



Maldon Road Roundabout Scheme, Colchester, Essex

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report

February 2017

Client: Anglian Water

Issue No: 1

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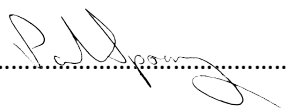
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Maldon Road Roundabout Scheme, Colchester, Essex

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report

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*With contributions from Zoe Ui Choileain MA MSc BABAO and
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Summary

Between the 30th of October and the 1st of December 2017, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted a programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording during water pipe replacement works by Anglian Water at the site of Maldon Road Roundabout, Colchester (TL 9921 2489). Two pipe trenches, measuring 0.5m wide and 70m and 40m long, were monitored to the south and northwest of the roundabout. Additionally, two connection point pits, measuring 3.3m x 3.3m, were monitored within the north-western part of the roundabout itself.

Despite the location of the works being within an area of high archaeological interest, no archaeological features of any kind were observed during the monitoring. This is due to the high volume of made ground deposits that had resulted from the construction of the road and roundabout. Consequently, any archaeological features or horizons that were present would have been eradicated by the building works.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Anglian Water for commissioning this project, especially Jo Everitt and Chris Bretton. Thanks is also extended to Jess Tipper who monitored the work on behalf of Colchester County Council for their advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Matthew Brudenell. The fieldwork was undertaken by Neal Mason and Paddy Lambert. The graphics were prepared by David Brown. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell. Katherine Hamilton prepared the archive.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake a programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at the site of Maldon Road Roundabout, Colchester (TL 9921 2489, Fig.1) during the laying of new water pipes.
- 1.1.2 The scheme involved the laying of replacement water mains through and around the Maldon Road Roundabout, Colchester (TL 9921 2489; Fig. 1). To the south of the roundabout, on the verge opposite Kayla Court, a pipe was laid in a c. 55m long open-cut trench. To the northwest, a second new pipe was laid in a c. 10m long open-cut trench, stretching from the northern half of the roundabout, across the road to the pavement adjacent to Priory Court. In addition to these trenches, two connection point pits, both measuring 3.3m by 3.3m, were excavated in the northern half of the roundabout.
- 1.1.3 The scope of work was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by OA (Brudenell 2017), and prepared on behalf of Anglian Water in response to advice issued by Dr Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council.
- 1.1.4 This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements of the WSI.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located at the Maldon Road (A134) Roundabout, within the historic core of Colchester, Essex. The roundabout forms part of the inner relief road and the intersection between Maldon Road, Lexden Road, Southway and Balkerne Hill (the A134, A1124 and B1022).
- 1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as clay, silt, sand and gravel of The Thames Group. This is overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravels of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site rests at c. 30m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following provides a brief summary of the relevant archaeological and historical assets within the immediate proximity of the roundabout. The account given here is taken from the WSI (Brudenell, 2017), drawing on data from the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER), the location of selected sites, findspots and other heritage assets discussed here are plotted on Fig. 2.

Romano-British

- 1.3.2 The vast majority of archaeological remains in the area relate to activity during the Roman period and the roundabout lies little more than 100m south of the legionary fortress at Colchester (MCC477), established soon after the Roman conquest, and the walled town that replaced it, probably in the later first century AD (MCC859). A Roman building was reported to have been found within the area of the roundabout itself in the 1920s (MCC4855), although subsequent excavation in 1971 found only post-

medieval and later pit pits (see below). More substantive remains of structures were found c. 40m west of the roundabout during excavations at Maldon Road in 1971 (MCC463). These revealed evidence for 1st to 3rd century activity, with walls, foundations and floors. Further structures were found c. 30m south-east of the roundabout (MCC8413), including a small post-built Late Roman building (MCC489) and a Late Roman apsidal church, first recorded in 1845 (MCC476). The church is located within a major late Roman Christian Cemetery (MCC481) with large number of inhumations and cremations recorded over a wide area west of Butt Road (e.g. MCC7967; MCC490; MCC480; MCC8106; MCC8608; MCB8448), with some graves just c. 20m east of the roundabout (MCC1375). A further Late Roman cemetery lies c.40 west of the roundabout (MCC462; MCC463; MCC8098, MC1811; MCC 2862).

Saxon

- 1.3.3 Evidence for Saxon activity is limited to finds of a possible spindle whorl (MCCN487) and heating tray sherds (MCC2872); both recovered from the Butt Road excavations between 1976-79, c. 90m south-east of the site.

Medieval

- 1.3.4 In 1971, trial excavations in the gardens of 22 Crouch Street – now within the footprint of Maldon Road Roundabout - revealed a group of four medieval and post-medieval pits (15th-16th century) beneath a c.1m deep accumulation of topsoil (MCC1346; MCC8585). The pit cut at least another metre of accumulated soil suggesting the presence of deeply stratified deposits at the site. The medieval church and monastery of the Crouched Friars (MCC472; MCC7985) lay c. 50m west of the site. The friary was established by 1251, with the house originating in the 12th or 13th century as a hospital and chapel founded by the Lords of Stanway. The complex included a church, churchyard, chapels, bell tower, cloister, precinct wall and priory buildings. A number of excavations and observation have recorded burials and foundations in the vicinity of 32-46 Crouch Street (MCC468; MCC2790; MCC2860).

2 MONITORING AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aim of the investigation is to preserve by record any archaeological evidence revealed within the areas of groundworks.

2.1.2 When/if archaeology was encountered, the investigation had the following aims:

- i. To establish the nature, form, and purpose of any archaeological deposits
- ii. Establish the impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits (e.g. colluvial/alluvial deposits)
- iii. Recover artefacts to assist in the development the dating of deposits

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The large proportion of the ground works associated with the excavation of Pipe Trenches (PTs) 1-2 and Connection Pits (CPs) 1-2 were monitored by an archaeologist.

2.2.2 A metal detector survey using a Garrett ACE250 detector was conducted over all the spoil removed during the monitoring.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the monitoring and recording are presented below. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data is presented in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence between all excavated areas was irregular. In the PTs, the natural geology was not observed. The deepest deposits exposed comprised of a probably fuel contaminated dark silty clay, this was overlain by a homogenous mixture of made ground and redeposited gravels. This in turn was overlain by a layer of turf.

3.2.2 The soil sequence in the CPs, located on the roundabout, was similarly irregular and mixed. In the deepest of the CPs, CP 2, the natural geology of sand and gravel was exposed, and was overlain by a homogenous mixture of redeposited sandy gravel and made ground, comprising large concrete slabs and very common CBM and brick fragments. This was overlain by a layer of turf. In CP 1 the natural geology was not exposed and only the made ground and turf deposits were recorded.

3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the monitoring were generally good, and the excavations remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, if present, would have been easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits (Fig. 1)

3.3.1 There were no archaeological features observed in any of the PTs and CPs during the monitoring. The metal detecting survey yielded only modern material. The animal bone and oyster shell is discussed in Appendix B.

3.4 PT 1

3.4.1 PT 1 (Plate 1) was 55.4m long, 0.5m wide and cut to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench ran from the north-west side of Maldon Road and ran across the road to the south-east parallel to the route of the roundabout.

3.4.2 The trench contained three deposits. A layer of turf (1) measuring 0.15m overlay a thick deposit of made ground (2), measuring 0.45m and comprising mid grey brown silt, with patches of redeposited natural gravel and sand, and frequent CBM inclusions. A single animal bone (26g) was recovered from this deposit. Underlying this was a similar made ground deposit (3), comprising a yellowish brown silty sand with moderate gravel inclusions and common CBM inclusions, and measuring 0.35m thick. The lowest deposit (4) comprised a dark black sandy silt, with very frequent modern brick and redeposited natural gravel throughout. This deposit is highly likely to be contaminated, due to the strong smell of fuel that was noted during excavation. The natural geology was not observed.

3.5 PT 2

- 3.5.1 To the north-west of PT 1, PT 2 stretched from the northern half of the roundabout across the road to the pavement around Priory Court. It measured 10.3m long and 0.5m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.0m.
- 3.5.2 The deposits were closely comparable to those recorded in PT 1, with only minor differences noted in the frequency of the CBM inclusions. The same context numbers have been ascribed to these deposits.

3.6 CP 1

- 3.6.1 CP 1 (Plate 2) was located inside the roundabout, facing the A134. It measured 3.3m x 3.3m and it was excavated to a total depth of 1.30m. It contained a single deposit. A layer of turf (5) measuring 0.15m thick overlay a thick homogenised deposit of dark yellowish brown made ground (6), comprising redeposited natural gravel and sands and frequent modern brick inclusions throughout. It measured 1.05m thick.

3.7 CP 2

- 3.7.1 CP 2 (Plate 3) was located inside the roundabout, to the north-west facing the A134. It measured 3.3 x 3.3m and was excavated to a depth of 3.7m. It contained two deposits; a layer of turf (5), measuring 0.20m thick, overlying a thick deposit of made ground (8), measuring 1.7m thick made up of a dark blackish brown sandy gravel, with frequent large concrete slabs, modern brick and pieces of iron wire (Plate 4). A single animal bone (5g) and an oyster shell was recovered from the made ground. This overlay the natural geology of sandy gravel (9), encountered at a depth of 1.90m.

3.8 Finds summary

- 3.8.1 A total of three finds were recovered during the investigation. From deposit (2) in PT 1, a single animal bone (26g) was recovered. This was recovered from a modern made ground deposit and is considered unstratified. From deposit (8) from CP 2, a single animal bone (5g) and an oyster shell (11g) were recovered. These were also recovered from a modern made ground deposit, and can be regarded as unstratified.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The weather was dry throughout the investigation, with good light and dry ground conditions.
- 4.1.2 The narrowness of the aperture of the PT's may have obscured archaeological features. It is reasonable to assume that the made ground and has eradicated any archaeology that may have been present.
- 4.1.3 CP 2 had already been excavated to its full extent prior to arrival and shoring had been placed against the sections. A visual inspection of the excavated spoil taken from the pit showed a composition of made ground and natural sand and gravel (Plate 3). The spoil was also subjected to a metal detector survey, yielding only modern iron fragments.
- 4.1.4 The results are deemed to have a good level of reliability.

4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 Although the immediate vicinity of the roundabout has a high potential for Roman remains, the investigation at Maldon Road roundabout produced no archaeological features. The continued and heavy disturbance during the construction of Maldon road and the roundabout has almost certainly destroyed any archaeological remains that may have been present. This is evident in the thick made ground deposits that were present in all the excavated sections.
- 4.2.2 Although finds were recovered, manifested in the form of animal bones and an oyster shell, these are deemed residual and are a result of the disturbance.

4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The investigation suggests that there is no potential for archaeological remains within the immediate vicinity of Maldon road roundabout, and the associated roadways.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Pipe Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of turf overlying homogenized deposits of made ground.					Length (m)	55.4
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	1.2
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Turf	-	-
2	Deposit	-	0.45	Made ground	Animal bone	-
3	Deposit	-	0.35	Made ground	-	-
4	Deposit	-	0.25	Made Ground	-	-

Pipe Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of turf overlying deposits of made ground.					Length (m)	10.3
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	1.00
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.17	Turf	-	-
2	Deposit	-	0.40	Made ground	-	-
3	Deposit	-	0.53	Made ground	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Connection Pit 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of turf overlying made ground.					Length (m)	3.3
					Width (m)	3.3
					Avg. depth (m)	1.20
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5	Layer	-	0.15	Turf	-	-
6	Layer	-	1.05	Made ground	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Connection Pit 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of turf and made ground overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	3.3
					Width (m)	3.3
					Avg. depth (m)	3.7
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5	Layer	-	0.20	Turf	-	-
8	Layer	-	1.70	Made ground	-	-
9	Layer	-	1.80	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

B.1 Animal Bone and Shell

By Zoe Ui Choileain

Introduction

- B.1.1 31g grams of animal bone and a single oyster shell weighing 11g were recorded from two contexts. Context (2) contained two fragments of long bone (26g) from a large mammal. Context (8) contained a femur (5g) from a medium-sized mammal and an oyster shell (11g). Both epiphyses of the femur were missing and the bone was singed. The bone is in good condition although fragmented. Given its recovery from modern deposits and the limited information that be can be recorded from this material it is recommended that the material is dispersed.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brudenell, M, 2017, Maldon Road Roundabout Colchester WSI, Oxford Archaeology East

APPENDIX D OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-276052		
Project Name	Maldon Road Roundabout, Colchester		
Start of Fieldwork	30-10-2017	End of Fieldwork	01-12-2017
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XEXMRC17	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER Number	ECC3949	Related Numbers	

Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Development Type	Infrastructure works – Water pipeline replacement
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
None	None	Bone	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Essex	Address (including Postcode) Maldon Rd Roundabout, Colchester CO3 3GE
District	Colchester	
Parish	Wivenhoe	
HER office	Colchester	
Size of Study Area	11.2 HA	
National Grid Ref	TL 9921 2489	

Project Originators

Organisation	OAE
Project Brief Originator	Jess Tipper

Project Design Originator	Matthew Brudenell
Project Manager	Matthew Brudenell
Project Supervisor	Paddy Lambert & Neil Mason

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Not applicable
Digital Archive	OAE	XEXMRC17
Paper Archive	Colchester and Ipswich Museums	TBA

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media

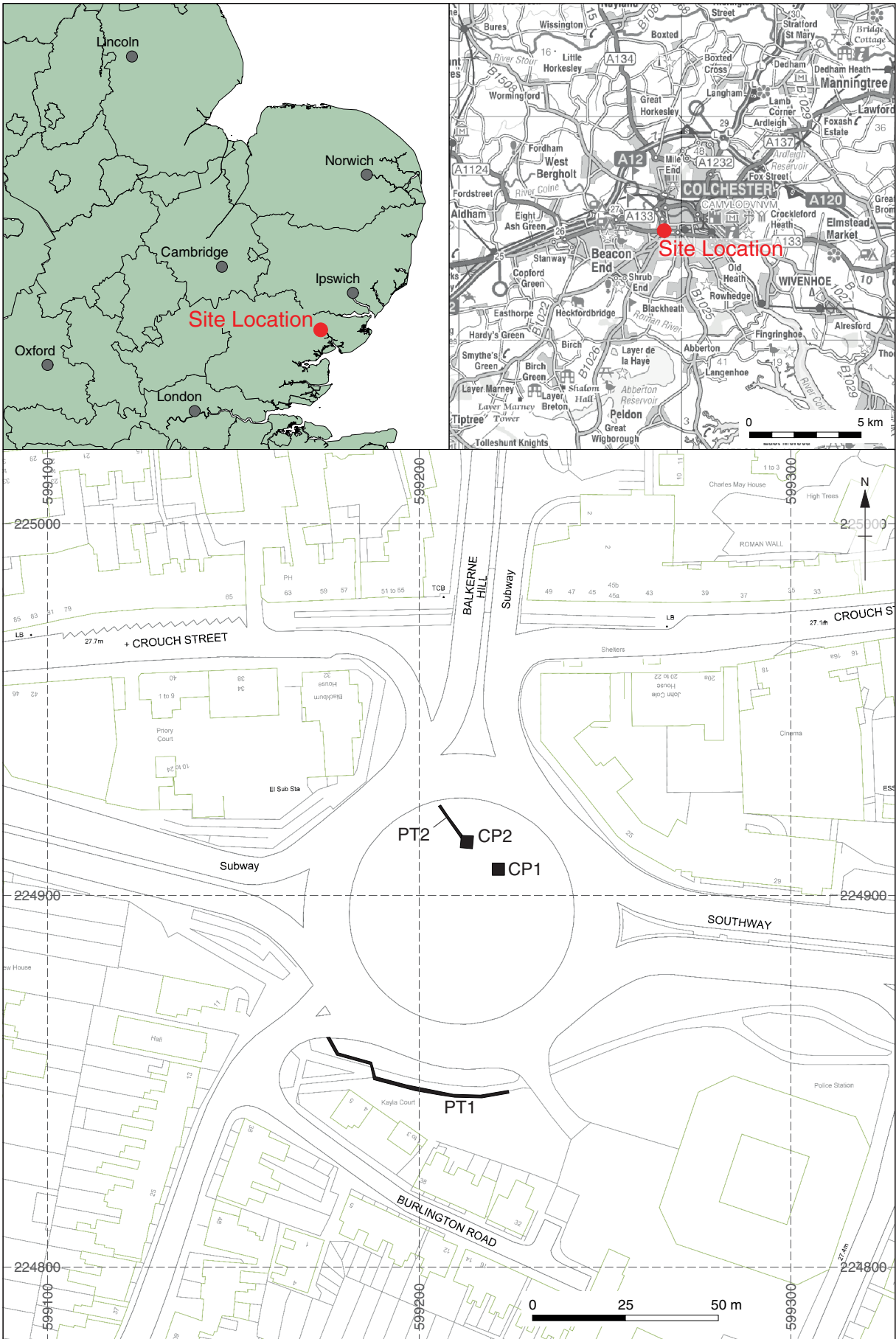
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Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments

Accession number to be acquired.



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Figure 1: Site location showing connection pits (CP) and pipe trenches (PT)



Figure 2: Main heritage assets immediately surrounding Maldon Road roundabout



Plate 1: PT 1 looking south-east



Plate 2: CP 1 looking north-west



Plate 3: CP 2 looking north-west



Plate 4: Made ground spoil from Pipe Trenches 2 and 3



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