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85</i>
CAT	2024	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 52	1999	<i>Watching Brief Report: Frieda Gunton House, Balcerne Gardens, Colchester</i> by C Crossan
CAT Report 64	2000	<i>An archaeological evaluation rear of 63 North Hill, Colchester, Essex</i> by H Brooks
CAT Report 156	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at St Peter's Vicarage, North Hill, Colchester, Essex</i> By K Orr
CAT Report 347	2009	<i>Roman buildings, the rear face of the Roman town wall and archaeological investigations in Insulas 1a, 1b,9a and 9b, at the Sixth Form College, North Hill, Colchester, Essex, April 2005-March 2006</i> By H Brooks, W Clarke, M Górnaiak & L Pooley
CAT Report 1836	2022	<i>Archaeological desk based assessment for 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, August 2022</i> by P Parmenter
CCC	2024	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Recording at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, CO1 1PX</i> by R Hoggett
ClfA	2020a	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2020
ClfA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
ClfA	2022c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2022
ClfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological field evaluation.</i> Published December 2023
ClfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation.</i> Published December 2023
Crummy, P	2001	<i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
Crummy, P	2003	'Colchester's town wall' in <i>The archaeology of Roman towns: studies in</i>

Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>honour of John S Watcher</i> <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	2015	<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
Hull, M R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> . Reports on the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London XX
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	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.



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Fig 1 Site location.



OASIS Summary for colchest3-529847

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-529847
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PX: December 2024
Sitename	67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PX
Sitecode	ECC4883
Project Identifier(s)	2024/10h
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	223132
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	16-Dec-2024 - 19-Dec-2024
Location	67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PX NGR : TL 99388 25207 LL : 51.889744164137575, 0.896079480247987 12 Fig : 599388,225207
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at 67-70 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, in advance of the construction of a rear extension to the existing building. The development site is located in an area of the highest archaeological potential, within Insula 17b of the Roman walled town. Roman remains were identified from 1.1m below current ground level (bcgl) and included a metalled surface and maybe a wall foundation, with a possible compacted clay surface found deeper at 1.56m bcgl. In addition, post-medieval brick-built wall foundations and a brick floor were uncovered, being representative of two separate buildings seen on early editions of the OS maps.
Keywords	Road - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Building - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Floor - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Building - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Building - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Vessel - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Roof Tile - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Brick - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Coin - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Counter - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation developer
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister

HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4883
Archives	Physical Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection); Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

Report generated on: 10 Feb 2025, 10:39