

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2232
issued December 2025**

**Archaeological evaluation of the new lion enclosure,
Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex,
CO3 0SL: November 2025**



**CAT project ref.: 2025/09h
CHER code: ECC4923**

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Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex,
CO3 0SL: November 2025**

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**commissioned by Jonathan McLoughlin, Dearadu Zú
on behalf of Colchester Zoological Society**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) was carried out at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex in advance of the construction of a new lion enclosure and associated works. Colchester Zoo is located close to sites of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman date, some of national significance. Evaluation revealed six features. Two ditches represent the remains of a post-medieval field boundary ditch that is visible on the 1st edition OS map of 1874. Other features include a 19th-century pit, possible medieval pit/silt patch, an undated gully and an undated pit. Sherds of medieval pottery could be related to medieval activity in the hamlet of Heckfordbridge and three worked flints attest to prehistoric activity in the Roman River valley.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex from 24th-25th November 2025. The work was commissioned by commissioned by Jonathan McLoughlin of Dearadu Zú on behalf of Colchester Zoological Society, at took place in advance of the construction of a new lion enclosure and associated works.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains, 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 2025).

All work was carried out in accordance with the *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, CO3 0SL* written by Dr Richard Hoggett (CCCAA 2025). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT (2025a) 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, 2025, 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 2025b).

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>)).

Significant archaeological remains are located within 2km of the development site. Approximately 1.1km to the north-east was the Stanway élite burial site (MCC8095). Five enclosures included an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high-status individuals of the Catuvellaunian family. The remains of two wooden chambers richly adorned with finds including pottery, weapons and game boards known as the 'Warriors burial' and the 'Doctor's burial' are nationally recognised for their significance (Crummy *et al*, 2007).

Excavations approximately 1.6km to the north-east revealed an extensive Middle Iron Age settlement (mid 4th to late 1st century BC) comprising two interlinked enclosed farmsteads and associated field system with stock control enclosures (CAT Report 1070).

Approximately 950m to the east is Grymes Dyke South (MCC7464), a north/south aligned ditch and bank, and part of the outermost dyke of the *Camulodunum* defences. A series of ten long curvilinear dykes were constructed across the Colchester gravel plateau during the Late Iron Age and early Roman period, linking the River Colne and Roman River and creating a defended perimeter of water, marsh and forest enclosing 28 sq km (MCC7469). Most of the dykes faced west, to provide protection from inland attack. The closest of these earthworks to the site are the Heath Farm (MCC2095, MCC2101, MCC10053), Kidman's (MCC7283), Oliver's and Gosbecks (MCC8182, MCC8183) Dykes, all of which are located to the east and north-east of the site. It is thought that as well as serving a defensive purpose, the dykes would have been part of the stock management system of the wider landscape.

Further to the east of the dykes, c 1.6km north-east of the development site, is the nationally important Late Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks (NHLE 1002180; MCC7470). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include droveways and field systems; a large enclosure, possibly the farmstead of Cunobelin, King of the Trinovantes (MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (MCC7472); a Romano- British temple (MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (MCC7043); a Roman theatre (MCC2831); a Roman water-main, possibly leading to a bath-house (MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (MCC2529).

Approximately 800m to the north-north-west is a farmstead of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman date, with round and square-ditched enclosures, a roundhouse and droveways (CHER ECC3707, CAT Report 312). Undated cropmarks are also known to the south and west (MCC4829, MCC7725).

A large archaeological evaluation carried out on land immediately east (c 800m) in 2020 revealed 245 features, predominately of Late Iron Age to early Roman date (CAT Report 1610). This activity was centred on a plateau of flat ground at the northern edge of the site. The number of features and the quantity of finds recovered suggests that the site was either occupied during the Late Iron Age-early Roman period, or that an area of occupation is located immediately to the north. The site appears to have been abandoned not long after the Roman conquest, when any activity in this area would have likely moved eastwards to within the area defended by Gryme's Dyke. The infilled ditch of Gryme's Dyke was identified in three of the evaluation trenches.

A small excavation ahead of the construction of a new admissions building in 2019 (c 500m north-east) did not identify any archaeological remains (CAT Report 1431). An evaluation at the 'tiger toilet' site in 2018 (c 300m north-east) revealed only two undated features (CAT Report 1325)

Colchester Zoo is on the site of Stanway Hall (MCC7543), c 400m north-west of the development site. The hall originally dates to the mid-16th century but was almost entirely rebuilt in modern times (MCC11730). The medieval fishponds associated with the Hall survive within the zoo grounds (MCC7542) as does the 13th-century and later parish church of All Saints (MCC4546, MCC7538-MCC7541), which has been derelict since c 1700. The church is Grade II* listed (NHLE 1019879). Excavation of the churchyard prior to the construction of the orangutan enclosure revealed thirty-four medieval inhumation burials (CAT Report 346).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site is the London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) with a superficial deposit of Head (clay, silt, sand and gravel).

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.

¹ <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Seven trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trenches T1, T3 and T5 were 25m long, trenches T2, T4 and T6 30m long, and T7 20m long. They were all 1.8m wide.

The trenches cut through modern topsoil L1 (0.3-0.5m thick) sealing subsoil L2 (0.1-0.2m thick) into natural L3 beneath (identified at a depth of 0.43-0.7m below current ground level). Sondages were excavated in trenches T2, T3, T4, T6 and T7 to confirm the identification of L3 as natural. All features cut L3 and were sealed by L2.

There were no archaeological remains in trenches T2, T4 or T6.

Trench 1

Pit/silt patch F6 was over 7.1m long and 0.28m deep. It produced six sherds of medieval pottery along with a fragment of clinker/coke.

Trench 3

Post-medieval field boundary ditch F3, aligned west-south-west/east-north-east, was U-shaped, 1.35m wide and 0.23m deep. It is a continuation of ditch F5 in T5 with the field boundary visible on the 1st edition 6-inch OS map of 1874.

Trench 5

Post-medieval field boundary ditch F5, aligned east/west, was a U-shaped, 2m wide and 0.3m deep. It is a continuation of ditch F3 in T3 with the field boundary visible on the 1st edition 6-inch OS map of 1874.

Post-medieval pit F4 was over 9.6m long and a slot excavated through it showed that it measured over 1.3m deep. It produced fragments of medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery along with pieces of peg-tile and tile and probably dates from the 19th century.

Trench 7

Gully F1, aligned north/south, was small, U-shaped, 0.47m wide by 0.06m deep. Pit F2 was 1.6m long by >0.65m wide and 0.07m deep. Both features were undated.

A full context list with soil descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.



Photograph 1 Trench 1, looking north.



Photograph 2 Pit/silt patch F6, looking west.



Photograph 3 Trench 2, looking east.



Photograph 4 Trench 3 with ditch F3 in foreground, looking south.



Photograph 5 Trench 5 with the slot through F4 in the foreground, looking north.



Photograph 6 Ditch F5, looking east.



Photograph 7 Trench 6, looking east.



Photograph 8 Gully F1, looking east.



Photograph 9 Trench 7, looking south-east.

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 eighty-six sherds with a weight of 6.1kg and EVE of 0.36 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is 71.1g and reflects the greater contribution of CBM to the assemblage weight (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery (all)	22	423	19.2	0.36
CBM	64	5,688	88.9	-
All	86	6,111	71.1	0.36

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery

Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000) (Table 2) and the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). There was a small assemblage at twenty-two sherds with a weight of 423g and EVE of 0.36 (Table 3). The mean sherd weight is 19.2g. This material was recovered from four features and one layer although a sizeable proportion of the assemblage came from pit F4 (Table 4). The assemblage consists of a mixture of medieval (fabrics F13, F20, F21), post-medieval (fabrics F40, F47) and modern (fabric F48D) pottery (Table 3). Pottery of note included an Early Medieval sandy ware (fabric F13) cooking pot of type A4b (EVE:0.05), dating to 1025/1050-1200/1225, from F6 and a bowl (EVE:0.04) from pit F4. A handle from a post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) pipkin/skillet also came from pit F4.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	1000-1225
F20	Medieval sandy greyware	c 1150-1375/1400
F21	Colchester-type ware	1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F47	Staffordshire-type white stoneware	1725-1775/1800
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-20th century

Table 2 Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	4	66	16.5	0.09
F20	Medieval sandy greyware	7	45	6.4	0.00
F21	Colchester-type ware	7	52	7.4	0.08
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	2	220	110.0	0.14
F47	Staffordshire-type white stoneware	1	10	10.0	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	1	30	30.0	0.05
Total		22	423	19.2	0.36

Table 3 Summary of the medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F3	DITCH	1	10	10.0	0.00
F4	PIT	13	156	12.0	0.17
F5	DITCH	1	8	8.0	0.00
F6	PIT/SILT PATCH	6	48	8.0	0.05
L2	SUBSOIL	1	201	201.0	0.14
Total		22	423	19.2	0.36

Table 4 Quantities of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery from specific contexts.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were sixty-five fragments of CBM with a weight of 5.6kg and a mean sherd weight of only 88.9g (Table 5) which was recovered from four features (Table 6). Sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile account for a sizeable proportion of the CBM assemblage.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
BR	Brick	2	262	131.0
PT	Peg-tile	54	5,023	93.0
PANT	Pan-tile	6	184	30.7
UNID. TILE	Unidentified tile	1	215	215.0
Undated baked clay		1	4	4.0
Total		64	5,688	88.9

Table 5 CBM by type.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F3	DITCH	12	301	25.1
F4	PIT	24	4,481	186.7
F5	DITCH	27	902	33.4
F6	PIT/SILT PATCH	1	4	4.0
Total		64	5,688	88.9

Table 6 Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.

Conclusion

Table 7 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layer which contained dateable pottery and ceramics. These date from the medieval period (the 11th century onwards) through to the 19th century. None of the pottery and CBM was retained.

Context	Description	Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery	CBM	Date Approx.
F3	DITCH	F47	PT, PANT	18th century
F4	PIT	F13 (BOWL), F20, F21 (JUG), F40 (PIPKIN/SKILLET), F48D (BOWL)	PT, UNID TILE	19th century
F5	DITCH	F21	PT, BR	Post-medieval
F6	PIT/SILT PATCH	F13 (COOKING POT A4b), F20	-	Medieval
L2	SUBSOIL	F40 (LARGE STORAGE JAR)	-	Post-medieval

Table 7 Approximate dates for the individual contexts.

6.2 Ironwork, glass and coal/coke

by Laura Pooley

Ditch F3 produced two fragments of 19th- to 20th-century glass and a length of iron pipe probably dating to the same period. There was an incomplete iron nail and another fragment of iron from ditch

F5 and a piece of coal/coke came from pit/silt patch F6. All have been recorded in Table 8 below and discarded.

Context	Finds no.	Description
F3	1	Ironwork: Length of iron pipe, 410mm long, 18mm diameter, walls are 3mm thick, 393.5g, probably 19th-20th century. Glass: Two fragments of glass, 125.8g. One is from a square blue bottle and the other from clear moulded bowl or dish. 19th-20th century.
F5	7	Ironwork: Incomplete iron nail with lower shank missing, square-sectioned shank, flat round head, 17.4g. Ironwork: Fragment of iron, could possibly be from the end of a nail, 7.1g.
F6	8	Coal/coke: Fragment, 1.3g.

Table 8 Ironwork, glass and coal/coke, listed by context.

6.3 Worked and burnt flint

by Tabitha Lawrence

Three lithics were recovered during hand-excavation with the attributes of the worked pieces tabulated and described below. The analysis of this assemblage has been completed in accordance with ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2020b) and the principal works cited include *Prehistoric Flintwork* (Butler 2005), *Technology and Terminology of Knapped Stone followed by a multilingual vocabulary* (Inizan *et al* 1999) and the *Classification of Lithic Artefacts from the British Late Glacial and Holocene Periods* (Ballin 2021). The measurement of flakes during analysis follows the methodology as devised by Saville (1980) and outlined by Butler (2005).

A hard hammer flake recovered from ditch F5 is very rolled and damaged. A core fragment and a hard hammer flake were also collected from pit/silt patch F6. The core fragment is patinated and has attributes of soft hammer percussion. These lithics are chronologically undiagnostic beyond attesting to limited prehistoric activity in the area.

Context	Find no.	Context type	Type of object	Cortex %	Hard/ soft hammer	Platform prep	Modification
F5	7	Ditch	Flake	10	?hard	no	very rolled
F6	8	Pit/silt patch	?Core fragment	30	?soft	?yes	patinated
			Flake	45	?hard	no	breaks at distal and proximal ends

Table 9 Worked flint listed by context.

One burnt stone (4.75g) was also recovered from silt patch F6. The stone is white in colour on one half, and a pale pink-grey on the other. Cracking and crazing are visible across the piece. No knapping attributes were noted. It has been discarded.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation of the new lion enclosure, Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex revealed six archaeological features. Ditches F3 and F5 represent the remains of a post-medieval field boundary ditch shown on the 1st edition 6-inch OS map of 1874 (Map 1) and still present on the 1938 map.

Finds recovered from pit F4 indicate a 19th century date but the assemblage included residual medieval pottery. Medieval pottery sherds were also recovered from pit/silt patch F6. These finds could be associated with medieval activity in the hamlet of Heckfordbridge where the earliest surviving listed building dates back to the 14th century.

The discovery of three pieces of worked flint from F5 and F6 also attests to limited prehistoric activity here in the Roman River valley.



Map 1 1874 6-inch OS map with field boundary ditch shown by the blue arrow.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Jonathan McLoughlin of Dearadu Zú and the Colchester Zoological Society for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with A Smith, A Parker-Shirley and C Hodges. Figures were compiled by L Pooley and C Hill. The project was monitored for CCC by Dr Richard Hoggett.

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <https://catuk.org/online-reports/>

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	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'
Iron Age	period from 800 BC to AD 43
Late Iron Age	period from 100 BC to AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to 1540
Middle Iron Age	period from 300 BC to 100 BC
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	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 2232

CCC brief; CAT WSI

Digital photographs

Survey data

Site data

12 Archive deposition

The 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 the Archaeology Data Service.

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Distribution list:

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Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor

Colchester Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench no.	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Soft wet medium/dark grey/brown silt and inclusions of: stone 10% tile/brick 2%	Modern
L2	All	2, 3	Subsoil	Soft moist/wet medium grey clay silt and inclusions of: stone 10%	Post-medieval
L3	All	-	Natural	Firm dark brown-black sandy silt. Frequent oyster shell fragments.	Post-medieval, late 18th-early 19th century
F1	7	-	Gully	North/south aligned, with moderate edges, flatish base and gentle break of slope, 0.47m wide by 0.06m deep Soft moist/wet medium grey/brown clay silt and inclusions of: stone 5%	Undated
F2	7	-	Pit	Sub-oval pit with a flat base and gentle sloping sides, 1.6m long by >0.65m wide and 0.07m deep. Dark brown silty clay and gravel fill.	Undated
F3	3	1	Ditch	East-north-east/west-south-west aligned, 1.35m wide x 0.20m deep. CBM, pottery, iron pipe and glass were all found in top fill. Firm mid-light brown silty clay, charcoal flecks. Light brown uneven base with gentle sloping sides.	Modern
F4	5	4,5,6	Pit	Large, unclear extent, over 9.6m long and a slot excavated through it showed that it measured over 1.3m deep. Three fills identified, A: upper fill, firm moist, dark greyish brown, clayish silt, 1% stones, occ charcoal, 0.26 - 0.35m thick B: mid fill, thin band of manganese, dark brown orange, 0.10 - 0.12m thick C: lower(?) fill, firm moist, medium-dark grey/brown clayey silt and inclusions of: stone 1%, >0.25m thick	Post-medieval
F5	5	7	Ditch	East/west aligned, regular 'u' shaped profile, stoney base, CBM recovered from mid-lower fill, 2m wide and 0.3m deep Firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks	Post-medieval
F6	1	8	Pit	Full extent not recovered, >7.1m long (an area 2.90m x 1m was excavated) and 0.28m deep. Soft moist/wet medium/dark grey/brown clay silt and inclusions of: stone 40%	Medieval

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Context	Feature type	Find no.	Quantity	Weight (g)	Mean sherd weight (g)	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	RBH	Charing (int)	Burning	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam	Comments	Start Date	End Date
F3	DITCH	1	1	10	10.0	X	0	0	1	1			F47						1725	1775/1800
F4	PIT	4	2	8	4.0	X				0			F20						1150	1375/1400
F4	PIT	4	1	19	19.0	X	0	1	0	1			F40	PIPKIN/SKILLET	PIPKIN/SKILLET				1500	1800/1900
F4	PIT	4	1	5	5.0	X				0			F21					WHITE-SLIP	1200	1550
F4	PIT	4	1	6	6.0	X				0			F21						1200	1550
F4	PIT	4	1	30	30.0	X	1	0	0	1			F48D	BOWL	BOWL	0.05	140	BLUE TPR	1800	2000
F4	PIT	5	3	25	8.3	X	1	0	0	1			F21	JUG	JUG	0.08	150		1200	1550
F4	PIT	6	1	11	11.0	X				0			F20						1150	1375/1400
F4	PIT	6	1	5	5.0	X				0			F20						1150	1375/1400
F4	PIT	6	1	8	8.0	X				0			F21						1200	1550
F4	PIT	6	1	39	39.0	X	1	0	0	1			F13	BOWL	BOWL	0.04	380		1000	1225
F5	DITCH	7	1	8	8.0	X				0			F21						1200	1550
F6	PIT	8	3	21	7.0	X				0			F20						1150	1375/1400
F6	PIT	8	3	27	9.0	X	1	0	0	1	X		F13	COOKING POT A4b	COOKING POT	0.05	220		1025/1050	1200/1225
L2	SUBSOIL	2	1	201	201.0	X	1	0	0	1	X	X	F40	LARGE STORAGE JAR	STORAGE JAR	0.14	275		1500	1800/1900

Appendix 3 CBM list

Context	Feature type	Find no.	Quantity	Weight (g)	Mean sherd weight (g)	Discard	Typology	Peg-hole round	Peg-hole diameter mm	Length mm	Breadth mm	Thickness mm	Comments	Start Date	End Date
F3	DITCH	1	3	66	22.0	X	PT							1200/1250	1600
F3	DITCH	1	1	33	33.0	X	PT							1200/1250	1600
F3	DITCH	1	2	18	9.0	X	PT							1200/1250	1600
F3	DITCH	1	6	184	30.7	X	PANT							1600	2000
F4	PIT	4	1	5	5.0	X	PT							1200/1250	1600
F4	PIT	4	11	406	36.9	X	PT	X	15					1200/1250	1600
F4	PIT	4	1	57	57.0	X	PT					19	THICKER EX	1200/1250	1600
F4	PIT	5	2	234	117.0	X	PT							1200/1250	1600
F4	PIT	6	6	3349	558.2	X	PT	X	11,12					1200/1250	1600
F4	PIT	6	2	215	107.5	X	PT					17	THICKER EX	1200/1250	1600
F4	PIT	6	1	215	215.0	X	UNID TILE							1800	2000
F5	DITCH	7	1	245	245.0	X	BR						RED/OR SANDY	1700/1800	1900
F5	DITCH	7	25	640	25.6	X	PT	X	13					1200/1250	1600
F5	DITCH	7	1	17	17.0	X	BR							1500	1800
F6	PIT	8	1	4	4.0	X	BAKED CLAY						BR SMOOTH SAND FREE	?	?



Fig 2 Results. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

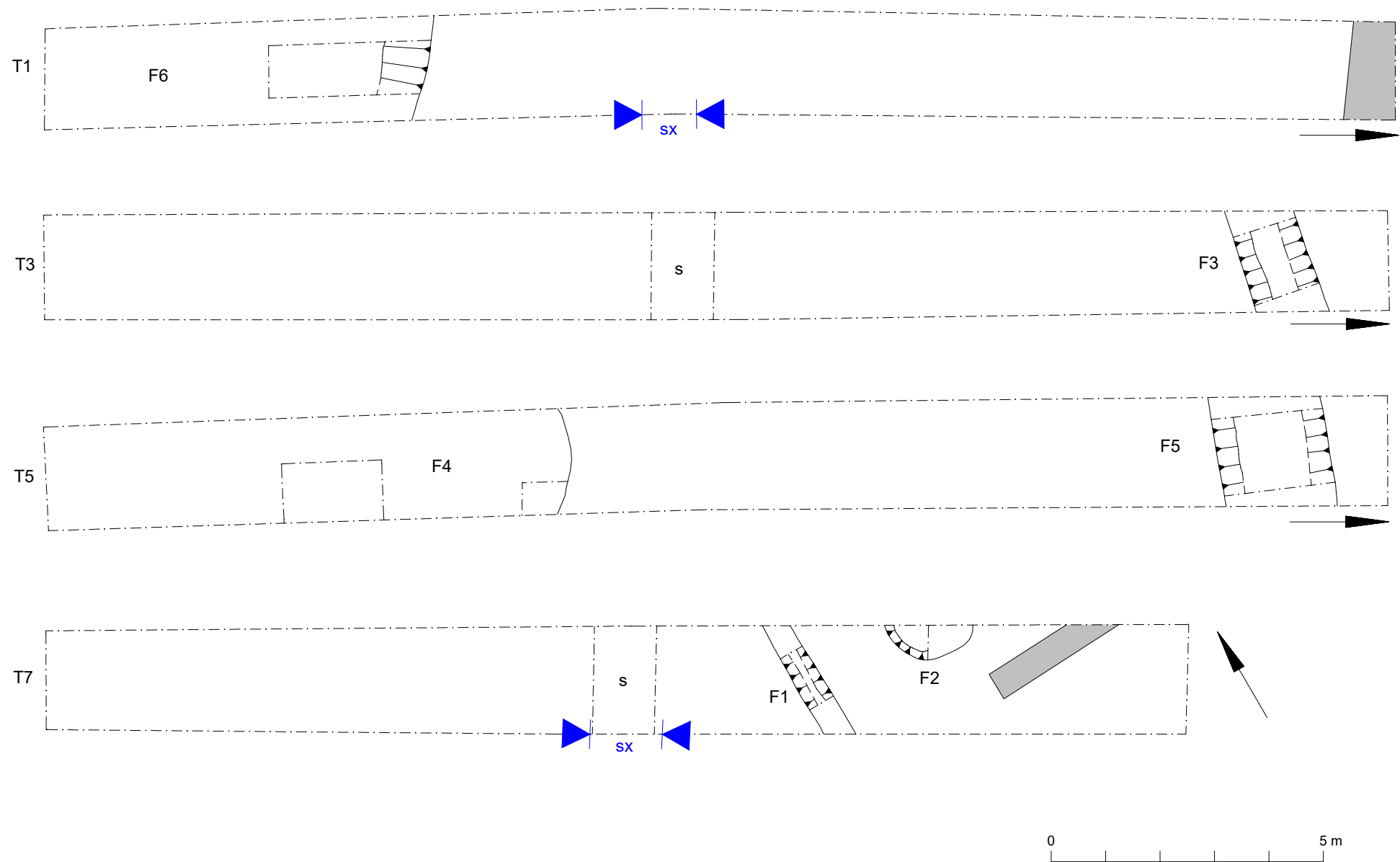


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans - T1, T3, T5 and T7.

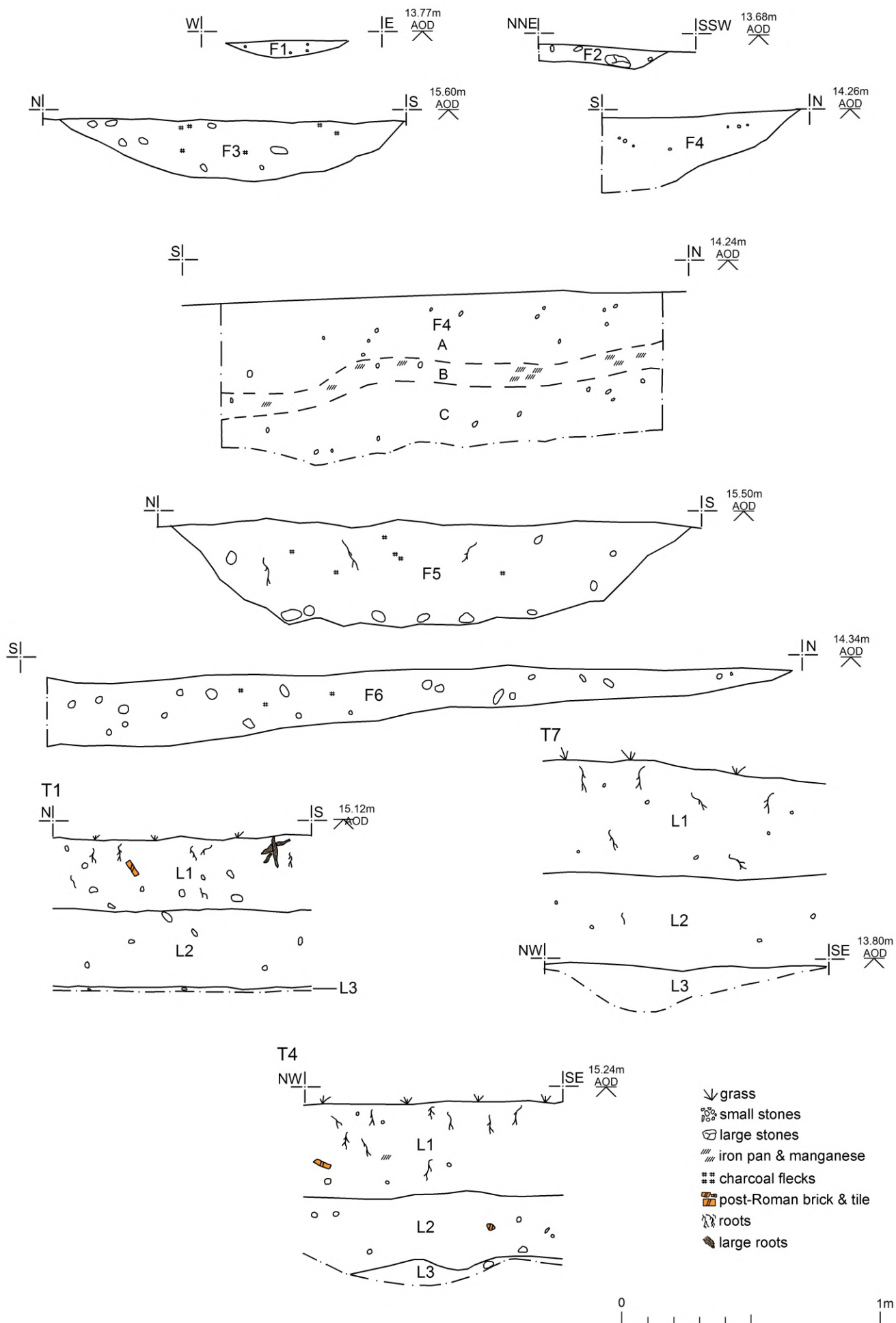


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 94785 21790 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2025/09h CHER ref.: ECC4923 OASIS ref.: colchest3-538488
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 24th-25th November 2024	Size of area investigated: 1.49 hectares
Location of curating museum: Archaeology Data Service	Funding source: Colchester Zoological Society
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: -
Final report: CAT Report 2232	
Periods represented: prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) was carried out at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex in advance of the construction of a new lion enclosure and associated works. Colchester Zoo is located close to sites of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman date, some of national significance. Evaluation revealed six features. Two ditches represent the remains of a post-medieval field boundary ditch that is visible on the 1st edition OS map of 1874. Other features include a 19th-century pit, possible medieval pit/silt patch, an undated gully and an undated pit. Sherds of medieval pottery could be related to medieval activity in the hamlet of Heckfordbridge and three worked flints attest to prehistoric activity in the Roman River valley.	
Previous summaries/reports: n/a	
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett	
Keywords: n/a	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: 8/12/2025

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written Scheme of Investigation
for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching for the
Lion House, Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway,
Essex, CO3 0SL**

November 2025

**CAT project ref.: 2025/09h
ECC code: ECC4923**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological
evaluation by trial-trenching for the Lion House,
Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL**

November 2025

NGR: TL 94785 21790

**Planning district.: Colchester
Planning ref.: 242219**

CAT project ref.: 2025/09h

ECC code: ECC4923

**ECC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett
OASIS id: colchest3-538488**

**Commissioned by Jonathan McLoughlin (Dearadh Zú)
on behalf of Colchester Zoological Society**

Prepared by:	Chloé Hill PCIfA	Senior Post Excavation Assistant (Archiving)
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister MCIfA	Director, Business Operations
Issued:	18/11/2025	

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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located on land to the south of Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The proposed development lies on the northern side of the Roman River. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 94785 21790.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a new lion house, an external holding area, 24-hour paddock, various smaller animal housing and paddocks, a café, toilet block, viewing areas and associated hard and soft landscaping.

Archaeological and Geological 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>)).

Within the proposed development area are a number of linear cropmarks, one of which potentially forms a rectilinear enclosure (MCC8702). Other cropmarks recorded through aerial photography are known to the north, south, east and west of the site and include boundary ditches and enclosures (MCC4829, MCC7568, MCC7638, MCC7725).

On the eastern boundary of the site is Grymes Dyke (MCC7464), which is thought to be Roman in date. Grymes Dyke is the outermost dyke of the dyke system in Colchester, it comprises a ditch and bank aligned N to S and is defined for approximately 5.5km from the River Colne to the Roman River. A series of ten long curvilinear dykes were extended across the Colchester gravel plateau during the Late Iron Age, linking the River Colne and Roman River and creating a defended perimeter of water, marsh and forest enclosing 28 sq km (MCC7469). Most of the dykes faced west, to provide protection from inland attack. The closest of these late Iron Age earthworks to the site are the Heath Farm (MCC2095, MCC2101, MCC10053), Kidman's (MCC7283), Oliver's and Gosbecks (MCC8182, MCC8183) Dykes, all of which are just to the east and north-east of the site. It is thought that as well as serving a defensive purpose, the dykes would have been part of the stock management system of the wider landscape (Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) Report 1560).

The proposed development site is located c 1.4km SW of the nationally important Late Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks (CHER MCC7470) and c 600m S of the Stanway élite burial site.

The Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002180; CHER MCC7470) is the site of multiple investigations including aerial photography,

geophysical surveys, evaluations and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; *CAR* 11, 95-105; CAT Reports 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure (CHER MCC7044), possibly the farmstead of Cunobelin, King of the Trinovantes (CHER MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (CHER MCC7472); a Romano-British temple (CHER MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (CHER MCC7043); a Roman theatre (CHER MCC2831); a Roman water-main, possibly leading to a bath-house (CHER MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (CHER MCC2529).

The Stanway elite burial site was excavated between 1987 and 2003 prior to the extraction of sands and gravel aggregates (CHER MCC8095). Five enclosures were recorded including an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high-status individuals of the Catuvellaunian family. The remains of two wooden chambers richly adorned with finds including pottery, weapons and game boards known as the 'Warriors burial' and the 'Doctor's burial' are nationally recognised for their significance (Crummy *et al*, 2007).

Excavations in 1999-2001 at Abbotstone field (c 1.4km NW of the development site) revealed a farmstead of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman date, with round and square-ditched enclosures, a roundhouse and droveways (CHER ECC3707, CAT Report 312). In 2015 excavations at Fiveways Fruit Farm (c 1.5km N) revealed two Middle Iron Age (c 350-50 BC) farmsteads, the main components of which were two sub-square ditched enclosures containing roundhouses, two smaller enclosed areas between the main enclosures, and a series of discontinuous boundary ditches (CAT Report 1070). Prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman features were excavated during a recent evaluation at Warren Lane (c 1km NW) (CAT Report 1289).

400m to the north-west is the site of Stanway Hall (CHER MCC7543). The hall originally dates to the mid-16th century but was almost entirely rebuilt in modern times (CHER MCC11730). The medieval fishponds associated with the Hall survive within the zoo grounds (MCC7542) as does the 13th-century and later parish church of All Saints (MCC4546, MCC7538-MCC7541), which has been derelict since c 1700. The church is a Scheduled Monument (NHLE no. 1019879) and is also an Historic England Grade II* Listed Building.

Previous CAT archaeological Investigations in the vicinity of Colchester Zoo
Archaeological evaluation on land east of Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex,
CO3 0SL September-November 2020

An archaeological evaluation (116 trial-trenches) was carried out in advance of the proposed expansion of Stanway Quarry for mineral extraction. The evaluation revealed 245 features, the main period of activity at the site was in the Late Iron Age-early Roman period. This activity was centred on a plateau of flat ground at the northern edge of the site. The number of features and the quantity of finds recovered suggests that the site was either occupied during the Late Iron Age-early Roman

period, or that an area of occupation is located immediately to the north. The finds dating evidence indicates that the main period of activity on the site began sometime after c 30 BC and continued into the early Roman period (? c 30 BC- AD 60). The site appears to have been abandoned not long after the Roman conquest, when any activity in this area would have likely moved eastwards to within the area defended by Gryme's Dyke. The infilled ditch of Gryme's Dyke was identified in three of the evaluation trenches.

Prehistoric flints and pottery were also recovered during the evaluation. Five cropmarks were targeted by trial-trenches, with ditches identified in close proximity to the plotted locations in all but one instance. Two of the ditches date to the Late Iron Age-early Roman period. The others were medieval/post-medieval field boundaries and a ditch which may have enclosed land belonging to Baymill Cottages (CAT Report 1610).

Archaeological strip, map and record excavation at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0SL May 2019

An archaeological strip, map and record excavation was carried out in advance of the erection of a new admissions building. Despite being located in an archaeologically sensitive area, the only feature encountered was a modern soakaway (CAT Report 1431).

Archaeological evaluation on land at Colchester Zoo (Tiger Toilet), Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL September 2018

An archaeological evaluation (one trench-trench) was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new public toilet block 'Tiger Toilet'. Located close to the nationally important Late Iron Age and Roman sites at Gosbecks and Stanway, evaluation revealed an undated pit or ditch and an undated ditch or natural channel (CAT Report 1325).

A medieval cemetery at All Saints' church, Great Stanway, Essex (Colchester Zoo) September-October 2005

The ruins of All Saints' (the former parish church of Great Stanway) stand in the grounds of Colchester Zoo. Following a monitored topsoil strip, CAT excavated thirty-four medieval inhumation graves on the site of the proposed new orang-utan enclosure. The graves are probably late medieval, and the absence of coffins indicates a low status. Other features include two ditches, which may have been graveyard boundary ditches. (CAT Report 346).

A miscellany of Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000

A watching brief was carried out in 1996 prior to the expansion of the zoo to the west up to Heckfordbridge to create two hectares of new enclosures including the relocation of the elephants. The watching brief focused on the area of the paddocks. There were no features, however site conditions were noted as being difficult. Thirty-six worked flints were recovered including cores, blades and flakes which were identified as early neolithic in date (CAT Report 1000, project 96/5b).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site is the London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) with a superficial deposit of Head (clay, silt, sand and gravel).

Planning background

A planning application (242219) was approved by Colchester City Council in November 2025 as part of a new addition to Colchester Zoo consisting of the *erection of the lion house, external holding area, 24-hour paddock, various small animal housing and paddocks, café, toilet block, viewing areas and associated hard and soft landscaping.*

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains an archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2025).

Requirement for work (Fig 3-4)

The archaeological work will consist of an evaluation by trial-trenching. After discussion with the CCCAA it was agreed that the evaluation would be restricted to the undeveloped land to the south of the existing zoo complex. Details are given in a Project Brief written by the CCCAA (*Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway – CCC 2025*).

Specifically, CAT proposes to excavate a 5% sample of the southern part of the development area, comprising 7 linear trial-trenches.

- T1, T3 and T5 all measure 25m long and 1.8m wide.
- T2, T4 and T6 all measure 30m long and 1.8m wide.
- T7 measures 20m long and 1.8m wide.

This equates to 185m of trenching covering an area of 333m².

The trenches have been arranged to target the footprint of the proposed development on the southern part of the application boundary.

Trial-trenched evaluation is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

¹ <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

- Establish the potential for the survival, condition and significance of environmental evidence.
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

The evaluation will be followed by a site meeting with the CCCAA. Trenches will not be backfilled until they are signed off by the CCCAA.

If significant archaeological deposits are identified, further work may be required comprising open area excavation or monitoring of the groundworks. This will be decided by the CCCAA on completion of the evaluation and report.

Research aims and objectives

The first version of the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties was developed in the late 1990s and published in two parts. *Part 1, the Resource Assessment*, by Glazebrook (ed) was published in 1997. *Part 2, the Research Agenda and Strategy*, by Brown & Glazebrook (eds) was published in 2000. The Framework was extensively reviewed ten years later, and a revised version was published by Medlycott (ed) in 2011. The current revision of the Research Framework, published at <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>, augments and updates the previous versions of the Framework. The research agenda of this framework (see <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/research-agenda/>) identifies those areas in the county where there are gaps in our current understanding and key research questions that need to be addressed.

As the site is located in area of possible Late Iron Age and Roman archaeology, appropriate research questions could include the following:

- *LIA-Rom 03: How should we approach the study of the Late Iron Age and Roman periods?*
- *LIA-Rom 06: How can we increase our understanding of the Iron Age and Roman environment?*
- *LIA-Rom 16: Can we better distinguish between Late Iron Age and Early Roman features and sites?*
- *Multi 06: How do we interpret and ground-truth cropmark evidence?*
- *Multi 07: What can we learn by revisiting old data?*

These research aims and objectives will be revised as necessary both during and after fieldwork in consultation with the CCCAA. The findings of the fieldwork with regards to dating, phasing and evidence of different uses of the site will be key to informing these aims.

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, 2023 a-b & 2025).
- All work will take place within and contribute to the goals of the Regional Research Frameworks (accessible via <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- The project specific selection strategy (see Appendix 1).
- The project digital management plan (see Appendix 2).
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2025).
- The archaeological brief (CCCAA 2025).

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: one CAT project officer and three archaeologists for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Nigel Rayner/Sarah Veasey.

Evaluation 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, and 100% of complex structures/features. 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 destroyed by groundworks, 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 into the natural geology.

A representative section will be drawn of each 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.

The 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

CAT aims to follow guidance set out in the Historic England guide for Environmental Archaeology (Historic England 2011). 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).

Evaluation projects seek to understand the nature of the archaeological remains on a site to inform decisions on planning and mitigation. The number and range of samples taken will be adequate to contribute to the understanding of the environmental potential and significance of the archaeological site. This will then be used to inform decisions regarding sampling strategies on any future works.

Bulk samples and micromorphological samples may be collected where/if appropriate. Environmental bulk samples will be a minimum of 40 litres in size, or 100% of the context if less than 40 litres.

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 external specialist Val Fryer (VF) or Lisa Gray (LG).

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. Where necessary, VF/LG or an appropriate specialist will be invited to site to advise on sampling strategies, including the type (block samples, small specialist samples etc) and size to take (1-10litre etc).

Human remains

The CCCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the investigation. The final decision to excavate human remains at this stage rests with 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the licence will be followed.

Following Historic England guidance (2018) the Project Osteologist should be available to record the human remain in situ (i.e. a site visit). This involves photographing and planning the remains, recording completeness and condition of the bone, and a basic assessment of age, sex and pathologies, if possible. Conditions laid down by the Department of Justice license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, the CCCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

As per Historic England guidance (2015a), if human remains are to be lifted, environmental samples should be collected from the head, torso, hand and feet areas to ensure small bones and any associated burial goods are recovered. Foetal, infant and child burials should be fully sampled to ensure all small bones are recovered. These samples will then be processed under the guidance of CAT's environmental specialist and Project Osteologist.

Any destructive sampling (e.g. DNA and isotope analyses) should only be considered in relation to the research questions, and only when non-destructive methods are inadequate. The value and cost implications of carrying out such methods should also be considered. Decisions on destructive sampling will comply with current guidelines (*Mays et al* 2013).

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

Finds will be retained in accordance with the project specific selection strategy (see Appendix 1).

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: Tabitha Lawrence (or Adam Wightman)
osteology: (human remains): Megan Beale (or Aileen Tierney)

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer/ Lisa Gray
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth
geology: Dr Martin Bates, University of Wales Trinity Saint David
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:

other: Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

CAT pottery reports are carried out by a specialist who is competent in and specialises in characterising, quantifying, analysing, interpreting and reporting on pottery assemblages of all periods. Our pottery specialist Dr Matthew Loughton has extensively studied East Anglian pottery and reported in reputable, peer reviewed sources as well as multiple client project reports.

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.

Post-excavation assessment

An updated post-excavation assessment will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the CCCAA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the CCCAA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

Results

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

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

The draft report will be submitted within 3 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 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 (accessible at <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. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<https://catuk.org/online-reports/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

Archive deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating Museum and in accordance with the project specific selection strategy (Appendix 1).

If finds are retained from the site, the full archive will be deposited with Colchester Museum unless otherwise agreed in advance. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

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

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

Any significant data from 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 digital management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013] see Appendix 2) 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

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 legacy 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 (<https://catuk.org/>) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <https://catuk.org/online-reports/>. 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 <https://catuk.org/online-reports/>

CAR 11. 1995. *Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2*, by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy

CAT. 2025. *Health & Safety Policy*.

CAT Report 1610. 2020. *Archaeological evaluation on land east of Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0SL: September-November 2020*, by S Carter and A Wightman.

CAT Report 1431. 2019. *Archaeological strip, map and excavation at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0SL: May 2019*, by Dr E Hicks.

CAT Report 1325. 2018. *Archaeological evaluation on land at Colchester Zoo (Tiger Toilet), Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex: September 2018*, by L Pooley.

CAT Report 1289. 2018. *Archaeological evaluation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW June 2018*, by Dr E Hicks.

CAT Report 1070. 2019. *Middle Iron Age farmsteads: Archaeological excavation on land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: May-December 2015*. By P Parmenter, A Wightman and L Pooley

CAT Report 1000. *A miscellany of Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000*. by C Crossan and H Brooks.

CAT Report 127. 2008. *Excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex 1995-1996*. By S Benfield

CAT Report 346. 2005. *A medieval cemetery at All Saints' church, Great Stanway, Essex (Colchester Zoo): September-October 2005*, by H Brooks.

CAT Report 312. 2005. *Excavations at Abbotstone field, Bell House Pit, Tarmac Colchester Quarry, Warren Lane, Stanway, Essex: 1999-2001* By S Benfield and L Pooley

CAT Report 127. 45. 1999. *Excavation at Gosbecks Archaeological Park: July-August 1999*. By C Austin

CAT Report 30. 1998. *Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-west area*. By S Benfield

CCC. 2025. *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL*, by Dr R Hoggett.

ClfA. 2020a. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.

ClfA. 2020b. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.

- ClfA. 2023a. *Standard for archaeological field evaluation*. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- ClfA. 2023b. *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- ClfA. 2025. *Code of Conduct*. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2025.
- Crummy, C et al. 2007. *Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum*. *Britannia Monograph Series* **24**.
- Digital Curation Centre (DCC). 2013. *Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0*.
- Historic England. 2011. *Environmental Archaeology, A guide to Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation*, by G Campbell, L Moffett and V Straker.
- Historic England. 2015a. *Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice*, by S Cole & P Backhouse.
- Historic England. 2015b. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.
- Historic England. 2018. *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project*. By S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell.
- Mays, S et al. 2013. *Science and the Dead: A Guideline for the Destructive Sampling of Archaeological Human Remains for Scientific Analysis*. Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE), London.
- MHCLG. 2025. *National Planning Policy Framework*. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- Museums Essex. 2022. *Archaeological Archives in Essex: Guidelines for preparation and deposition*.

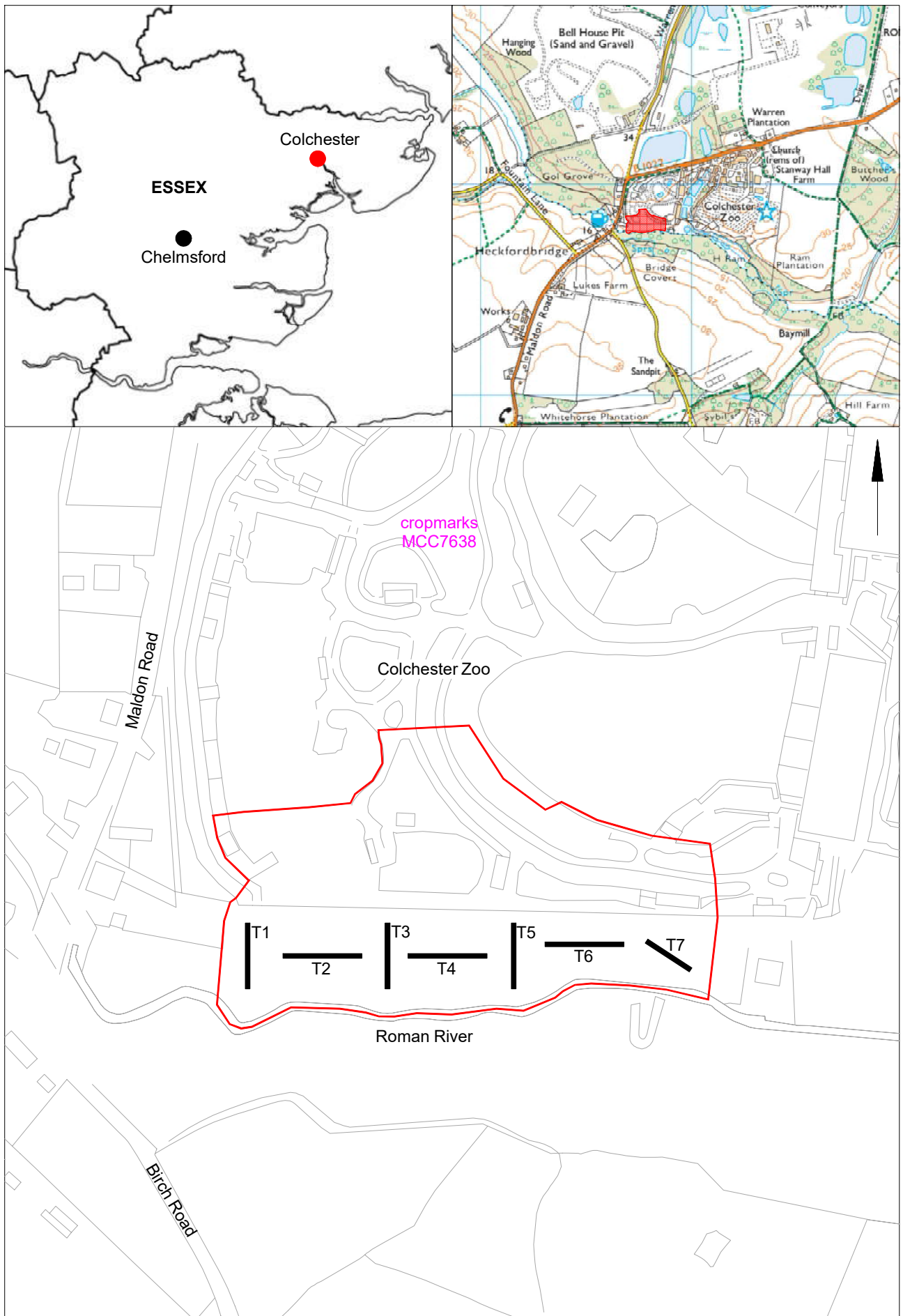


Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

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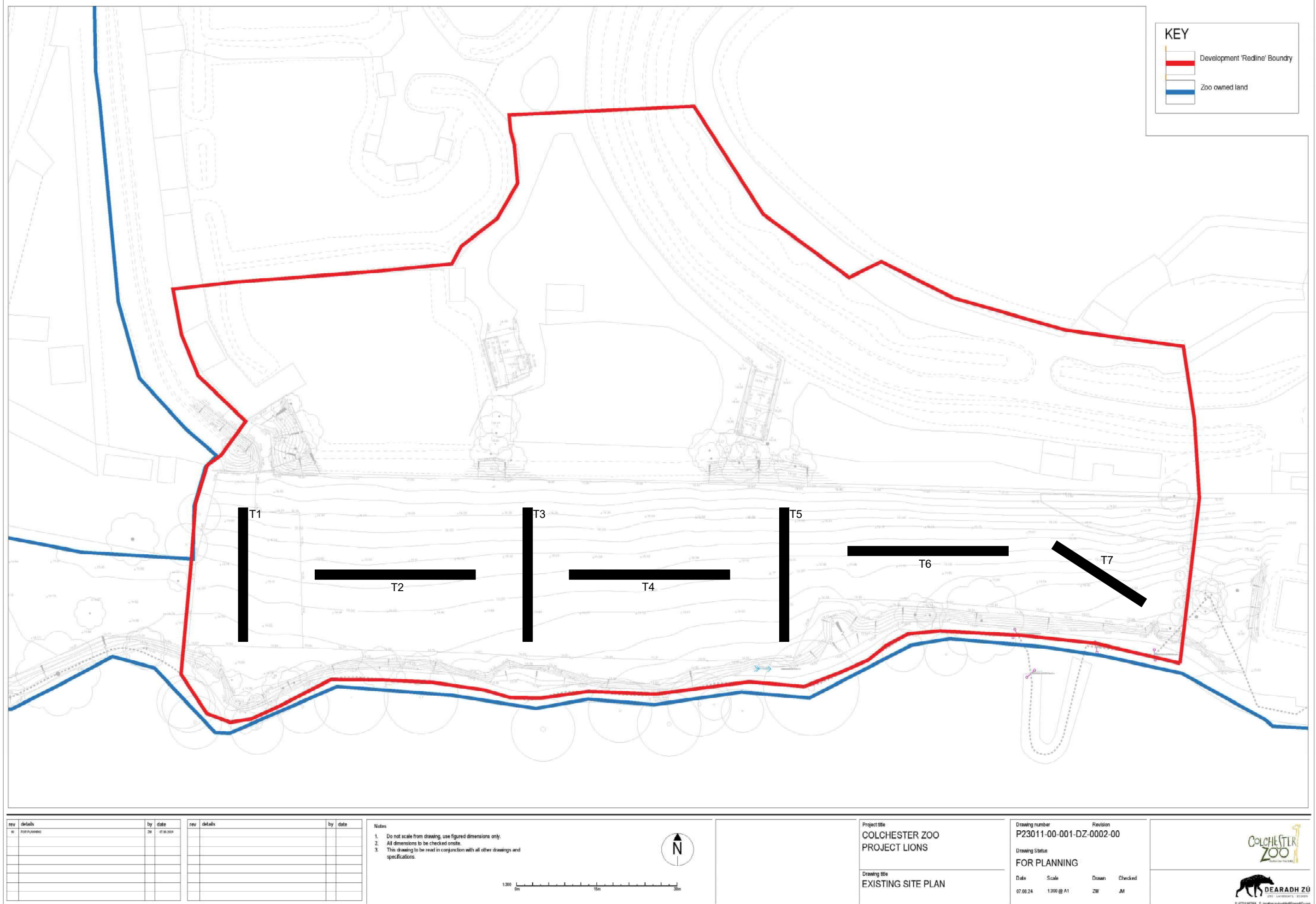


Fig 2 Trench layout in relation to existing site plan.

CAT Code: 2025/09h
Site name: Lion House, Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road
Date: 18/11/2025, Version 1
Selection Strategy – Appendix 1

Project Information

Project Management

Director of Archaeology	Adam Wightman
Post-Excavation Manager	Laura Pooley
Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust

Stakeholders		Date Contacted
Collecting Institution(s)	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service	
City/County/Historic England monitor	Archaeological Advisor, Colchester City Council.	
Archaeological consultant	n/a	
Landowner / Developer	Colchester Zoological Society	
Other		

Resources

Resources required

Describe the resources required to implement this Selection Strategy, particularly if unusual resources are required.

No unusual resources required outside of CAT normal operating equipment and personnel.

Context

Describe below the context of this Selection Strategy. You should refer to:

- The aims and objectives of the project;
- Local Authority guidance (including the brief);
- Research Frameworks;
- The repository collection development policy and/or deposition policy;

- Material-specific guidance documents.

Note: This section may be copied from your Project Design/WSI to ensure all Stakeholders receive this context information.

Archaeological evaluation will be carried out on all groundworks as outlined in the project brief and project WSI.

The archaeological monitoring will preserve, by record, any archaeological deposits uncovered during the groundworks. Archaeological work will determine the presence or absence, the extent, date and character and significance of any archaeological remains that may be present and ensure their preservation by record prior to damage or destruction.

As the site is located in area of possible Late Iron Age and Roman archaeology, appropriate research questions could include the following:

- *LIA-Rom 03: How should we approach the study of the Late Iron Age and Roman periods?*
- *LIA-Rom 06: How can we increase our understanding of the Iron Age and Roman environment?*
- *LIA-Rom 16: Can we better distinguish between Late Iron Age and Early Roman features and sites?*
- *Multi 06: How do we interpret and ground-truth cropmark evidence?*
- *Multi 07: What can we learn by revisiting old data?*

Selection of the working project archive will be guided by the aims and objectives of the project outlined in the SMC and WSI, the regional research frameworks and the Colchester Museum deposition policy:

- Colchester Archaeological Trust. 2025. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Lion House, Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL*
- Colchester Museums. 2022. *Archaeological Archive Preparation + Deposition at Colchester Museums: Addenda to the Museums Essex Guidelines.*
- Digital Curation Centre (DCC). 2013. *Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0.*
- Colchester City Council. 2025. *Brief for archaeological evaluation at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL*
- Museums Essex. 2022. *Archaeological Archives in Essex: Guidelines for preparation and deposition.*
- Scheduled Monument Consent.
- East of England Regional Research Framework. <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Digital Data Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Collections Curator).

Post-Excavation Manager – Laura Pooley
Senior Post-Excavation Assistant (Archiving) – Chloé Hill

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

Selection of digital data elements should be considered in your project's DMP. For the purpose of the Selection Strategy, you can either copy the selection section of your DMP below, or attach it as an appendix to this document. Please indicate here if the DMP is attached.

The DMP is attached.

The selection strategy in your DMP should:

- 1.1 Define what digital data will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have digital data that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 1.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (i.e. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 1.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 1.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

See attached DMP.

De-Selected Digital Data

The procedure for dealing with De-selected digital data and what specialist advice informed this process should be recorded in your DMP. Please copy this information here or attach your DMP as an appendix to this document.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Documents Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for the Documents element of the archaeological archive. To do this you must:

- 2.1 Define which documents will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have documents that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 2.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 2.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 2.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

All physical documents (manual plans, section drawings, context sheets if not filled out digitally) will be scanned and turned into digital format documents that can be uploaded as part of the Digital Archive. Unless in exceptional circumstances (to be decided by the Post-Excavation Manager and Collecting Institution), all physical documents will then be discarded. The Collecting Institution (Colchester Museums) have stated that they will only accept physical documents in exceptional circumstances and it is preferred that all paperwork is scanned and digitised.

Exceptional circumstances are for particularly large and/or significant projects where a large quantity of:

- manual plans
- section drawings
- illustrations

are produced that are intrinsic to the overall archive.

De-Selected Documents

Describe the procedure for dealing with De-selected material and what specialist advice has informed this procedure.

De-selected documents will be destroyed subject to final checking by the Post-Excavation Manager.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type

Pottery

Section 3.

3.1

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager, CAT – Laura Pooley
Pottery and Ceramic Specialist, CAT – Dr Matthew Loughton
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 3.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 3.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 3.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 3.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by Dr Matthew Loughton at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

If larger/more significant assemblages are produced, the pottery retention strategy will be implemented.

Pottery retention:

- all assemblages of prehistoric pottery other than single, or a few residual, non-diagnostic sherds
- for later periods the emphasis will be on retaining selected, well-stratified, closely dated groups and significant vessels
- pottery sherds or assemblages critical for crucial dating
- grave pots/assemblages (other than stray residual sherds)
- votive pottery and special deposits such as pottery 'witches bottles'
- pottery from cohesive or unusual contexts such as burnt buildings or pyre debris relating to burial areas
- kiln assemblages will be sampled to retain examples of types and fabrics
- individual whole pots will be retained
- assemblages from SFB's including any Roman pottery associated with them
- individual sherds which are significant in their own right either as examples of unusual forms, fabric or decoration
- all potters stamps
- pottery with mottos or graffiti and significant sherds decorated with sgraffito
- unusual individual vessels which carry rhymes or verse, or which are commemorative and

manufacturers marks made specific to a particular site.

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Ceramic Building Material	Section 3.	3.2
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager – Laura Pooley
Pottery and Ceramic Specialist – Dr Matthew Loughton
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 4.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 4.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 4.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 4.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The [Materials Selection Template](#) may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by Dr Matthew Loughton at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

If larger/more significant assemblages are produced, the CBM retention strategy will be implemented.

Ceramic Building Material retention:

- roller-stamped flue tile pieces and antefixes
- complete tiles/bricks or pieces with complete measurable dimensions other than late medieval-modern
- unusual or rare types
- pieces with graffiti or batch marks
- groups of cohesive CBM that can be related to a specific building will be recorded as assemblages, after which a representative selection of the CBM types will be retained
- examples of cut-away types and flanges from tegula roof tiles from well dated contexts
- manufacture (kiln) waste will be recorded as assemblages, after which a representative selection of the CBM types will be retained
- glazed patterned floor tiles, which in the event of large quantities a representative selection of these will be made
- samples of plain glazed floor tile
- decorated ridge tiles, roof furniture pieces

Fired Clay retention:

- fired clay objects (other than those which are recorded as small finds) and pieces which can be recognised as parts of identifiable objects (including) and recognisable pieces of structure such as the surround of oven openings
- samples of archaeologically significant assemblages from single well-dated contexts
- individual pieces of significance and pieces which preserve residue relating to use

Wall Plaster retention:

- plaster which retains significant or identifiable parts of figured or foliate schemes
- samples of other significant decorative schemes such as imitation of marble veneers
- samples of wall plaster from significant and close dated contexts
- examples of use of unusual paint/material or technique

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Small finds	Section 3.	3.3
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager/Small Finds Specialist, CAT – Laura Pooley
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 5.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.

- 5.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 5.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 5.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by Small Finds Specialist Laura Pooley at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

All identifiable and significant objects that have been individually numbered and reported as a small find will be retained. Where objects are not considered to be identifiable or significant, it might be the decision of the Small Finds Specialist to record these as bulk finds, i.e. iron nails, agricultural ironwork.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All items assigned a small finds number will be deposited to Colchester Museums.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Iron nails and other bulk metalwork	Section 3.	3.4
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager/Small Finds Specialist, CAT – Laura Pooley
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 6.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 6.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 6.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 6.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The [Materials Selection Template](#) may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by Small Finds Specialist Laura Pooley at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

In general, bulk metalwork (i.e. agricultural ironwork, unidentifiable lumps of lead, pieces of unidentifiable iron sheet) will not be retained. Metalwork of intrinsic interest will always be given a small finds number and dealt with separately.

If larger/more significant assemblages are produced, the iron nail retention strategy will be implemented.

Iron nail retention:

- CAT follows the recording and selection/discard recommendations of Katie Manby, 2024, 'How do you solve a problem like nails? A new, multi-period methodology and typology for recording iron nails', *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* **43(2)**, 173-194.
- This article recommends the retention of 1) a sample of complete nails of each type identified, and 2) all nails from Iron Age or early medieval contexts, burials, other significant contexts.
- However, in large Roman cemetery areas, Colchester Museums would prefer that only a sample of the iron nails from burials be retained. The selection of this sample would come from consultation between CAT and Colchester Museums.

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Glass	Section 3.	3.5
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager/Glass Specialist, CAT – Laura Pooley (with the advice of Hilary Cool for Roman glass and other specialists for other significant pieces).
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 7.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 7.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 7.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 7.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by Glass Specialist Laura Pooley at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

If larger/more significant assemblages are produced, the glass retention strategy will be implemented.

Glass retention:

- from well-dated significant contexts
- from deliberate deposition and burial contexts
- selective retention of waste from manufacture sufficient to encompass a significant quantity of the range of material present
- whole or parts of early glass vessels sufficient to give most of the profile together with any pieces with manufacturers marks and unusual pieces.
- unusual coloured and decorated pieces from significant contexts
- early stained/ painted glass

Unless there is a specific reason or request for retention, most post-medieval glass and all modern glass will be discarded after appropriate recording.

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Worked flint and heat-altered flint/stone	Section 3.	3.6
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager, CAT – Laura Pooley
Lithics Specialist, CAT – Tabitha Lawrence (supported by Adam Wightman)
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 8.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 8.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 8.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 8.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The [Materials Selection Template](#) may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by Lithics Specialist Tabitha Lawrence (supported by Lithic Specialist Adam Wightman) at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

All heat-altered flint/stone will be discarded after appropriate recording.

Worked/struck flint will be retained other than non-diagnostic flakes which will be discarded after appropriate recording.

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Clay tobacco pipe	Section 3.	3.7
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager/Clay Pipe Specialist, CAT – Laura Pooley
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 9.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 9.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 9.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 9.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The [Materials Selection Template](#) may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by Clay Pipe Specialist Laura Pooley at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

If larger/more significant assemblages are produced, the clay tobacco pipe retention strategy will be implemented.

Clay Tobacco Pipe retention:

- complete pipes, unusual bowls, bowls which are decorated, and pipe stems or bowls with makers initials
- kiln waste will be sampled for types and evidence of the manufacture process.

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this

table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Metal-working debris and other industrial waste	Section 3.	3.8
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager, CAT – Laura Pooley
An external specialist.
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 10.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 10.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 10.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 10.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by the appointed external specialist at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

If larger/more significant assemblages are produced, the metal-working debris and other industrial waste retention strategy will be implemented.

Metalworking debris and other industrial waste retention:

- pieces identified by the specialist as of intrinsic interest
- where present in significant quantity and not closely identified, a representative samples of types of waste will be retained

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Unworked stone and slate roof tile	Section 3.	3.9
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager, CAT – Laura Pooley
An external specialist if considered necessary.
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 11.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 11.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 11.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 11.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by the Post-Excavation Manager and an appointed external specialist if considered necessary at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

All worked stone specific to buildings or monuments, veneers, decorative furniture inlay or floor pieces, decorative stonework and those with inscriptions, etc, will be given a small finds number at dealt with as in Section 3.3 above.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

All unworked stone (usually limited to building stone) will be discarded after appropriate recording.

Roof slate will not be retained from contexts of post-medieval or later date unless the find(s) is of individual high archaeological significance.

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1')

for each.

Material type	Miscellaneous material	Section 3.	3.10
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager, CAT – Laura Pooley
An external specialist if considered necessary.
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 12.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 12.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 12.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 12.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The [Materials Selection Template](#) may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by the Post-Excavation Manager, and an appointed external specialist if considered necessary at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

In general, common miscellaneous finds, such as coal/clinker/coke, will not be retained unless of specific archaeological significance.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Human remains	Section 3.	3.11
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager – Laura Pooley
 Project Osteologist – Megan Beale (or Aileen Tierney – Junior Project Officer)
 Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 13.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 13.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 13.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 13.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

Selection decisions will be regulated by the conditions laid out in the licence to excavate buried human remains from an archaeological site in England and Wales.

Where human remains are exhumed from churchyards, they will either be returned to the churchyard for reburial (where agreed in advance) or will be reburied in Colchester Cemetery.

Where human remains (of any date) are not considered to have any future research potential (i.e. the burial was undated, incomplete or small in quantity, or the remains were disarticulated) they will be reburied in Colchester Cemetery.

Where prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains have been recovered (especially from cemetery groups), CAT will discuss deposition with Colchester Museums. If agreed with Colchester Museum, CAT will either deposit all human remains or they will be reburied in Colchester Cemetery.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention. The only exception to this would be where human remains are recovered from a churchyard where it has been agreed with all stakeholders that the remains should be reinterred immediately. In which case, they will be left with a nominated representative of the church for reburial.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. The only exception to this would be where remains are immediately reinterred within the churchyard they were recovered from.
All de-selected remains will be reburied either within the originating churchyard or within Colchester Cemetery.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Animal bone	Section 3.	3.12
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager – Laura Pooley
Animal bone specialist – Alec Wade
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 14.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 14.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 14.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 14.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The [Materials Selection Template](#) may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by Animal Bone specialist Alec Wade at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

If larger/more significant assemblages are produced, the animal bone retention strategy will be implemented.

Animal Bone retention:

- significant assemblages of animal bone from well-dated contexts, other than of modern date (taking into account the potential of residuality in the assemblage)
- whole or part animal burials from significant contexts.

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Shell	Section 3.	3.13
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager – Laura Pooley
An external specialist if considered necessary.
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 15.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 15.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 15.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 15.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made by the Post-Excavation Manager and an appointed external specialist if considered necessary at the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

In general, shells will not be retained unless of specific archaeological significance where, in the case of large assemblages, only a sample may be retained.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	Environmental remains	Section 3.	3.14
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Post-Excavation Manager – Laura Pooley
External specialist – Val Fryer and/or Lisa Gray
Senior Collections and Learning Curator, Colchester Museum

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

16.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.

- 16.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 16.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 16.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

All selection decisions will be made during the analysis and reporting phase, in conjunction with CAT's Finds Retention Policy agreed with Colchester Museums.

Where exceptionally small or relatively unimportant assemblages are produced it may be decided that the entire finds archive can be discarded. CAT will ask Colchester Museums for guidance where necessary.

If larger/more significant assemblages are produced, the environmental remains retention strategy will be implemented.

Environmental Remains retention:

- archaeologically significant assemblages

In some circumstances, a further selection process may take place at the instigation of Colchester Museums before they accept the archive.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

All material will be collected on site and returned to the office for specialist attention.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All de-selected material will be recorded in full and included in the report/publication and/or the digital archive. All de-selected material will be thrown away.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Materials Selection Template

This table may be inserted into Section 3 of the main [Selection Strategy Template](#) to help present differing selection strategies for different material types

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points

APPENDIX 2



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org or lp@catuk.org

Digital Management Plan

Section 1: Project Administration

Project ID / OASIS ID
CAT Project Code: 2025/09h ECC project number: ECC4923 OASIS ID: colchest3-538488
Project Name
Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Lion House, Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL
Project Description
Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in advance of the construction new lion house, an external holding area, 24-hour paddock, various smaller animal housing and paddocks, a café, toilet block, viewing areas and associated hard and soft landscaping.
Project Funder / Grant reference
Colchester Zoological Society
Project Managers
Adam Wightman (Director of Archaeology), Chris Lister (Director, Business Operations), Howard Brooks (Senior Associate) and Laura Pooley (Post-Excavation Manager)
Principal Investigator / Researcher
Project Officer (to be determined)
Data Contact Person
Laura Pooley
Date DMP created
18/11/2025
Date DMP last updated
18/11/2025
Version
V1
Related data management policies
Data Management Policy, Colchester Archaeological Trust (in preparation) ClfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2020) ADS Guides to Good Practice (https://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Main) Museums Essex, Archaeological Archives in Essex: Guidelines for preparation and deposition (2022)

Section 2: Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?

The table below provides a summary of the data types, formats and estimated archive volume for data collected/created as part of this project. As the project progresses, more detail regarding files will be added to this DMP.

Type	Format	Estimated volume (data archive)
Text / documents	Word/Open Office document (.doc) or (.odt) PDF (.pdf) or (.pdfa)	20 objects (size <100MB) (Project brief, WSI, report, figures, context data)
Spreadsheets	Excel (.xlsx)	Specialist data tables (x1) Metadata tables (x4)
Images	Lossy graphic file (.jpg)	Archive shots <150, av size 7KB
Images	Lossless graphic file (.tiff)	Report figures (<5)
CAD	.dxf	1 object, 51KB

How will the data be collected or created?

Data standards/methods

Standard methods of data collection will be applied throughout the project. In general, data acquisition standards are defined against ADS Guides to Good Practice.

Methods of collection are specified within the Colchester Archaeological Trust Data Management Policy (in preparation) and will meet the requirement set out in the Project Brief and relevant CIfA Standards and guidance.

Where appropriate, project contributors external to the organisation will be required to include data standards, collection methodology and metadata with individual reports and data.

Data storage/file naming

The working project archive will be stored in a project specific folder on the internal server. The internal organisation server is backed up daily to maintain an up-to-date security copy of the organisation wide data.

Project folders are named following established organisational procedures.

Data collected will be downloaded and raw data will be stored in the appropriate folder.

File naming conventions will follow established organisational procedures based on ADS file naming guidance.

All files included as part of this project archive will include the Site ID (-) and file descriptor (eg Brief).

Quality assurance

All site records and data collected will be reviewed during project delivery to ensure data is accurate and secure.

Data collection and management are reviewed regularly. This includes a review of internal project folders to ensure our organisational data management standards are being met.

Section 3: Documentation and metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

The digital data collected will include standard formats which maximise opportunities for use and reuse in the future (see Section 2, above).

A Collection Level Metadata Summary is included in all standard archaeological projects and will be completed as the project is delivered. A working copy will be kept on the organisational server in the Project Folder. The Collection Level Metadata Summary brings together the overarching project details and includes a register of data types and number of objects included in the archive, along with all other archive components.

Metadata tables for each data type will be populated as the project progresses and will use the standard format for each data type as recommended by ADS, who are the intended repository for the digital data archive.

Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project Brief, Museum Deposition Guidelines and Digital Repository Guidelines.

An archive catalogue documenting both physical and/or digital archive products will be maintained and submitted with both the Museum and/or Trusted Digital Repository.

Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance

How will you manage any ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

CAT has a GDPR compliant Privacy Policy which underpins the management of personal data; any personal data is securely stored in password protected files and not retained on the project specific folders.

Personal data will be removed from the archaeological project archive and permission to include individual's names in any reporting is gained prior to use.

Copyright for all data collected by the project team belongs to the organisation, and formal permission to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor.

Section 5: Data Security: Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored, accessed and backed up during the research?

Digital data will be stored on the organisational server which is backed up daily.

Sufficient data storage space is available via the organisational server and is accessible by staff on and offsite through a secure log-in.

Off-site access to the project files on the organisation's server is provided to support back-up of raw data while fieldwork is ongoing. Where internet access for data back-up is not possible, the raw data will be backed up to a separate media device (such as laptop and portable external hard drive) or downloaded onto the server at the end of each day.

Project files will be copied and shared with external specialists and contractors as necessary, the originals being kept on the organisation server and replaced with any subsequent versions.

Section 6: Selection and Preservation

Which data should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

The DMP will be reviewed and updated, if necessary, as the project proceeds. Updated documentation will be included in all reporting stages.

Prior to deposition, the DMP will be updated and finalised in agreement with all project stakeholders (including the Local Planning Archaeologist, Client, Museum, ADS).

Selection will be informed by the Colchester Archaeological Trust Data Management Policy, defined against the research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project

results.

The project will be published as an online technical report (accessible via CAT Online Report Library (<https://catuk.org/report-group/cat/>), OASIS and as part of this the archive), with full access to research data.

The project results may provide new research data which can be included in the Historic Environment Record.

The data archive will be ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this DMP.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, which is a certified repository with Core Trust Seal.

The archive will be prepared for deposition by the project team and the costs for the time needed for preparation, and the cost of deposition have been included in the project budget.

Have you contacted the data repository?

The Archaeological Advisor, Colchester City Council (CCCAA) has confirmed that the digital archive component should be deposited with a trusted digital repository, with a copy also being supplied to the depositing museum.

ADS have not yet been contacted as the intended repository for digital data.

Have the costs of archiving been fully considered?

A costing estimate has been produced using the ADS Costing Calculator and sufficient resources to cover these costs, and to allow for the preparation of the archive, have been included in the project budget.

Section 7: Data Sharing

How will you share the data and make it accessible?

A summary of the project has been included on the OASIS Index of Archaeological Investigation and will be updated as the project progresses.

The investigations are likely to result in a number of documents: Brief, WSI, Final Report

The final report is expected to be completed within 6 months of the completion of fieldwork.

As the project progresses reports will be attached to the project OASIS record.

A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record via OASIS, and any data which they request can also be provided directly.

The location(s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be added to OASIS when appropriate.

The ADS will disseminate the digital elements of the Archaeological Archive online under a creative commons licence and the dataset will receive a unique identifier (DOI).

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

It is not expected that there will be any restrictions on data sharing.

Any data specific requirements, ethical issues or embargoes which are linked to particular data formats will be documented within the relevant metadata tables accompanying the project archive.

Section 8: Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for implementing the data management plan?

The Director of Archaeology (Adam Wightman) and Post-Excavation Manager (Laura Pooley) are responsible for implementing the DMP, and ensuring it is reviewed and revised as necessary.

Data capture, metadata production and data quality are the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Excavation and Post-excavation Managers.

Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.

Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by the organisation.

Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Post-excavation Manager, who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-538488

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-538488
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation of the new lion enclosure, Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL: November 2025
Sitename	Lion House, Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL
Sitecode	ECC4923
Project Identifier(s)	2025/09h
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	242219
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	24-Nov-2025 - 25-Nov-2025
Location	Lion House, Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0SL NGR : TL 94785 21790 LL : 51.8606858841651, 0.827351731093253 12 Fig : 594785,221790
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Stanway
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) was carried out at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, Essex in advance of the construction of a new lion enclosure and associated works. Colchester Zoo is located close to sites of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman date, some of national significance. Evaluation revealed six features. Two ditches represent the remains of a post-medieval field boundary ditch that is visible on the 1st edition OS map of 1874. Other features include a 19th-century pit, possible medieval pit/silt patch, an undated gully and an undated pit. Sherds of medieval pottery could be related to medieval activity in the hamlet of Heckfordbridge and three worked flints attest to prehistoric activity in the Roman River valley.
Keywords	Boundary Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Lithic Implement - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Vessel - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Vessel - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Vessel - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation Colchester Zoological Society
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD

Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4923
Archives	Physical Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection); Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

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