

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EU

January 2016



by **Laura Pooley**
illustrations by **Mark Baister and Emma Holloway**

fieldwork by **Ben Holloway**

on behalf of **Zoe Stockwell**

Planning reference: 146253
CAT project ref.: 16/01e
NGR: TL 9630 2387
Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.8
UAD ref: ECC3656
OASIS reference: colchest3-238606



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CAT Report 912
January 2016

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1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester in advance of the construction of an extension to the rear of the property. Despite being located adjacent to Grymes Dyke Middle (Scheduled Monument 1019960) no features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 25th January 2016. The work was commissioned by Zoe Stockwell in advance of the construction of an extension to the rear of the property, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording (a watching brief)*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016)

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

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological significance. It is adjacent to Grymes Dyke Middle, Scheduled Monument 1019960 (EHER 11637), and close to Dugard Dyke and Prettygate Dyke (EHER 11639). The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. This was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably of the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11*, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995).

In particular there have been trenches dug across Grymes Dyke Middle at two places to the south of Peartree Road (*ibid* 109-116). Excavation prior to a housing development in the area of Oaklands Avenue and Dugard Avenue in the 1970s also involved the examination of parts of Kidman's Dyke (EHER 11630), of several ditches which converge on the entrance through Grymes Dyke (EHER 12537, 12544), and the Roman Road which passes through the same entrance (*ibid*, 107-109).

Archaeological discoveries in the surrounding area include Iron Age field systems (EHER 11813, 12662-3) located between Grymes Dyke and Triple Dyke to the east (CAR 11). In addition, a Bronze Age cremation urn was found in the 1960s approximately 200m to the southeast on Dugard Avenue (EHER 11814).

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

The footprint of the new extension was reduced by 150mm which involved the removal of an pre-existing patio to reveal modern topsoil (L1). The foundation trenches were then excavated. They measured 450mm wide and 1-1.3m deep, and were dug through modern topsoil (L1, c 200mm thick), sealing an accumulation horizon (L2, c 300mm thick, undated), which sealed natural sand/gravel (L3).

An area of disturbance was recorded in the foundations on the northwest corner of the extension. This had been caused by modern services and a manhole. No archaeological features or finds were identified in the trenches.

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were present.

6 Discussion

Despite being located within an area of archaeological significance and close to Grymes Dyke Middle, no archaeological features or finds were identified.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Zoe Stockwell for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway. Site plans were prepared by M Baister. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

8 References

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

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	1995	Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11, by Hawkes, C. F.C., and Crummy, P
CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording (a watching brief) at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EU</i>
CBCPS	2016	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EU</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i> (Colchester & Ipswich Museums)
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i> (Colchester & Ipswich Museums)

DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)
Hawkes, C.F.C., and Hull, M.R.	1947	<i>Camulodunum</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CM	Colchester Museum
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 912)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2016.8.

Distribution list

Zoe Stockwell

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 28/1/2016

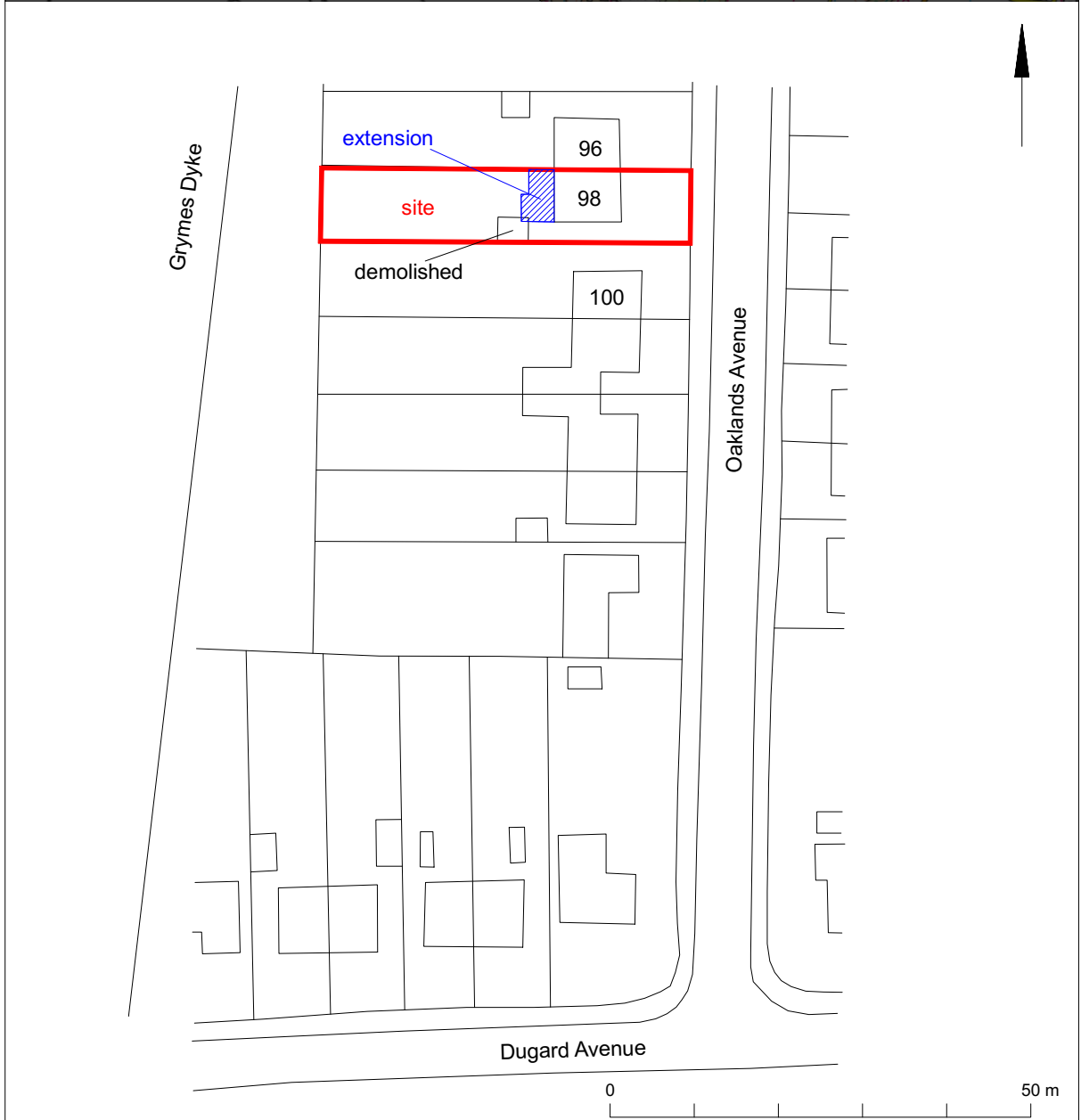
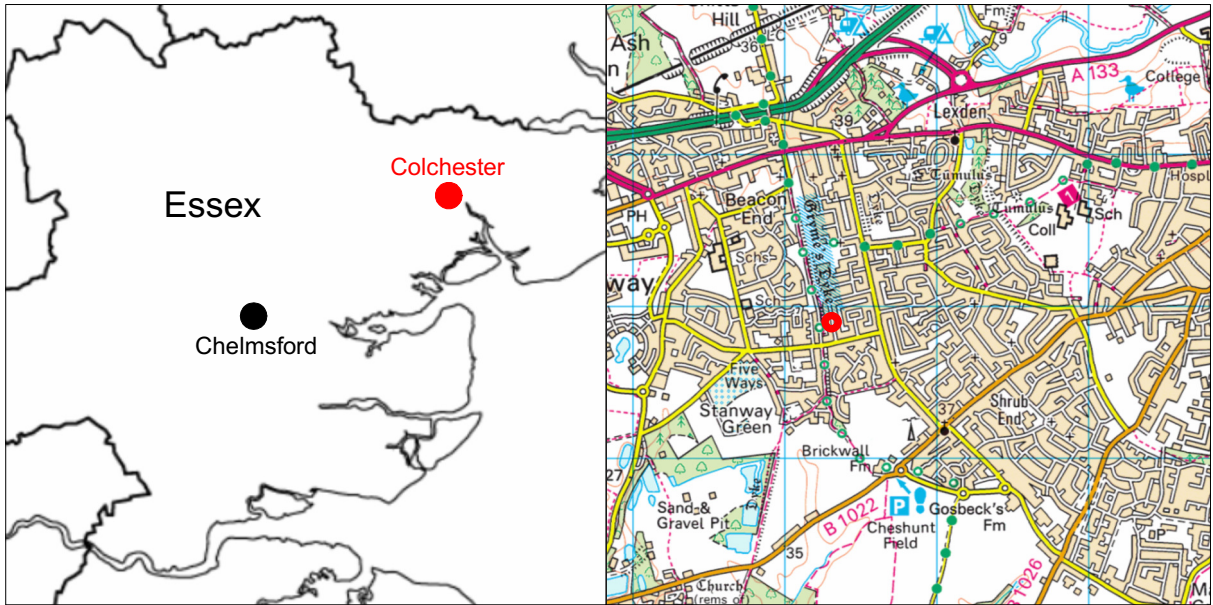


Fig 1 Site location.

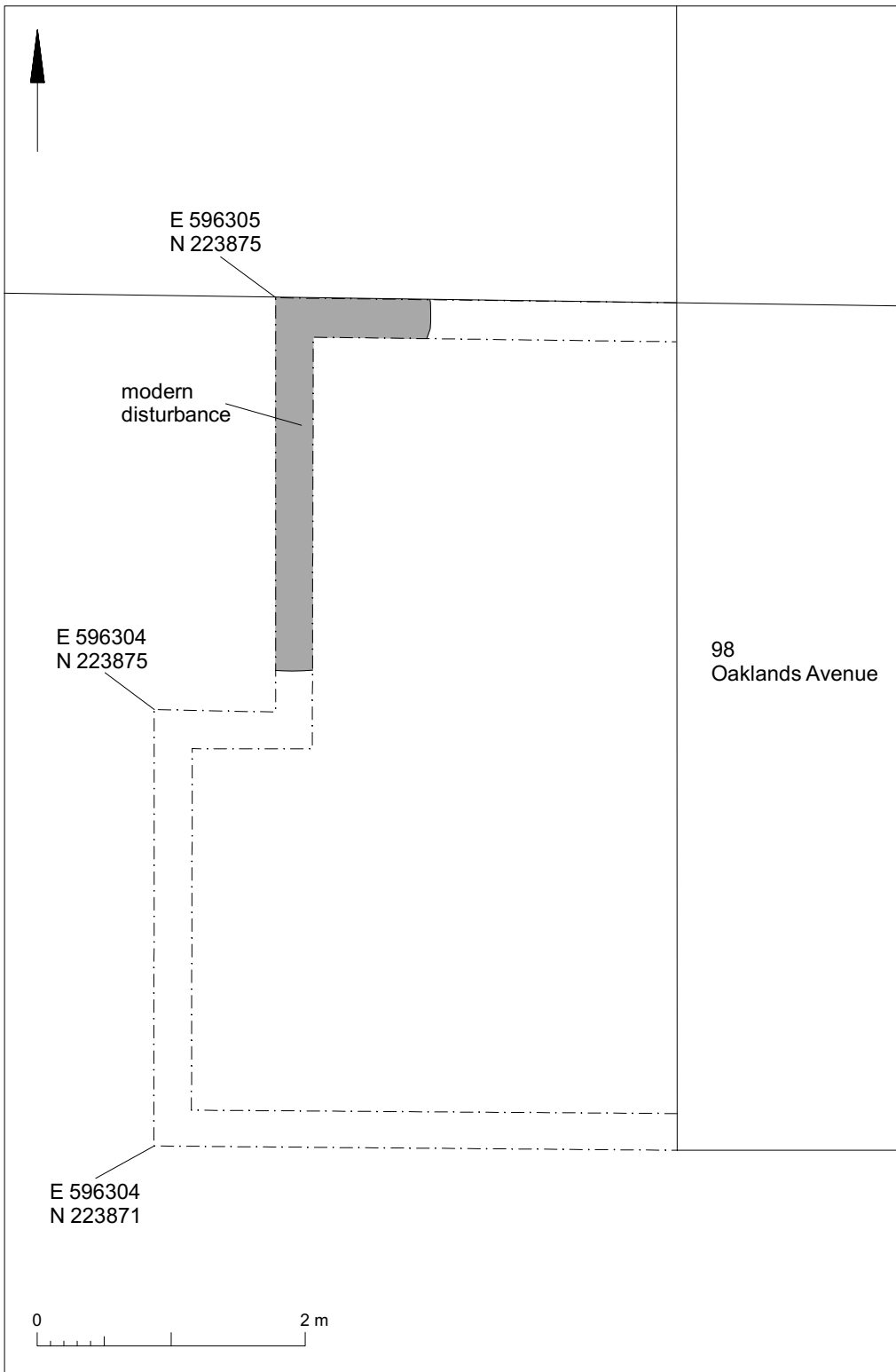


Fig 2 Monitoring results.

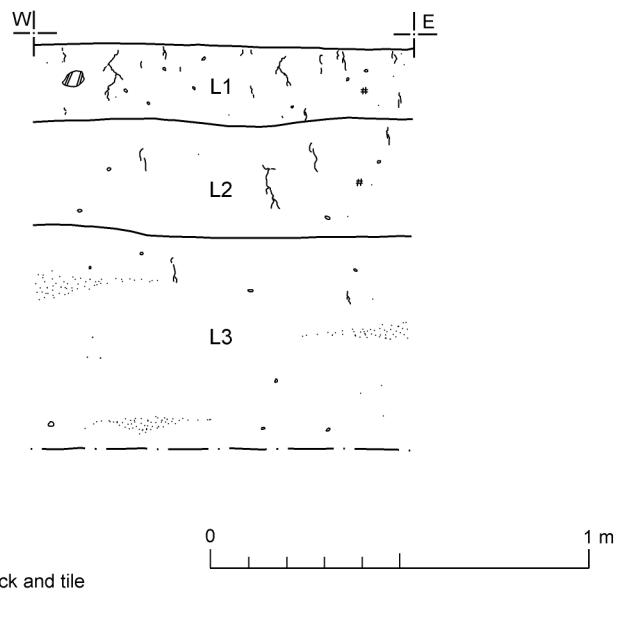


Fig 3 Section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EU	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9630 2387	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/01e UAD ref: ECC3656 OASIS ref: colchest3-238606
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 25th January 2016	Size of area investigated: Total size of area 25m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.8	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 11630, 11637, 11639, 11813, 11814, 12537, 12544, 12662-3,
Final report: CAT Report 912	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester in advance of the construction of an extension to the rear of the property. Despite being located adjacent to Grymes Dyke Middle (Scheduled Monument 1019960) no features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: January 2016

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-238606

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, CO3 9EU
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester in advance of the construction of an extension to the rear of the property. Despite being located adjacent to Grymes Dyke Middle (Scheduled Monument 1019960) no features or finds of archaeological significance were identified.
Project dates	Start: 25-01-2016 End: 25-01-2016
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/01e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	146253 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.8 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3656 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, CO3 9EU
 Postcode CO3 9EU
 Study area 25 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 9630 2387 51.878270185888 0.852241094857 51 52 41 N 000 51 08 E Point

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.8
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.8
 Paper Media available "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Miscellaneous Material"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EU: January 2016
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.

Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 912
Date	2016
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Place of issue or publication	Colchester
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URL	http://www.cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html
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Entered on	28 January 2016

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:lp@catuk.org) for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=240827> for this page

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9EU

NGR: TL 9630 2387 (centre)

Planning references: 146253

Client: Zoe Stockwell

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2016.8

UAD Event number: ECC3656

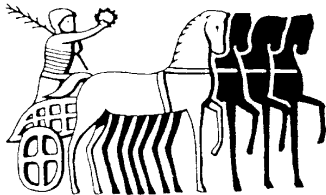
CAT Project code: 16/01e

OASIS project number: colchest3-238606

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 15-01-2016



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Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies approximately 3 miles west of Colchester Town Centre between Straight Road and Dugard Avenue (Fig 1). Site centre is TL 9630 2387.

Proposed work

The development comprises a part single storey and part two-storey extension to form a kitchen/dining room and bathroom.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological significance. It is adjacent to Grymes Dyke Middle, Scheduled Monument 1019960 (EHER 11637), and close to Dugard Dyke and Prettygate Dyke (EHER 11639). The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. This was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably of the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11*, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995).

In particular there have been trenches dug across Grymes Dyke Middle at two places to the south of Peartree Road: *ibid* 109-116). Excavation prior to a housing development in the area of Oaklands Avenue and Dugard Avenue in the 1970s also involved the examination of parts of Kidman's Dyke (EHER 11630), of several ditches which converge on the entrance through Grymes Dyke (EHER 12537, 12544), and the Roman Road which passes through the same entrance (*ibid*, 107-109).

Archaeological discoveries in the surrounding area include Iron Age field systems (EHER 11813, 12662-3) located between Grymes Dyke and Triple Dyke to the east (*CAR 11*). In addition, a Bronze Age cremation urn was found in the 1960s approximately 200m to the southeast on Dugard Avenue (EHER 11814).

Planning Background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2015 (application Nos.146253) proposing the erection of a part single storey and part two storey extension to form a kitchen/dining room and bathroom.

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

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work is for a trenched evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (CBC 2016).

Specifically:

The archaeological work will comprise continuous monitoring and recording of all groundworks. The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

General Methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Briefs issued by the CBCAO (CBC 2015).

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 CBCAO 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 work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. 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 officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

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

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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

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

Site surveying

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 and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, 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 license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

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

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

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

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

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

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

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

Results

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

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

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

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- 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 and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

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

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

Archive Deposition

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring

CBCAO 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 CBCAO one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAO prior to them being carried out. CBCAO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 11	1995	Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11 , by Hawkes, C. F.C., and Crummy, P
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CBC	2015	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 98 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, CO3 9EU: January 2016</i>
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ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
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CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i> (Colchester & Ipswich Museums)
David Gurney	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
Hawkes, C.F.C., and Hull, M.R.	1947	<i>Camulodunum</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14

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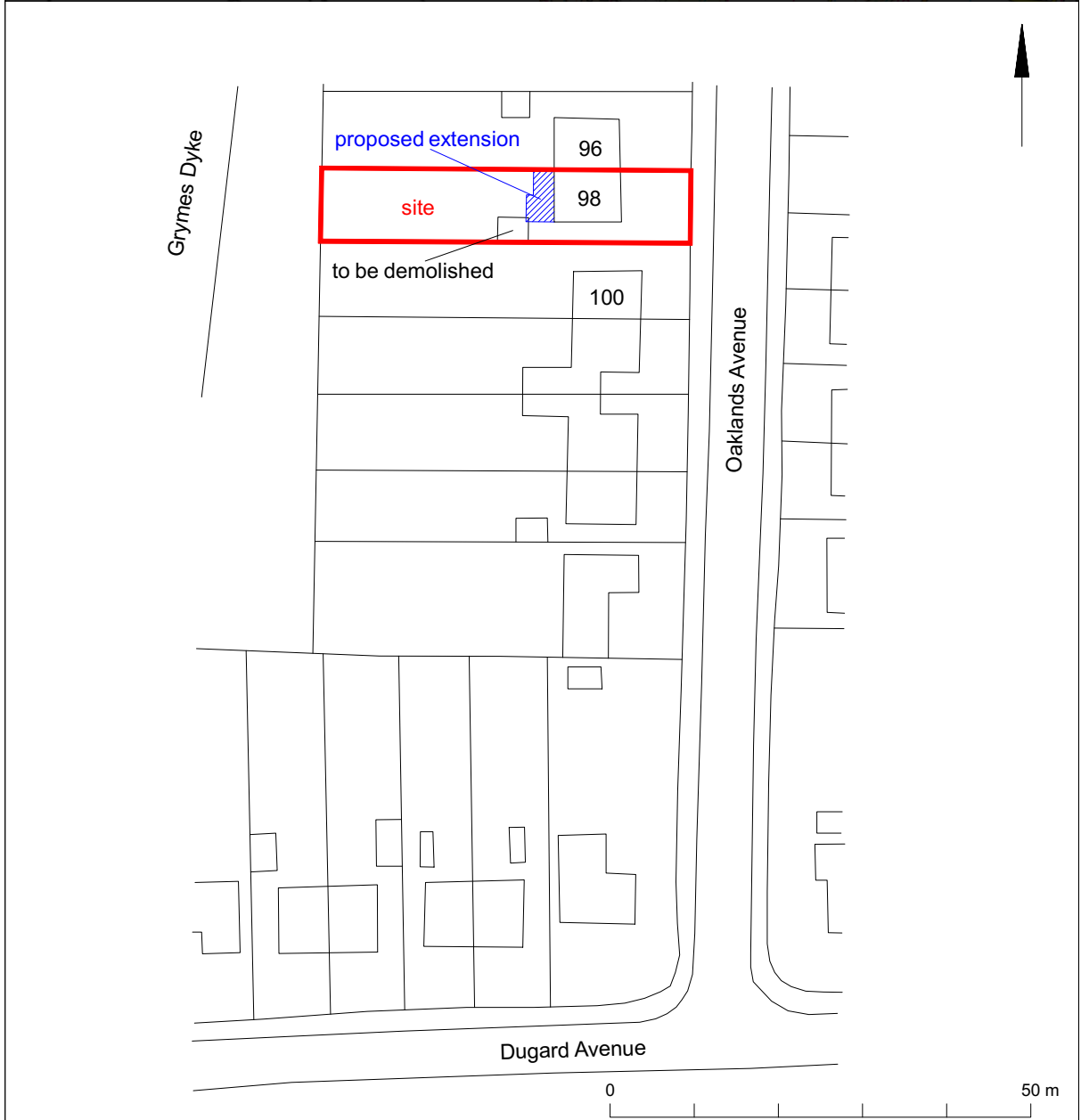
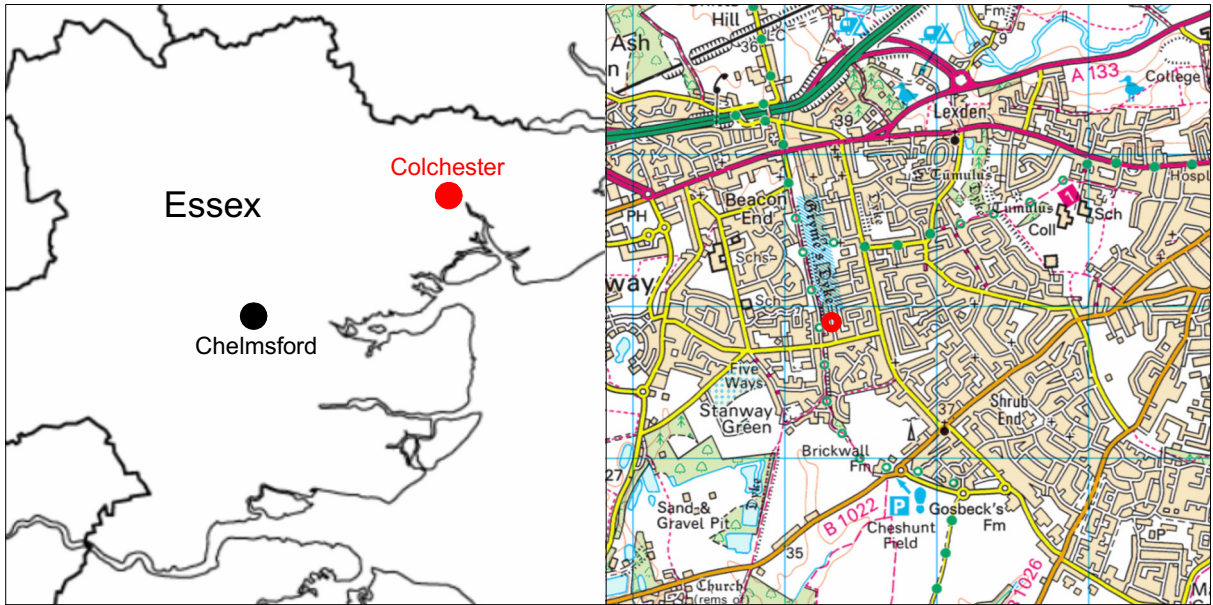


Fig 1 Site location.