Archaeological recovery excavation at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PY

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Cover: working shot

1 Summary

An archaeological recovery excavation was carried out at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester after groundworks for extensions and alterations to the existing buildings. The development site is located in an area of significant archaeological remains within the medieval churchyard of St Botolph's Priory and immediately to the south of the Roman walled town. Groundworks were carried out without an archaeological mitigation strategy in place and were not archaeologically monitored. A subsequent archaeological recovery excavation revealed the disturbed remains of a minimum of eleven, possibly twelve, human skeletons probably from a cemetery most likely associated with St Botolph's Priory cemetery. Animal bone and a piece of worked bone were also recovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological recovery excavation at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex which was carried out 15th-29th March 2017 by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2014 (application No.140569) proposing internal alterations to the existing building and extensions to the side and rear of property no.3.

In February 2017 groundworks for the alterations/extensions took place without an archaeological mitigation strategy in place and as a consequence several human inhumation burials were disturbed. Construction work halted until a mitigation strategy had been in place.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of the unsupervised groundworks, the client should commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). A brief was issued by the CBCAA for an archaeological recovery excavation.

CAT was hired to complete the archaeological work by Simon Tankard of Stour Valley Design on behalf of the Colchester Islamic Cultural Association.

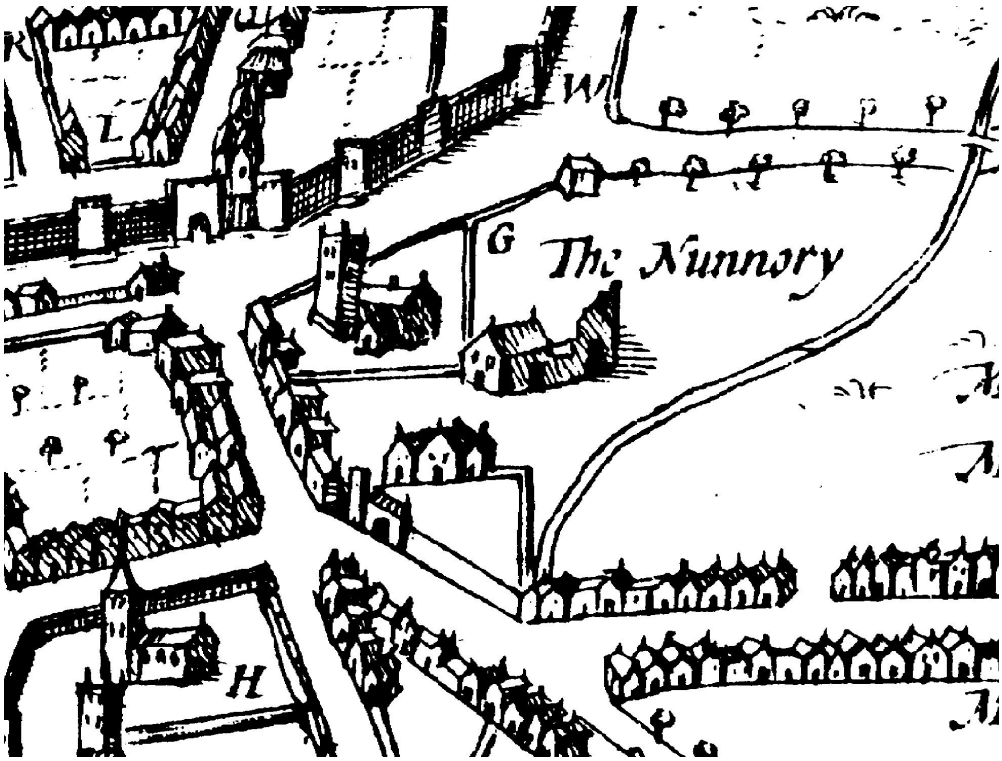
All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (*MoRPHE*) (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA **14** and **24**). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, and also the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, formerly the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD)) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway.

The development site is located outside and immediately to the south of the historic Roman walled town and a number of Roman remains have been found in the vicinity. It is also located within the precinct of St Botolph's Priory Church (HER no. MCC425). The scheduled monument of St Botolph's Priory (NHLE no. 1013764) was founded in 1104, probably on or near a pre-existing church (Crummy 2001, 150). It was the first Augustinian foundation in Britain but was not wealthy, which probably explains why the church was not finished or dedicated until 1177 (*ibid*, 149). It was eventually demolished following the Dissolution in 1536. The nave continued to function for parish and civic services, but was badly damaged during the Siege of 1648 and the building consequently went out of use. Now only the walls of the nave of the priory church remain standing. The full extent of the Priory precinct is not known, but it is assumed to stretch from Priory Street southwards to Magdalen Street and west to St. Botolph's Street. The eastern boundary is unknown.



Map 1 Speed's map of 1610 showing showing St Botolph's Priory Church.

Hull noted the discovery of nine skeletons in this area in 1939 which were assumed to be Medieval in date, though it is possible they may have been Roman (Hull 1958, 293). Roman cemetery areas surround the town on all sides, though burials are much less frequent on this side of the historic town (Hull 1958 & CAR **9**).

Trial-trenching to the northeast of the standing remains of the Priory in 1986 revealed traces of the north transept (Shimmin 1986; UAD 3165). Two burials of probable medieval date were located to the north of the transept. Further details of the east end of the church, including a possible crypt and more burials, were uncovered during excavations in 1991 (Crummy 2001, 150; UAD 3174). The remains of a Roman building was also revealed, which was considered probably part of an extra-mural settlement rather than a Roman church or 'martyrium' (Crummy 2001, 150).

It is unclear to what extent the other priory buildings were reused following the Dissolution. Limited evidence of these was uncovered to the south of the priory church during exploratory excavations in 1987 (Col Arch **2**, 15). During the 19th and 20th

centuries, buildings began to encroach significantly onto the former precinct of the priory.

Excavations in 1970 some 35m to the east at 30 St. Julian Grove revealed stratified deposits of the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD (UAD 3518). A floor of red tessera has been recorded to the north under Priory Street adjacent to the property in question (UAD 355). A watching brief in 2010 (CAT Report 567) within the Priory as part of landscaping works uncovered gravestones and a well of probable 18th- or 19th-century date.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the development site in 2014 (CAT Report 800). Roman deposits, including at least one *in situ* surface and debris from the demolition of a Roman building, were identified at the northern end of the evaluation trench. The Roman deposits on the site had been truncated by medieval inhumation burials associated with the Priory of St Botolph's. A significant quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered and reburied and two articulated skeletons, both young individuals, were uncovered at depths of only 0.68m and 0.74m below the modern ground level.

4 Methodology and results

Methodology
All groundworks had already taken place prior to CAT being commissioned to carry out the archaeological recovery excavation. The full methodology can be found in the WSI (see Appendix), but a brief summary follows reflecting changes which occurred on site once the full scope of the unmonitored groundworks/building works had been assessed.

Groundworks took place within the existing properties and within the side and rear yard of property no.3. This yard consisted of a concrete surface and an evaluation in 2014 (see above) revealed significant archaeological remains at a depth of 0.68-0.74m below that yard surface (Figs 1-2).

Before CAT was contracted, all of the foundations for the internal alterations and new extensions, measuring *c* 0.6m wide by 2.5m deep, had been excavated and filled with concrete (see Fig 2). The spoil from these foundations had been dumped in the yard to raise ground level and joists had started to be laid over them to form the base of the new ground floor rooms.

All of the dumped spoil from the foundations was re-excavated by hand by a team of CAT archaeologists and sifted for human remains and other archaeological finds. This process was made extremely difficult by the inclusion of large quantities of modern builder's waste in the soil.

In all areas of the site spoil was removed down to the level of the concrete yard surface. As all archaeological horizons below this surface had been protected from groundworks no further excavation was carried out. As the foundation trenches had already been filled with concrete and walls had started to be built, these areas could not be investigated.

Therefore, the archaeological recovery excavation at 2-3 Priory Street consisted solely of the re-excavation and sifting of all dumped spoil disturbed by the foundation trenches to recover human remains.

Photograph 1 Photograph showing depth of soil to be moved and sifted for bone. The breeze-blocks in this photograph show where the foundation trenches had been dug.

Photograph 2 Photograph showing depth of soil to be moved and sifted for bone

Summary of results
The excavations uncovered a total of 1,600 pieces of human bone, weighing 25kg. These constituted the remains of a minimum of eleven, possibly twelve, individuals ranging in age from infancy to mature adulthood. Four or five of these individuals were determined to be male and one was female, the rest were of indeterminate gender. Ages varied considerably with babies and young children, a teenager, adults and the elderly. The remains showed evidence of degenerative wear (predominantly on vertebrae), arthritis, dental attrition, and cranial thickening in one fragment of skull, likely as a consequence of Paget's Disease or possibly due to iron deficiency anaemia.

Excavations also uncovered sixty-nine pieces of animal bone, weighing 1.98kg. These remains derived from cattle, horses, sheep/goats, pigs/boars, dogs, geese and fowl, as well as a number whose species could not be determined. Much of these animal remains showed evidence of butchery.

In addition, a single piece of worked sheep/goat metatarsal was uncovered. It had been trimmed to form a squared shaft and was polished from working. The piece remained unfinished, but it seems to have been intended for use as a handle or a needle case.

For full details see Section 5.

5 Human, animal and worked bone

5.1 Human and animal bone

by Julie Curl

Introduction
A large number of disarticulated human bones were found from unstratified soils. When sorted, these were found to contain some mammal and bird remains, along with one piece of worked bone.

The analysis has shown remains of several people, with a wide range of ages including adults and children. The faunal assemblage includes butchering waste from the main food mammals and birds, along with some elements of horse and a small dog.

Methodology
The human bone was scanned to assess the elements present. The most frequent, femurs and humeri, were set aside for counts to determine the minimum number of individuals (MNI). Femurs were generally fragmented, one almost complete was measured for a height estimation and femur heads were measured to determine sex (following Bass, 1995). Humeri were measured to demonstrate size range. Juvenile bones, when complete, were measured to estimate age (following Schaefer; Black and Schueuer, 2009). Fusion of bone and tooth eruption and wear were noted when possible to allow estimation of ages following Brothwell (1981).

The human assemblage (Appendixes 1 and 2)

Quantification
A total of 1600 pieces of human bone, weighing a total of 25kg, was recovered from unstratified soils at this site.

Minimum number of individuals (MNI)
The most frequent limb bones in the assemblage were the femurs and humeri and these were used to estimate the MNI. It is estimated that there were at least eleven individuals in this assemblage, possibly twelve.

Ages of individuals present in this assemblage
With the eleven to twelve individuals present, there was a considerable range in ages.

Several juvenile limb bones were recovered complete and could be measured to estimate the ages (following Schaefer; Black and Schueuer, 2009). In addition to this, one mandible recovered was sufficiently complete with teeth present to allow estimation of age based on tooth wear (following Brothwell, 1981).

No complete skulls were found, with only fairly small fragments present. There was considerable variation in the fusion of sutures of the skull, again suggesting a wide range of ages.

Infants and the under fives
Younger children's limb bones were recovered. The youngest bones are from individuals of approximately nine months old and one year old. Two limb bones measured suggested an age of around three years old. One femur gave an estimated age of four to four and a half years of age.

Teenage
The age estimation from the tooth wear of one incomplete mandible suggested an individual of teenage years.

Adults
Tooth wear of adult mandibles indicates ages of 25 to 35, 33 to 45 and more mature individuals that had lost molars and the jaw bone had healed over. One mandible fragment showed the loss of both molars and premolars and healing of the bone, with this individual clearly having a much modified diet from the grainy, rough diet that wore so many other teeth.

One mature adult was also probably seen with possible Paget's disease and a thickening of the skull, which is generally seen in mature people.

Sexes of the adults present
Femurs were the most frequent bone present that would allow determination of sex. Taking into account sides of the body and number of individuals, it is suggested that there are four to five clear males and one clear small adult female. Additional female elements included a mandible and pelvic bone.

There is also one ?female that produced metrical data that is at the top of the range for females, so it is possible that this was a small male. It is not possible to sex the juvenile bones from this type of analysis.

Stature
One femur was sufficiently complete to take measurements to estimate the height of the individual, with this male indicating a height of approximately five feet four inches.

Some indications of stature were clear from the size of fragments and their robustness. The clear female in the assemblage was small. Males varied considerably, with small individuals to a large and robust male.

Pathologies (Photographs 3 to 7)

Degenerative wear (Photograph 3)
Degenerative wear was seen on many vertebrae, with most extreme wear seen on lumbar vertebrae. This can be an age related problem and can suggest occupational wear and may indicate manual labour. Manual labour is also suggested by many bones showing strong muscle attachments.

Arthritic problems (Photographs 4, 5 and 6)
Arthritic changes were seen, but none were particular severe. Exostoses were seen on many foot bones (metatarsals and phalanges) in particular. Several exostoses were seen on metacarpals and phalanges from hands.

Some arthritic changes were seen on humeri, the radius and ulnas, more so around elbow joints, again perhaps indicating manual labour or occupational damage. Similar levels of arthritic problems were seen in the leg bones, especially around the knee joints and in the hips, with eburnation seen on one pelvis.

Thickened skull
A fragment of human skull was seen that showed notable thickening. Thickening of the skull can occur with iron deficiency anaemia, but is generally rare (Waldron). Anaemia was seen in one orbit, so anaemia may be a cause.

A more likely cause of the skull thickening is Paget's Disease, which is swelling and deformation of the affected parts of the body. Paget's Disease is a common disorder of the elderly (Waldron, 2009), with only osteoporosis more prevalent and it tends to run in families. With Paget's, not all affected bones show any abnormality when examined by eye.

Dental attrition and pathologies (Photograph 7)
Wear of the occusal surfaces was seen on most teeth recovered, suggesting a coarse, grainy diet with probable gritty inclusions, especially from the grinding of flour for the bread. Severe and irregular wear of the occusal was seen on one second lower molar.

Cavities and tartar were virtually non-existent, suggesting a reasonably healthy diet and one that is low in sugar.

Three incomplete mandibles show that some teeth were lost and the jaw healed over. One mandible had lost the first right molar and this had healed. Two mandibles showed the loss of all molars. Another incomplete mandible showed the loss of all molars and premolars. The tooth loss is most likely to be a sign of advanced age and, as seen with other teeth in the assemblage, heavy wear, which would have led to periodontal disease and tooth loss.

Levels of activity
There are many adult bones in this assemblage that show strong muscle attachments in the arms and legs, suggesting manual labour. A further indication of strain on the body comes from the frequent degenerative wear seen on vertebrae and the frequent arthritic changes.

The animal bone assemblage (Appendix 3)
A total of 1,981kg of faunal remains, consisting of sixty-nine elements, was recovered from this site with the human remains. These bones are quantified by species in Table 1.

Species	NISP	Ad	Juv	MNI	Element range	Butchering
Cattle	25	20	5	4	metapodials, lower limb and foot bones, jaw, hoof, pelvic bone	chopped, cut
Equid	2	2			Proximal phalanges	
Sheep/goat	20	16	4	4	metapodials, foot bones, mandible, lower limb , upper limbs	chopped, cut
Pig/boar	12		12	1	mandible, tooth, upper limb, tusk, foot bones, pelvis	chopped, cut

Dog	1	1			femur from a small dog	
Bird – Goose	3	3			femurs, ulna	chopped
Bird – Fowl	1				carpometcarpus	
Mammal	5					chopped, cut

Table 1 Species, quantification, ages, elements and butchering of the faunal assemblage.

The animal and bird bone is in good condition, although fragmentation has occurred from butchering and food preparation. Canid gnawing was seen on a relatively high number of cattle bones and on sheep/goat and pig, including on main meat-bearing bones, suggesting food waste was given to the dog/s.

Cattle and sheep/goat are the most frequent, with both species represented by several metapodials and foot bones. The larger number of lower leg bones often suggests skinning waste, and skins may have been used, although for vellum the young calf skin is preferred. It is possible here that this waste might represent poorer cuts of meat and perhaps bones used for soups and stews. Good meat bearing bones were also found for the cattle and sheep/goat, showing some better cuts of meat. Pigs were represented by limb, foot, head bones and a pelvis, again suggesting a range of cuts, but with more poorer cuts of meat. All of the main domestic mammal bones were quite heavily butchered.

Equid were present with two proximal phalanges from a small horse-sized animal. It is possible that these are residual bones, but they may be part of a skin to be processed. There is the possibility that these bones, which are often skinning waste, were obtained for food for the dog present in the assemblage or for other dogs, although the phalanges have not been gnawed.

A femur from a small dog was identified. The dog would have been in the size range for a small terrier or small spaniel. Small dogs may well have been kept for pest control. Black rats, mice and voles would have been a problem around food supplies, especially grain. Dogs might have a use for keeping the vegetable and herb gardens free of pests. It is possible that the dog may have been a companion, perhaps for the children found at the priory and even small dogs can act as a guard dog.

Goose and fowl would have both been kept at the priory for a supply of eggs and eventually meat. Geese would have also had a use for feathers, with larger primary feathers used for quills and smaller feathers used for packing bedding; it is possible to pluck geese for a greater supply of feathers and people could collect the moulted feathers each year.

5.1 The worked bone (Photograph 8)

by Julie Curl

A single piece of worked bone was recovered. The bone is a sheep/goat metatarsal, which had been trimmed to form a squared shaft with smooth surfaces and has some polishing from working. The front of the shaft shows a length of small cuts, parallel and close together, covering about two centimetres of the shaft. There is some priming at the proximal end of the bone, in the form of rough shavings to narrow this end of the bone. There are knife cuts on two sides of the proximal end. The distal end of the bone is broken and this may have left the working of the bone unfinished and led to the piece being discarded. The bone is naturally hollow.

The object appears unfinished, perhaps because the shaft broke at the distal end of the bone. It is possible that the bone was being worked to produce a handle. It is also

possible that this piece was intended for use as a needle case. Needle cases are made from naturally hollow bones such as metapodials, tibias and bird limb bones. Needle cases can be simply made and decorated or undecorated. Usually needle cases have a hole at one end for suspension on a belt and this is absent on the worked bone from St Botolph's, but as the piece is clearly unfinished, it is possible this would have been added. Needle cases might be made with a plug to prevent loss of needles or the needles would be pushed into a clot and rolled up and placed in the tube. If the plug was made from wax or wood, then this would not survive.

MacGregor (1985) mentions that needle cases are manufactured from the shafts of hollow long bones and that they are commonly found in Pagan Saxon cemeteries on the continent. Viking cases have been found in Scotland that are made from limb bones from large birds, with some earlier examples plugged at one end with iron. Medieval needle cases are characterised as hollow cylinders which are open at both ends and the needles were held on a cloth inside the bone cylinder. A ring would be passed through the cloth and a perforation at the top of the cylinder to prevent the cloth falling out. Medieval and earlier examples of bone needle cases are hand-crafted, in the late 18th century examples were lathe-turned and more decorated.

Norfolk examples of needle cases are known. An example from Blofield (Curl, 2016) also made from a sheep metatarsal that has had the proximal end distal ends removed, the shaft trimmed creating seven facets, a collar carved and a hole pierced at the opposite end was heavily polished from use and included remains of an iron needle inside. The Blofield example was decorated along each of the seven facets on the length of the object with seven shallow bowl-shaped drilled depressions, these decorative depressions are not even spaced, with some marks at one end over-lapping each other.

More simple examples have been seen at Thetford, Norfolk (Rogerson and Dallas, 1984), which were made from bird bone and originally considered as possible pottery stamps. A simple example, also made of bird bone, was found on the Castle Mall excavation in Norfolk (Huddle in Popescu, 2009) which has a perforation for suspension.

An example from Wymondham (Curl, 2017) was simply made from a sheep tibia, with one conical knife-cut circular decoration at one end and a simple hole for suspension and shows no plug, suggesting needles were to be held on cloth, although it may be possible that wood or wax were used to block the end to prevent loss of needles.

Photograph 3 Example of degenerative wear that was seen on many vertebrae.

Photograph 4 Example of arthritic changes seen on phalanges in the hands.

Photograph 5 Example of arthritic changes seen on phalanges in the feet

Photograph 6 Example of arthritic changes seen on pelvis.

Photograph 7 A range of mandibles showing variation in the wear on the teeth and some with teeth that have been lost and the jaw bone has healed over.

Photograph 8 Worked bone. Probable unfinished needle case or handle.

6 Discussion

Archaeological excavation at 2-3 Priory Street recovered a significant quantity of human skeletal remains. The recovery of these remains indicate that groundworks disturbed a minimum of eleven, possibly twelve, individuals which included males, females, children, teenagers, adults and the elderly. No dating evidence was recovered that could be directly associated with the human skeletal remains. However, as two medieval burials had already been located on the development site in 2014 (CAT Report 800), and as it is located within the precinct of St Botolph's Priory, it is likely that these remains are of a medieval date. Furthermore, the occurrence of men, women and children would suggest that this was a lay cemetery. It should be noted though that, given the proximity of the Roman town, it is not impossible that some of the remains could be of a Roman date.

As mentioned above, archaeological evaluation on the site in 2014 (*ibid*) revealed two medieval skeletons. As these were excavated and recorded but left *in situ*, it is likely that some of the disturbed skeletal remains recovered during this work came from these same two individuals. It should be stated though, that the 2014 archaeological evaluation also revealed a significant quantity of disarticulated human bone, which was probably disturbed when the building was originally constructed sometime before the 20th century (the buildings are present on the 1st edition 6-inch 1897 Ordnance Survey map). However, it is impossible to tell which of the human bones recorded here came from *in situ* burials and which were already disarticulated.

As all groundworks had been concreted and built over before archaeological involvement, it is impossible to determine the full extent of the impact of the unsupervised works beyond the recovery of the human and animal remains. The 2014 evaluation (*ibid*) had also revealed the presence of Roman remains, including one *in situ* surface, which must presumably have been partially disturbed and/or destroyed by the groundworks.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Simon Tankard and the Colchester Islamic Cultural Association for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by H Furniss, E Hicks and A Tuffey. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

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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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CAT Report 567	2010	*Archaeological watching brief at St. Botolph's Priory Colchester: October 2010*
CAT Report 800	2014	*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex: November 2014*
CBCPS	2016	*Brief for Archaeological Excavation at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, CO1 2PY,* by Jess Tipper
CIfA	2014a	*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation*
CIfA	2014b	*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and*

		deposition of archaeological archives
CIfA	2014c	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
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9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record (previously UAD, **U**rban **A**rchaeological **D**atabase)
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to *c* 1500
modern	period from *c* AD 1800 to the present
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to *c* AD 410
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
wsi	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: four boxes

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1138)
CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation
Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)
Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital 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 under accession code: COLEM 2017.32.

Distribution list
Simon Tankard
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Essex Historic Environment Record

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Date: 27.11.2017

Appendix 1 Summary catalogue of the human skeletal remains

Ctxt/Grave	Period	Context Count	Context wieght	Female	Male	?F	Unsexed	Mature	Adult	Juv	MNI	Condition	Path	Trauma	Dental	Degenerative	Height	Gnaw	Burnt	Faunal remains	Associated finds
U/S	Med	1600	25kg	1	6	1	3	2	5	3 to 5	11 to 12	Good/ Frags	15 0+	4	6 ind	28	1 adult	4 rodent	none	Animal and bird bone	pottery, iron, worked bone

Element range:
Skull fragments, mandibles, scapulas, femurs, humeri, tibias, fibias, radii, ulnas, pelvic bones, ribs, cervical/thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, metatarsals and metacarpals, range of phalanges, talii, calcanei, patella, isolated teeth,

Comments:
Tooth health range good to some with most lost and healed. Frequent arthritis, but none very severe. Degenerative wear in vertebrae. Eburnation in one pelvis. I thickened skull fragment. Several strong muscle attachments. Some exotoses on feet and hands, more on foot bones. Ages ranged from toddlers to fairly mature adults.

Appendix 2 Measurements of selected human bones

Element	Sex	Fusion	Gl	Bd	Dd	SD	Bp	Acet.	Art. end	Femur head diameter	Comments	Path
Femur	M	F	445e			28.97						
Femur	F	F								40.65	Small adult female	
Femur	M	F								47.07	larger male	
Femur	M	F								43.44	small/light male?	
Femur	M	F								48.62	robust male	
Femur	M	F								45.67	probable male, small	
Femur	M	F								46.33	probable male	arthritis
Femur	?F	F								43.17	large female?	
Femur	?	UF	225	48.01		16.59				26.75		
Femur	?	UF	195	43.9		13.7				18.9		
Femur	?	UF	190	47.9		14.7						
Humerus		F		62.6								
Humerus		F		54.04								
Humerus		F		57.64								
Humerus		F		63.7								
Humerus		F		59.1								
Humerus		F		60.2							strong muscle attachments	
Humerus		F		61.08							robust	

Humerus		F		62.07																						
Humerus		F		53.87																						
Humerus		F		59.56																						
Ulna		UF	90.1	13.17		12.24																				
Pelvis	M	F						49.59																		
Pelvis	M	F						52.25																		
Tibia	?	UF	104	25.7				12.58																		

Appendix 3 Catalogue of the animal and bird bone from the assemblage. All from U/S. A full catalogue is available in the digital archive.

Gnaw	C/F/R	Gnaw Elem	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Adult	Juvenile	Neonatal	MNI	Element range	Butchering	Worked bone	Skinning	Foot bones	Metapodials	Lower limbs	Upper limbs	Vertebrae	Ribs	Skull	Mandible	Antler	Horncore	Teeet	Sacrum	Scapula	Pelvis	Misc	Comments
5	c	mts, hu	69	1981	Cattle	25	20	5		4	mps, ll, ul, f, jaw, hoof, pel, calc	chopped cut		y	4	10	2	3	1			1						4		many metatarsals, gnawed humerus and MTS, good and poor cuts
					Equid	2	2																							
2	c	mps			Sheep/ goat	20	16	4		4	mps, ul, mandible, f, ll	chopped cut	1		3	7	3	4				1			1					adult and juv metapodials good and poor cuts
1	c	radius			Pig/boar	12		12		1	mandible, tooth, ul, tusk, foot, pel	chopped cut			6			3				2						1		tusk, robust bones, range of meats
					Dog	1	1				femur							1												proximal femur from a small dog, terrier sized
					Bird – Goose	3	3				femurs, ulna	chopped					2	1												
					Bird – Fowl	1					carpomet-carpus							1												
					Mammal	5						chopped cut																	5	frags of vertebrae and probable equid mandible

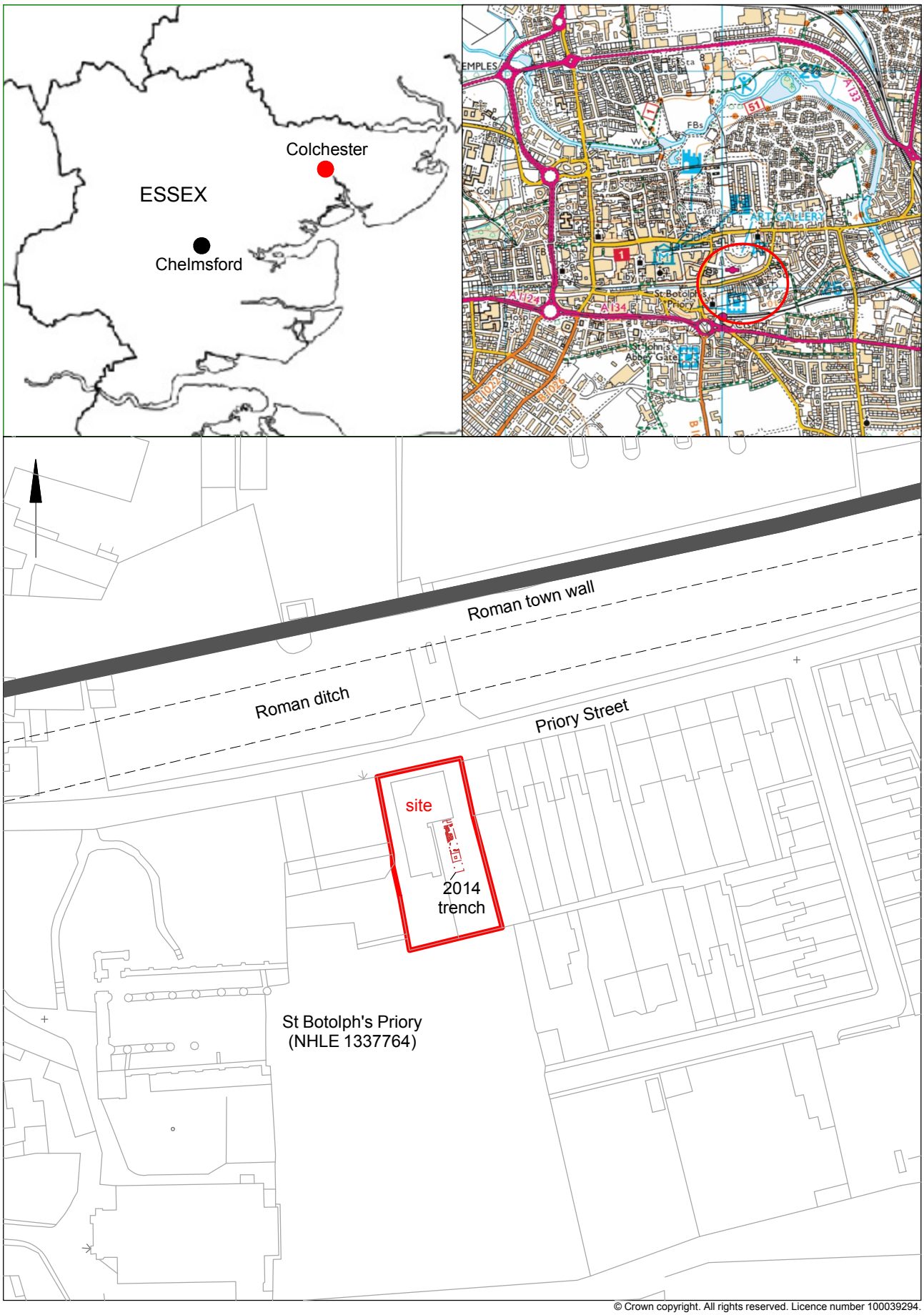

Fig 1 Site location in relation to significant archaeological sites and the 2014 evaluation trench.

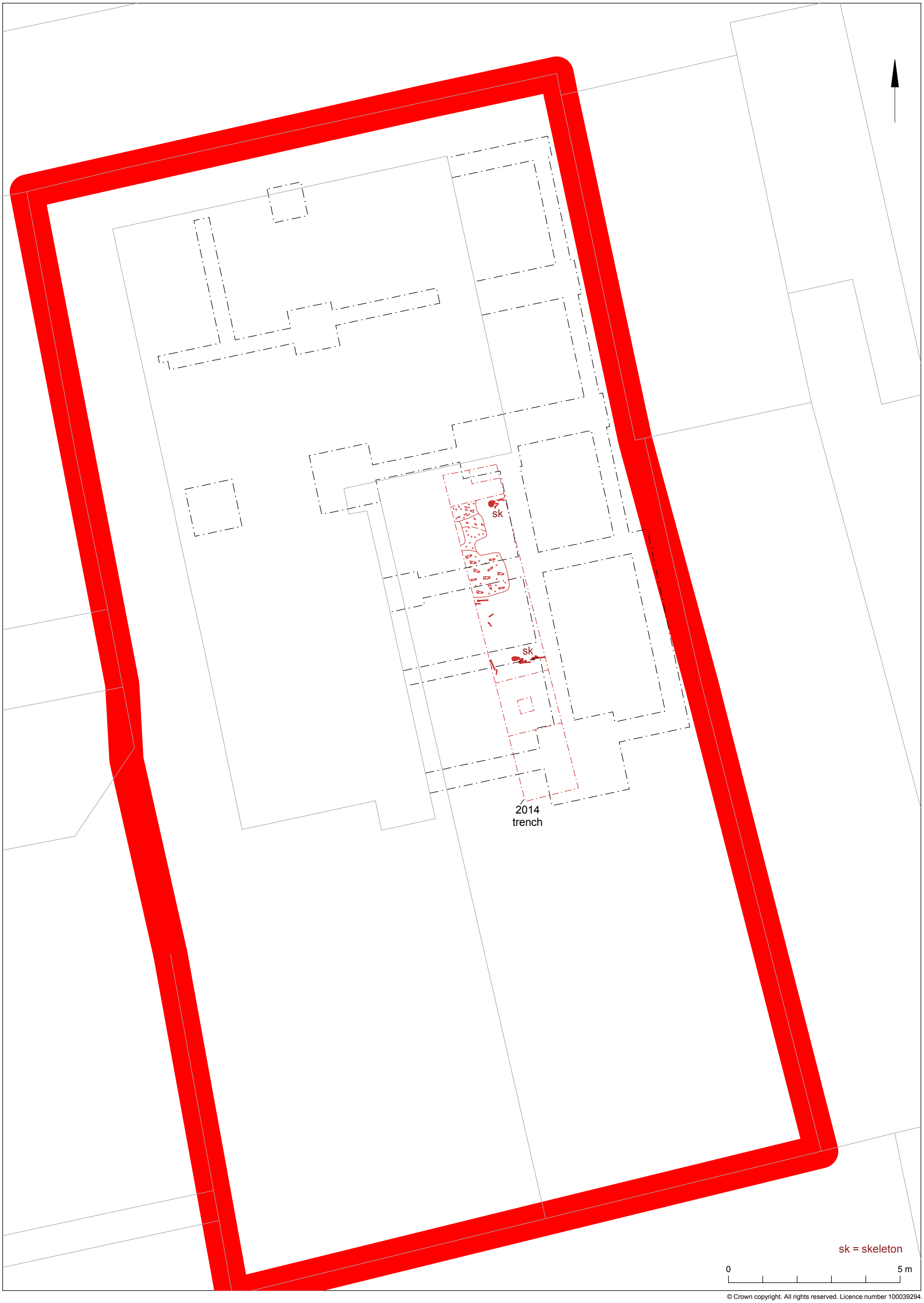

Fig 2 Unsupervised groundworks in relation to 2014 evaluation trench

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PY	
Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester
NGR: TL 00012 25004 (centre)	***Site code:*** CAT project ref.: 17/03b CHER ref: ECC3968 OASIS ref: colchest3-278623
Type of work: Recovery excavation	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 15th-29th March 2017	***Size of area investigated:*** 0.05ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.32	**Funding source:** Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	***Related CHER/UAD number:*** MCC425; UAD 355, 3165, 3174, 3518
Final report: CAT Report 1138	
Periods represented: probably medieval	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological recovery excavation was carried out at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester after groundworks for extensions and alterations to the existing buildings. The development site is located in an area of significant archaeological remains within the medieval churchyard of St Botolph's Priory and immediately to the south of the Roman walled town. Groundworks were carried out without an archaeological mitigation strategy in place and were not archaeologically monitored. A subsequent archaeological recovery excavation revealed the disturbed remains of a minimum of eleven, possibly twelve, human skeletons probably from a cemetery most likely associated with St Botolph's Priory cemetery. Animal bone and a piece of worked bone were also recovered.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: St Botolph's Priory	***Significance:*** *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley/Elliott Hicks	***Date of summary:*** November 2017

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological excavation at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PY

NGR: TL 00012 25004 (centre)

Planning reference: 140569

Commissioned by: Simon Tankard, Stour Valley Design

Client: Colchester Islamic Cultural Association

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc
CHER number: ECC3968
CAT project code: 17/03b
OASIS project id: colchest3-278623

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 8.3.2017
Revised: 9.3.2017

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site lies within Colchester town centre on the south side of the western end of Priory Street at nos. 2-3 (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 00012 25004.

Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the erection of a single-storey, two-storey and first floor extension and alterations to existing building and permanent use of 3 Priory Street as a building of worship.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, and also the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER; previously known as the UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The development site is located outside and to the south of the historic walled town within the precinct of St Botolph's Priory churchyard (HER no. MCC425). The scheduled monument of St. Botolph's Priory (NHLE no. 1013764) was founded in 1104, probably on or near a pre-existing church (Crummy 2001, 150). It was dedicated until 1177 and demolished following the Dissolution in 1536. The nave continued to function for parish and civic services, but was badly damaged during the Siege of 1648 and the building consequently went out of use. Now only the walls of the nave of the priory church remain standing. The full extent of the Priory precinct is not known, but it is assumed to stretch from Priory Street southwards to Magdalen Street and west to St. Botolph's Street. The eastern boundary is unknown.

Hull notes the discovery of nine skeletons in this area in 1939 which are assumed to be Medieval in date, though it is possible they may be Roman, (Hull 1958, 293). Roman cemetery areas surround the town on all sides, though burials are much less frequent on the east side of the historic town (Hull 1958 & CAR **9**).

Trial-trenching to the northeast of the standing remains in 1986 revealed traces of the north transept (Shimmin 1986; UAD 3165). Two burials of probable medieval date were located to the north of the transept. Further details of the east end of the church, including a possible crypt and more burials, were uncovered during excavations in 1991 (Crummy 2001, 150; UAD 3174). The remains of a Roman building was also revealed, which was considered probably part of an extra-mural settlement rather than a Roman church or 'martyrium' (Crummy 2001, 150).

It is unclear to what extent the other priory buildings were reused following the Dissolution. Limited evidence of these was uncovered to the south of the priory church during exploratory excavations in 1987 (Col Arch **2**, 15). During the 19th century, buildings began to encroach significantly onto the former precinct of the priory. This continued in the 20th century with the development of the Britannia Works, until its closure in 1982 and demolition in 1987.

Excavations in 1970 some 35m to the east at 30, St. Julian Grove revealed stratified deposits of the second to third centuries AD (UAD 3518). A floor of red tessera has been recorded to the north under Priory Street adjacent to the property in question (UAD 355). A watching brief in 2010 (CAT Report 567) within the Priory as part of landscaping works uncovered gravestones and a well of probable 18th – 19th century date.

An evaluation was carried out on the development site in 2014 (CAT Report 800). Roman deposits, including at least one *in situ* surface and debris from the demolition of a Roman building, were identified at the northern end of the evaluation trench. The Roman deposits on the site had been truncated by medieval inhumation burials associated with the Priory of St Botolph's. A significant quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered and reburied and two articulated skeletons, both young individuals, were uncovered at depths of only 0.68m and 0.74m below the modern ground level.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2014 (application No.140569) proposing a single-storey, two-storey and first floor extension and alterations to existing building and permanent use of 3 Priory Street as a building of worship.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER / EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

The foundations for the new extension have already been undertaken without any archaeological mitigation. The second part of the planning condition, relating to archaeological mitigation has not been compiled. The substantial foundations for the new development, which measure c 0.6m wide by 2.5m deep, have been excavated and infilled without any archaeological investigation. Spoil from the foundation trenches has been left in a large pile on the site.

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for archaeological excavation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2017).

In order to remediate the planning condition, and to mitigate the damage caused to important archaeological remains on the site, full archaeological excavation is to be carried out within the area of the new extensions, ie within and around the new foundations of the building.

Specifically, trenches 1m wide will be excavated alongside the new foundations in the area of the new prayer halls, kitchen and storeroom. This work will require the removal of some of the floor joists and terram/plastic that has already been laid. These areas will be excavated down to establish the level of disturbance caused by the unsupervised groundworks, stopping at the base of this level or the uppermost archaeological horizon (level of *in situ* burials). In the case of any human burials, these will be exposed and recorded *in situ* – before careful infilling – again with the aim of establishing the level of damage to human burials that has occurred. The excavation will halt at the level of the concrete for the previous car park, if this is still in place. In the case of the location of the archaeological trial trench (CAT Report 800, carried out in 2014), it may be necessary to excavate to the level of the burials exposed in the evaluation. If archaeological investigation demonstrates that spoil has been dumped in these areas from the surrounding foundation trenches, these areas will also need to be sifted to recover human bone (see below).

In the case of all remaining groundworks relating to the planning consent – believed to be the foundation trench for the front wall and foundation pads within the existing building – the archaeological levels will be fully excavated and recorded by hand.

The spoil heaps resulting from the unsupervised excavation of the foundation trenches, are to be sifted by hand and checked using a metal-detector, to recover all human remains and any other archaeological finds. These spoil heaps are currently located to the front and rear of the building, and include any spoil that has been backfilled within new rooms (ie below suspended floors).

The excavation of new services, and any other groundworks, are to be closely monitored by the archaeological contractor, and machinery is to be under the direction of a CAT archaeologist. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological excavation and recording if archaeological remains are encountered. If any complex features are encountered on the edge of the excavation area, such as burials, these will be fully investigated by hand and it may be necessary to extend beyond the limits of the excavation area to obtain to full extent of any burials.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. Amendments to the brief and this WSI may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2016)

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

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

A project or site code has been sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: 2-3 CAT archaeologists for the duration of the project.
In charge of day-to-day site work: Chris Lister

Excavation methodology

If machinery is used, the machine (fitted with a back-acting ditching bucket) will be under the supervision and guidance of a CAT archaeologist, stopping at the archaeological horizon, or formation level if higher, to ensure hand excavation and recording.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% sample of all structural features.

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

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

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

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.

Samples will be taken if palaeo-environmental and/or geoarchaeological remains are encountered (see below).

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, 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 micromorphical 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
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

All human remains disturbed as a result of the unsupervised excavation of foundation trenches will be collected (from the spoil heaps) by hand and send for specialist analysis before appropriate reburial.

On consultation with the CBCAA (Jess Tipper) it has been decided that any *in situ* burials identified by CAT archaeologists during groundworks will be exposed and recorded (photographed and planned), but ultimately left *in situ* and carefully reburied. If deemed necessary, Julie Curl (human bone specialist) will be invited onto site to recorded/comment on the level of preservation of the burials and any other notable features. If it becomes apparent that the burials are in danger of being disturbed (due to further groundworks associated with the development), are in danger of significant deterioration or where further analysis is deemed necessary, then CAT will apply for an exhumation licence from the Ministry of Justice and the remains will be lifted. Julie Curl and Jess Tipper will be both be consulted before any decisions to exhume are made.

If at any point it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by ECCHEA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with ECCHEA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter
animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter
flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey
Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

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

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the excavation site, at least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section drawings of significant features including at least one which shows depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done).

- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full *copy* of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

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

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

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

Monitoring

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

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

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

CBCAO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

CAR **9**	1993	*Colchester Archaeological Report **9**: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88*, by N Crummy, P Crummy, and C Crossan.
CAT	2014	*Health & Safety Policy*
CAT Report 567	2010	*Archaeological watching brief at St. Botolph's Priory Colchester: October 2010*
CAT Report 800	2014	*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex: November 2014*
CBC	2016	*Brief for Archaeological Excavation at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, CO1 2PY,* by Jess Tipper
CIfA	2014a	*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation*
CIfA	2014b	*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of*

		archaeological archives
CIfA	2014c	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
Col Arch **2**	1988	*The Colchester Archaeologist, volume **2***
DCLG	2012	*National Planning Policy Framework*
English Heritage	2006	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Gurney, D	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA **14**).
Hull, M R	1958	*Roman Colchester.* RRCSAL No. XX
Medlycott, M	2011	*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA **24**)
Shimmin, D	1988	*Exploratory excavations at St Botolph's Priory, Colchester 1986,* unpublished CAT archive report

L Pooley

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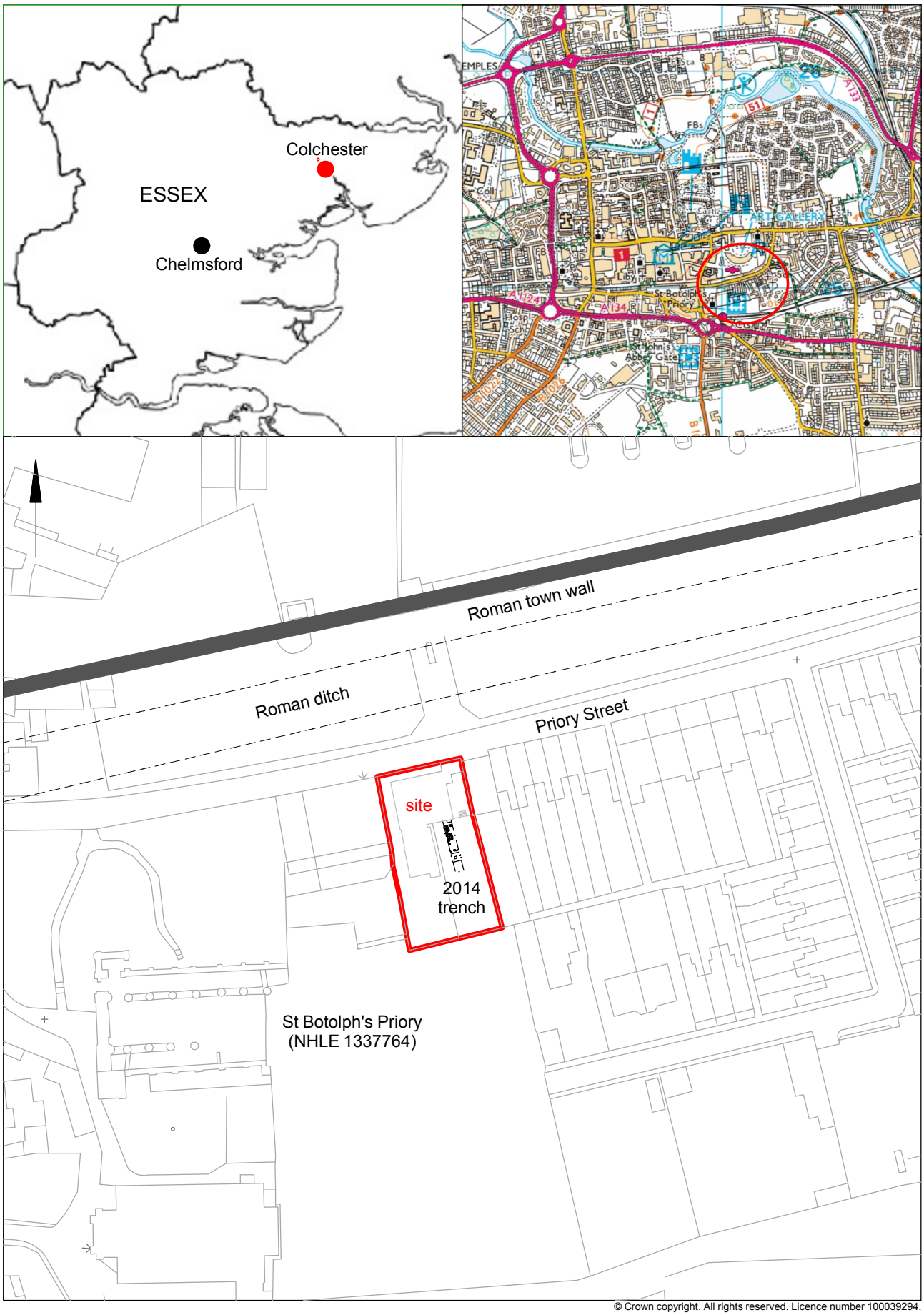

Fig 1 Site location.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: colchest3-278623

Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PY
Short description of the project	An archaeological recovery excavation was carried out at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester after groundworks for extensions and alterations to the existing buildings. The development site is located in an area of significant archaeological remains within the medieval churchyard of St Botolph's Priory and immediately to the south of the Roman walled town. Groundworks were carried out without an archaeological mitigation strategy in place and were not archaeologically monitored. A subsequent archaeological recovery excavation revealed the disturbed remains of a minimum of eleven, possibly twelve, human skeletons probably from a cemetery most likely associated with St Botolph's Priory cemetery. Animal bone and a piece of worked bone were also recovered.
Project dates	Start: 15-03-2017 End: 29-03-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/03b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	140569 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3968 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.32 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	INHUMATION BURIALS Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN REMAINS Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED BONE Medieval
Investigation type	"'Full excavation'"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 2-3 Priory Street
Postcode	CO1 2PY
Study area	0.05 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 00012 25004 51.914133677328 -0.545775584895 51 54 50 N 000 32 44 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.32
Physical Contents	"Human Bones","Worked bone","Animal Bones"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.32

Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.32
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological recovery excavation at 2-3 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2PY: March 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1138
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ringbound loose leaf
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html

Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	27 November 2017