

**4. Colchester, Middleborough. TL 993255**

H. Brooks and P. Crummy, C.A.T.

An area excavation between the town wall and the River Colne revealed a Roman road running north-west from the Roman north gate before turning sharply to the Sheepen site. Three Roman houses were found, of which two fronted the street. One of these was of courtyard type with clay walls on rubble foundations, built in the 2nd century and demolished in the 3rd and containing three rooms, one apsidal, with mosaics. Two earlier phases of the early-2nd century were identified, the earlier being a ground-built timber frame which was replaced by a timber frame with rubble foundations and was then incorporated into the courtyard house. The second house comprised a four-roomed wing flanked by a corridor and, later, a pair of heated rooms. This house was certainly in use after the town wall's construction and, with the first, attests the existence of a substantial extramural suburb. Only fragmentary robber trenches and tessellated pavements remained of the third house.

A group of kilns of 11th to 12th century date were recovered along with four pre-13th-century inhumations. Two medieval houses were examined, one of which (former New Market Tavern) was surveyed before demolition. The earliest part of the standing structure was 15th century but with 13th- or 14th-century excavated antecedents. The other building was less-well-preserved but the structural sequence, plan and dating were broadly similar.

Finds: Col. E.M.

Final publication: *C.B.A. Research Report*, Colchester series**5. Colchester, Butt Road. TL 993248**

C. Crossan, C.A.T.

Excavations continued (Crossan, 1977-8, 89, and 1978, 241-2) on the 3rd- and 4th-century cemetery to the east of the roughly contemporary temple and further evidence of 4th-century family plots has been recovered. A large clay-walled circular oven overlies the burials and samples were taken for archaeomagnetic dating.

Finds: Col. E.M.

Final publication: *C.B.A. Research Report*, Colchester series**6. Colchester, Long Wyre Street. TL 998251**

N. A. Smith, C.A.T.

Post-Roman buildings and pits, ranging in date from the 12th to 19th centuries, survived only at the rear of the site. The site is located on the crossroads between *Insulae* 29, 30, 37 and 38 of the *colonia*, and three phases of building have been discovered in the north-west corner of *Insula* 38, the latest of which reflects a 4th-century change in street alignment (Crummy, 1971, 107-11). In the north-east corner of *Insula* 37 late Roman timber-framed buildings seal a masonry structure. A previously unsuspected street runs south from the crossroads.

Excavations continue.

Finds: Col. E.M.

**7. Colchester, Castle Gardens. TM 000256**

P. Crummy, C.A.T.

Trial-trenching near the findspot of Anglo-Saxon brooches revealed a late-2nd century **A.D.** burial but no further Anglo-Saxon finds.

Finds: Col. E.M.

Final publication: *C.B.A. Research Report*, Colchester series**8. Colchester, Poplarhall Farm. TL 994263**

N. A. Smith, C.A.T.

During demolition the farmhouse was surveyed and found to be a three-bayed 17th-century timber-framed building with a central chimney stack. An outshot and fourth bay were added in the late 17th or 18th century.

Finds: Col. E.M.

Final publication: *C.B.A. Research Report*, Colchester series