

**Report on a watching brief
by the Castle Park café
November 2000**

**on behalf of
Colchester Borough Council**

CAT project code: **00/10c**
Museum accession number: **2000.151**



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CAT Report 102

Reason for the work: erection of a telephone box

Officer: Kate Orr

NGR: TL 9993 2547

Report

The site is part of the scheduled ancient monument of Colchester Castle Park.

19th October 2000

The first visit was made to watch a hole being excavated for a telephone box to be situated 10.6m north of the café. The hole was being dug in a tarmac area that may already have been built on before. The park ranger informed me that it was likely to be made-up ground.

The dimensions of the hole were 1.4m x 1.4m. After the 25mm layer of tarmac was taken off, a hole 100mm deep was dug by hand. The only layer encountered was the sub-base for the tarmac. The soil was not reached. A few pieces of fairly modern brick were contained within the sub-base including one piece of Old English Red.

A very small hole was dug on the grass verge in order to connect the cable. This went down to the same depth as the other hole. There were no finds from this soil.

3rd November

A second visit was made when the trench for the telephone cable trench was being dug. A 125mm-deep, 100mm-wide and 8.5m-long trench was dug by hand between the new telephone box to 2.1m north of the café. This was dug outside the tarmac area, along a hedge boundary, into a sandy loam topsoil. The soil changed to clay further to the south.

The soil contained fragments of modern brick, drain, asphalt and concrete. A fragment of the bowl of a clay pipe and a ceramic bottle-top were found and retained.

Summary

Negative.

Archive

The finds and this report will be deposited with Colchester Museum under accession number 2000.151.



Fig 1 Photograph before work on the base of the telephone box, looking south-west.



Fig 2 Photograph during work on the base of the telephone box, looking north-east.

Kate Orr
November 2000

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