

Report on a negative watching brief CAT Report 334

Site address: 36 Fitzwalter Road, Colchester, Essex
Date of fieldwork: 5th-7th July 2005
NGR: TL 97510 24706
CBC brief?: Yes
Location plan attached?: Yes (Fig 1)
Museum accession code: 2005.68

Archaeological background:

The site is located in an area rich in archaeological remains, being within the area of the Roman Lexden cemetery. This cremation cemetery, which has never been fully published, was in use from the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD. Since the early 1900s, 27 vessels representing at least ten grave groups have been identified from an area approximately 75m across (*CAR 9*, 261, 265; *CAR 11*, 164-9).

The site lies next door to the Lexden tumulus (EHER no 1171; Fig 1), a burial mound which was excavated in 1924, resulting in the discovery of a rich Late Iron Age cremation dating to the late 1st century BC (Foster 1986). The tumulus is designated a scheduled ancient monument (Essex SAM no 29464).

The site lies within the Late Iron Age *oppidum* as defined by a system of defensive dykes on the western side of what was Camulodunum. One of these, the Lexden Dyke, extends to the south of the site. These major defensive features also date to the Late Iron Age (*CAR 11*, 29-33).

Brief report:

The watching brief was carried out during groundworks for front and rear extensions at 36 Fitzwalter Road (planning application no F/COL/05/0543). Three visits were made to view the soakaway trench in the rear garden, the foundation trenches for the sun-room at the rear, and the foundation trenches for the extension at the front. Natural sand and gravel was reached in all trenches but no archaeological features or finds were observed. The soakaway was 1.22m deep, with 260mm of topsoil sealing 240mm of sandy silt subsoil. Natural sand and gravel was reached at 500mm below ground-level. This soil profile was the same for the rear foundation trenches. At the front of the property, however, the natural was sealed by 500-600mm of modern make-up and there had been much disturbance from modern services.

Finds:

None.

References:

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| <i>CAR 9</i> | 1993 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations of Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester, 1971-88</i> , by N Cummy, P Crummy & C Crossan |
| <i>CAR 11</i> | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes & P Crummy |
| Foster, J | 1986 | <i>The Lexden tumulus: a reappraisal of an Iron Age burial from Colchester, Essex</i> , BAR, British Series, 156 |

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Report date: September 2005

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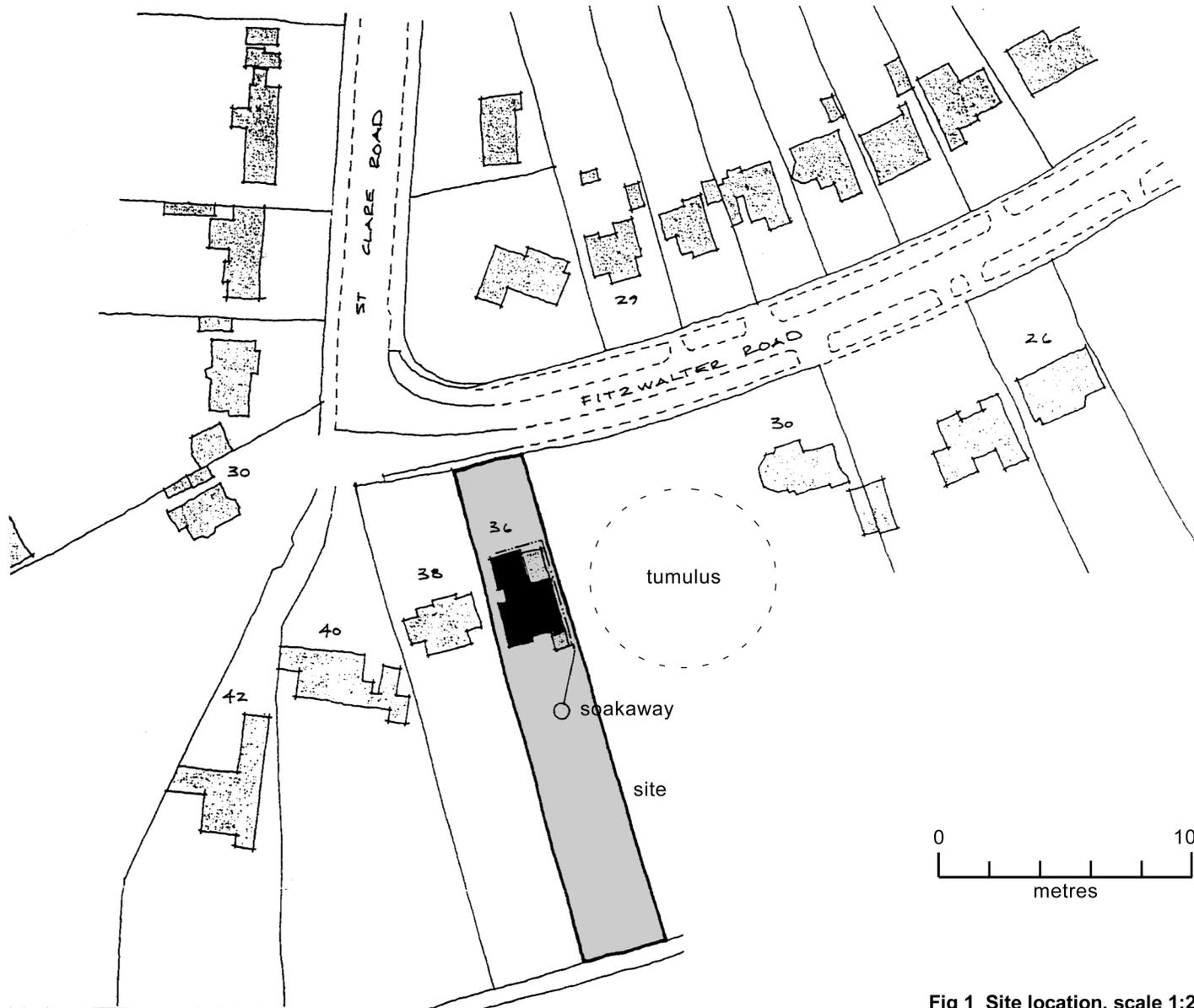


Fig 1 Site location, scale 1:2500.

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