

Report on a watching brief: CAT Report 387

Site address: 'Oaklyn', Kingsford, Layer Road, Colchester, Essex
Date of fieldwork: 13th-19th September 2006
NGR: TL 9750 2195 (c)
Scheduled Ancient Monument no: 57
CBC brief?: No
Location plan attached?: Yes (Fig 1)
Museum accession code: 2006.106
CAT reference code: 06/9c

Archaeological background:

The site is within the area known as Gosbecks, which comprises nationally important archaeological remains of the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. The area was the centre of Cunobelin's capital 'Camulodunum' (Cunobelin was the king of the local Catuvellauni tribe). It consisted of field systems criss-crossed by Iron Age droveways. Gosbecks was defended on its western and southern sides by a system of dykes. The focal point of Gosbecks was a large enclosure, to the west of the current site, which is thought to have been Cunobelin's farmstead. A small fort was constructed by the Roman army during the Claudian invasion; this lies to the north-west of the current site (off map). Subsequently the Romans built a religious complex to the east of the Iron Age settlement which included a Romano-British temple surrounded by a portico, plus a theatre and a road leading to the *colonia*. Knowledge of the site is based on an extensive aerial photographic record supported by evidence from some small excavations (CAT Reports 30, 45, 127; Hull 1958, 259-70; *CAR 11*, 95-105, 121-4).

Brief report:

Planning permission (LPA no F/COL/06/0366) and scheduled ancient monument consent were given to create a ménage for horses with surrounding rail post fence. The area stripped for the ménage measures 40m x 20m and is to the rear of the property named 'Oaklyn', in a horse paddock. Seven visits were made on five separate days by the author, Don Shimmin and Laura Pooley. The area was stripped to a depth of between 160mm in the south and 440mm in the north depending on the undulations of the ground. Some features became visible in the subsoil in the northern part of the site. On closer inspection, these features appeared to be natural. In the southern part of the site, nothing was visible as the topsoil had not been completely stripped off. Some modern finds were retrieved from the spoil heap plus one struck flint flake.

References:

- CAR 11*, 1995 *Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2*, by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT Report 30 Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-west area, 1998, unpublished CAT archive report, by S Benfield, 1998
CAT Report 45 Excavation at Gosbecks Archaeological Park 1999, unpublished CAT archive report, by Colin Austin, 1999
CAT Report 127 Excavations of late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, 1995-96, CAT archive report, by S Benfield, forthcoming
Hull, M R, 1958 *Roman Colchester*, RRCSAL, 20

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Report date: October 2006

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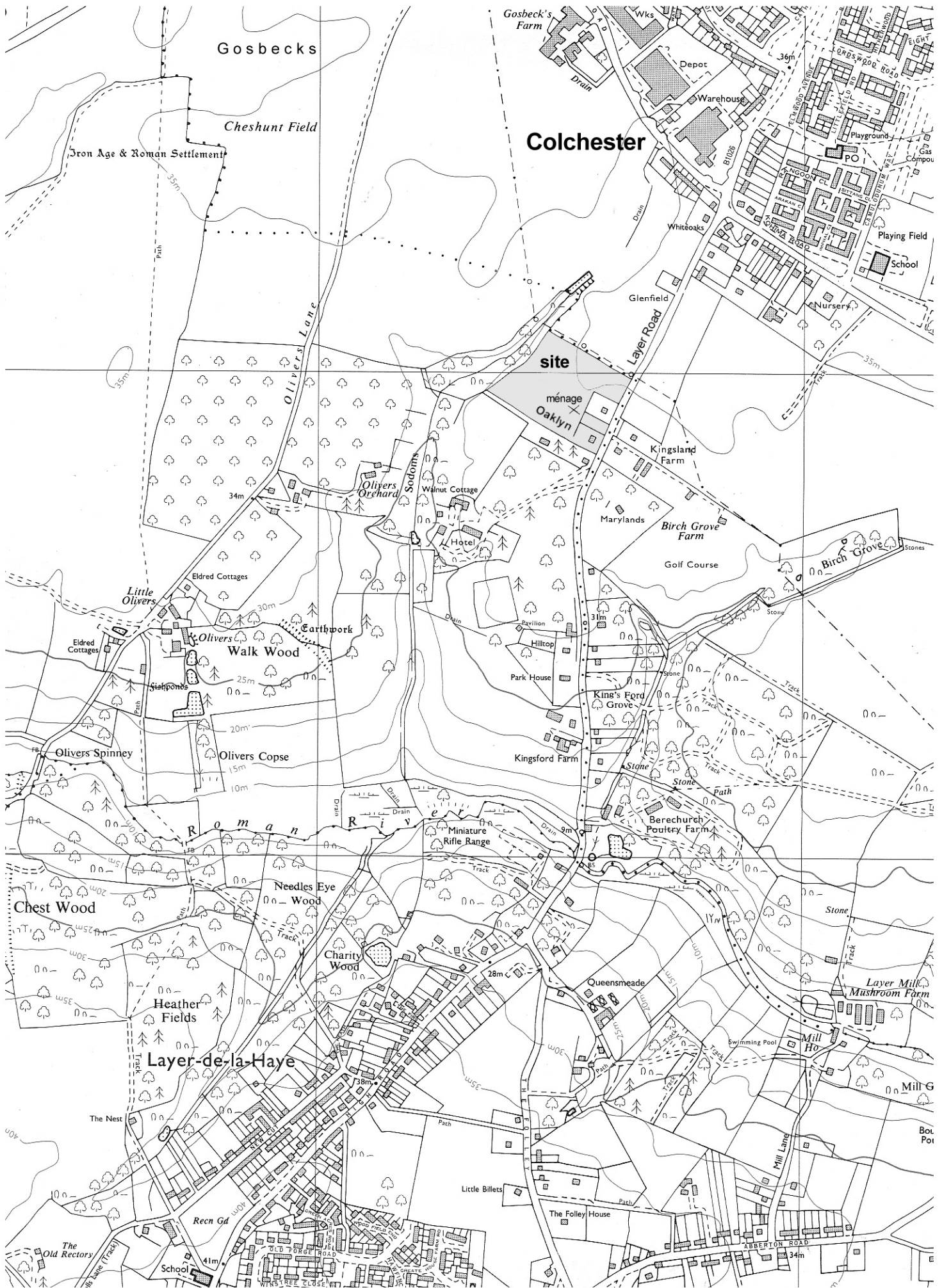


Fig 1 Site location, scale 1:10,000.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ *Essex Archaeology and History*

Summary sheet

Site address: 'Oaklyn', Kingsford, Layer Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 97496 21905 (c)	Site code: Museum accession code 2006.106
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: September 2006	Size of area investigated: 40m x 20m
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Owners
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos: 11840, 12723, 11774, 11996
Final report: CAT Report 387	
Periods represented: modern and prehistoric	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Planning permission and scheduled monument consent was given to create a ménage for horses with a surrounding rail post fence. The area stripped for the ménage measured 40m x 20m and is to the rear of the property named 'Oaklyn', in a horse paddock. Seven visits were made on five separate days by the author, Don Shimmin and Laura Pooley. The area was stripped to a depth of between 160mm in the south and 440mm in the north depending on the undulations of the ground. Some features became visible in the subsoil in the northern part of the site. On closer inspection, these features appeared to be natural or modern. In the southern part of the site, nothing was visible as the topsoil had not been completely stripped off. Some modern finds were retrieved from the spoil heap plus one struck flint flake.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: October 2006