

Report on the negative watching brief at Lexden tumulus, 30 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex

Site address: Lexden tumulus, 30 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex
Date of fieldwork: 6th-11th November 2003 and 16th March 2004
NGR: TL 975 247
Sketch attached?: yes
Museum accession: 2004.268
Report no: CAT Report 267

Archaeological background:

The site is on the edge of the Lexden tumulus (a scheduled ancient monument); for summary see Crummy 1997, pages 22-5.

Brief report:

1) November 2003

Observations made during the removal of a drainage pipe that ran along the west side of the tumulus (see figure). A tree bole was seen in section: in the 1970s, two of the Wellingtonia trees that surrounded the tumulus were removed, and this tree bole almost certainly dates from this time (see figure). In certain areas, part of the stratigraphy of the tumulus was also revealed. No other archaeological features were noted.

2) March 2004

Observations made during the planting of two new trees in the projected locations where the two Wellingtonia trees stood before they were removed in the 1970s (see figure). The first hole (far north) was approximately 50 cm wide/long and 50 cm deep and it was dug through modern backfill (L1) associated with the removal of the pipeline (November 2003). The second hole was also approximately 50 cm wide/long and 50 cm deep and it was dug through 5 cm of modern backfill (L1), 10-15 cm of turf (L2) and topsoil (L3), and a mid/light silty brown subsoil (L4). No archaeological features were noted.

Finds: None

References:

Crummy, P, 1997, *City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town*

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Report date: March 2004

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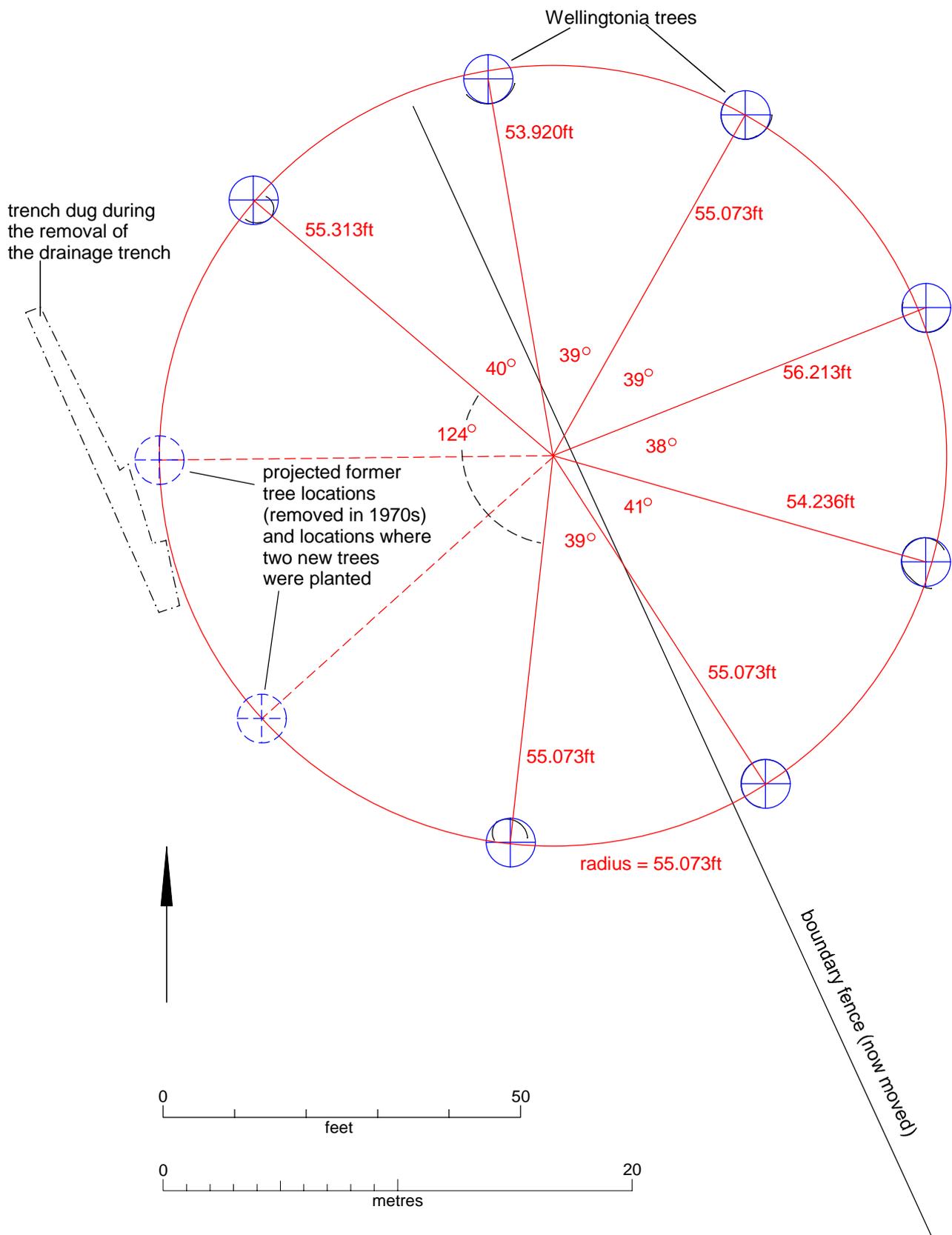


Fig 1 Plan of all the groundworks at Lexden Tumulus (November 2003 and March 2004).

**Essex Heritage Conservation Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site address: Lexden tumulus, 30 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 975 247	Site code:
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: March 2004	Size of area investigated: 1 small trench dug during the removal of an existing drainage pipe and two small holes to plant two new trees
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source:
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHCR nos: 11710, 11711, 11712
Final report: CAT Report 267	
Periods represented: None	
Summary of fieldwork results: A negative watching brief.	
Previous summaries/reports:	
Author of summary: L Pooley	Date of summary: March 2004