

# Archaeological monitoring and recording at Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UG

June 2017



by Dr Elliott Hicks

figures by Laura Pooley  
fieldwork by Adam Tuffey

on behalf of Ian Baalham, Colchester Borough Council

NGR: TL 99837 25284 (centre)  
Planning reference: n/a  
CAT project ref.: 15/12b  
Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM: 2017.95  
CHER ref: ECC 4015  
OASIS reference: colchest3-288073



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**CAT Report 1119**

June 2017

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Castle Park, Colchester (a scheduled monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the removal of two tree stumps. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at Castle Park, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 9th June 2017. The work was commissioned by Ian Baalham, Colchester Borough Council during the removal of two tree stumps, 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 work, a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) should be undertaken.

In addition to the 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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER), previously known as the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD), and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The development site is located in Upper Castle Park to the southwest of Colchester Castle Museum and in an area of outstanding archaeological importance. It is within the Roman town, within the precincts of the Temple of Claudius, and within the grounds of the Norman Castle (scheduled monument EX 1, HA 1002217). The well-published archaeological background (see, for example, Hull 1958, Crummy 1997) need not be repeated here, but it will be useful to summarise the more relevant sites.

### **The temple of Claudius, and its precinct (UAD MONuments 785, 713)**

The Temple of Claudius, Insula 22. Founded in the AD 50s (there is some debate whether its construction commenced before or after the death of Claudius in AD 54). The temple served as the centre of the Imperial cult in the province and dominated the eastern half of the city. It was located within a large precinct. Much of the vaulted podium base of the temple has been preserved below Colchester castle, although none of the superstructure has survived. The base provides a clear indication of the scale of the building and based on the principles of Roman architect Vitruvius the building would have been over 20m high. The podium measures 32m by 23.5m.

### **The Precinct and monuments within it (UAD MON 713)**

A large walled precinct belonging to the Roman Temple of Claudius is situated off the modern High Street and within the Castle Park.

The arcade probably continued to stand until the C11th, when it was demolished to provide material for the Norman castle and the foundation of the outer rampart. A watching brief during the excavation of trenches for an extension to NW corner of the Conservative Club revealed a N-S wall foundation (ELM1046) constructed mainly of

mortared septaria with occasional tile fragments. To the east of the foundation was a thick clay loam deposit assumed to be makeup associated with the wall. The wall and clay deposit appear to be Roman and perhaps marks the W boundary of the temple precinct. The eastern part of the clayey deposit was possibly cut by the castle bailey ditch.

An abortive excavation (EVT3091) was undertaken by the Morant Club in search of the castle ditch and forum wall in 1921. A single trench was cut northwards from the north kerb of High Street, on the site of the War Memorial, opposite All Saints Church. This revealed a wall which Hull believed to be Roman.

#### **The Norman castle and its bailey ramparts (UAD MONs 679, 764)**

Norman ditch around the Castle bailey rampart, constructed in 11th century.

Antiquarian Philip Morant says *'The (castle) bailey was formerly encompassed on the south and west sides by a strong wall, in which were two gates. That on the south was the chief. This wall was taken down by Robt. Norfolk Esq. who erected in the room of it a range of houses now standing in the High Street. The west wall reached as far as the east side of St Helen's Lane. On the north and east sides the castle was secured by a deep ditch and strong rampart of earth... This rampart is thrown upon a wall that formerly encompassed either the Castle or Palace of Coel, on the site whereof the Castle is built; the buttress and other parts of which wall have lately been discovered'*. See also EVT3068, EVT3057, EVT3105 to do.

During the excavation of a pipe trench in 1983 (EVT3015), the inner bailey ditch was traced for a total of just over 100 metres. During excavations in 1950 (EVT3121) the ditch inner edge was located where it had removed the metalling of two Roman streets.

In September 1964, demolition of 5 Maidenburgh Street prior to use of the site as a car park made an area of 38m by 10m available for excavation, which was undertaken for 6 weeks in September - October 1964 under the direction of BRK Niblett (Dunnett) for the Colchester Excavation Committee. Two trenches were cut across the line of the Norman rampart which crossed the east end of the site. Beneath 0.6 m of modern rubble and garden soil a series of tips of sand, gravel and Roman tile and mortar. The maximum thickness of the deposit was 0.6 m, which represents the remnant of the rampart. Immediately in front of the rampart on the edge of the bailey ditch was an inhumation burial, possibly of Saxon date. Several loose bones indicated the possibility of other burials. Eastern lip of Norman bailey ditch was located, immediately in front of the rampart.

In 1969 a warehouse at the S end of Ryegate Rd was demolished prior to the construction of the Methodist Church. Four trenches were excavated to a depth of 2m, located so as not to affect the foundations. The east (inner) lip of the bailey trench was revealed as was the western edge. Part of the bailey rampart was also excavated. The lower levels of the rampart remained intact to a depth of up to 1m.

#### **Norman bailey rampart surrounding Colchester Castle (UAD MON 764)**

Trenches were dug into the north side of the rampart in 1950 (EVT3121). The Norman bank was found to have been built over structural remains walls of the Roman Temple Precinct (MON713). These remains were covered by a thick level of debris containing occupation material and broken bricks/tile. It was on a layer of chalk which sealed these remains, that the rampart was built. The excavations also showed that the Norman bank had been added to in later medieval times.

## **4 Results**

Two tree stumps were removed by grinding down. The removal was carried out by contractors under archaeological supervision.



**Photograph 1** Stump grinding

## 5 Finds

No significant finds were recovered.

## 6 Discussion

No significant archaeological horizons were identified during monitoring as the tree stump removal only disturbed the modern layer of topsoil.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Ian Baalham, Colchester Borough Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister. Fieldwork was carried out by A Tuffey. 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>

- |                  |       |   |
|------------------|-------|---|
| CAT              | 2017  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for monitoring and recording of the removal of two tree stumps in Colchester Castle park (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no.1002217)</i> |
| ClfA             | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>   |
| ClfA             | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>   |
| Crummy, P        | 1997  | <i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>  |
| DCLG             | 2012  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>   |
| English Heritage | 2006  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Gurney, D        | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> ).                                  |
| Hull, M.R.       | 1958  | <i>Roman Colchester</i> RRC SAL <b>20</b>   |
| Medlycott, M     | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )          |

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT Colchester Archaeological Trust

CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record (previously UAD, Urban Archaeological Database)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsr	written scheme of investigation

## 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1119)

Original site record (wsr)

Site digital photos and log, attendance register

## 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: 2017.95

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### Distribution list

Ian Baalham, Colchester Borough Council

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



### Colchester Archaeological Trust

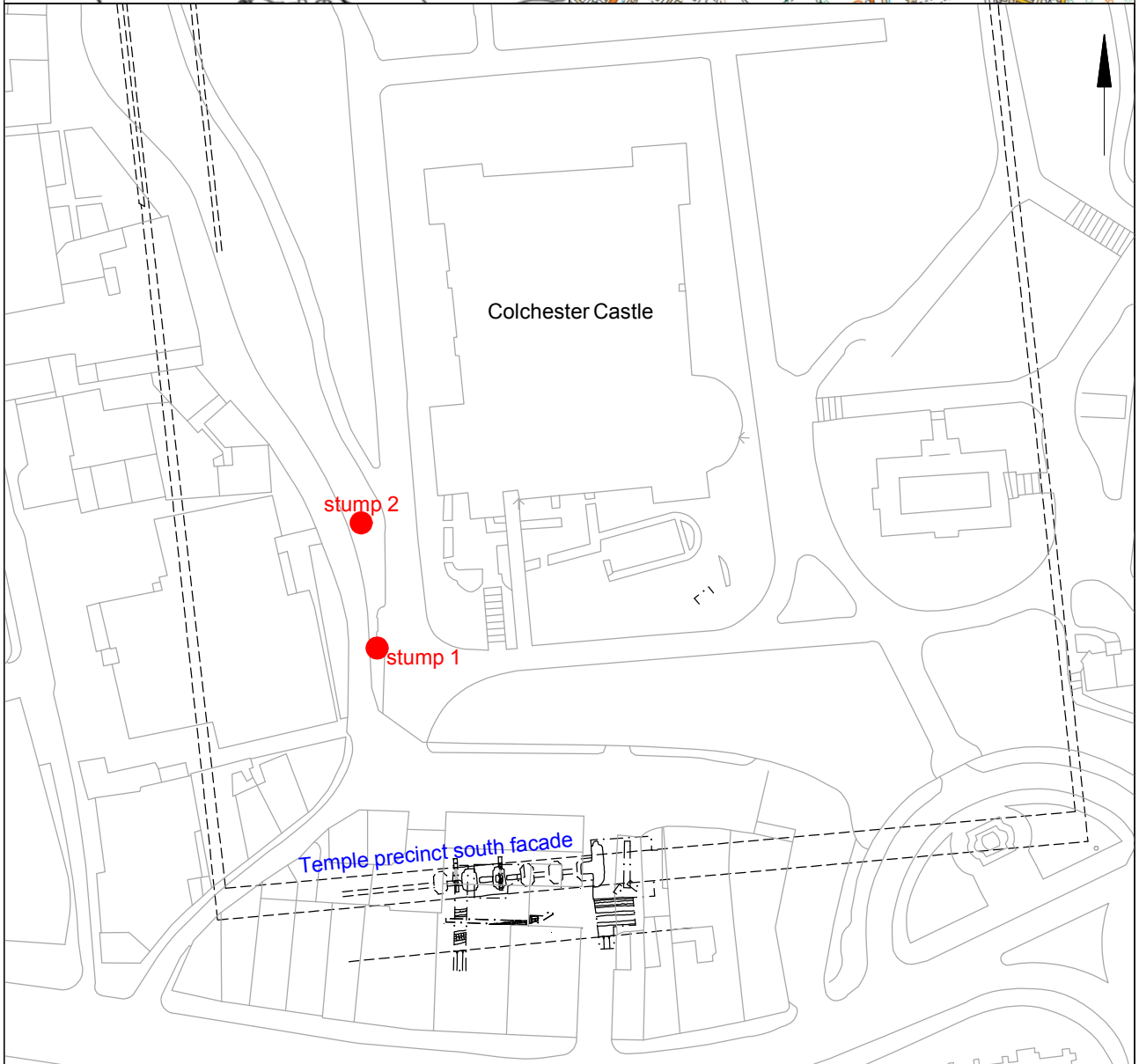
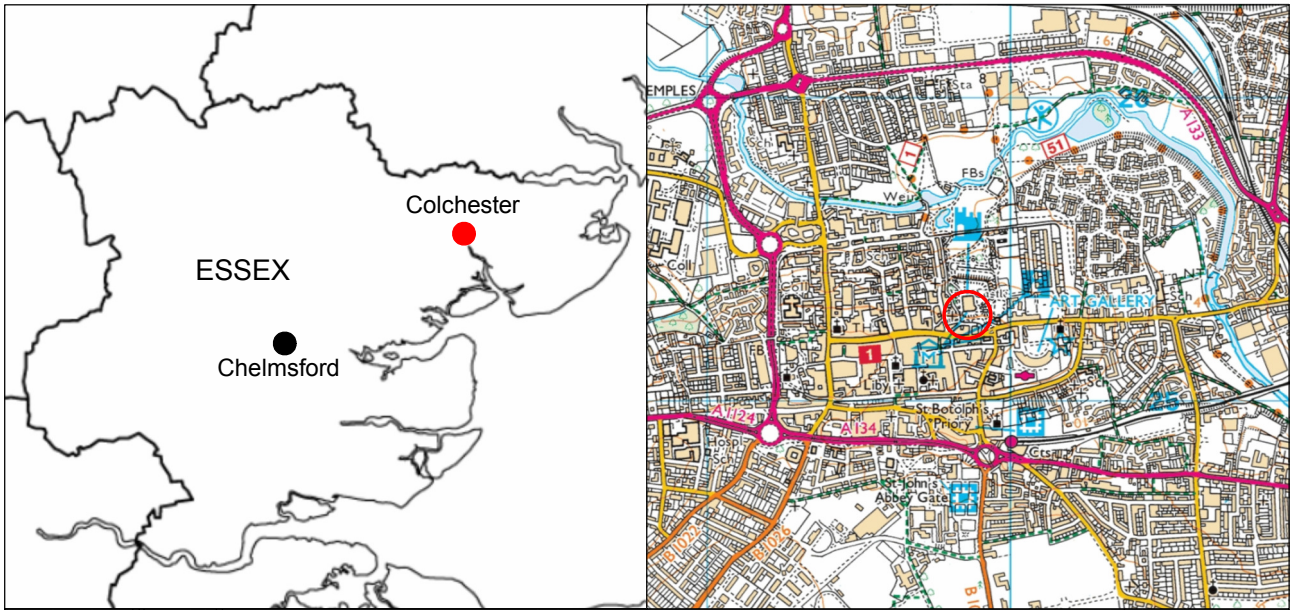
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 22.06.2017



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Fig 1 Site location.



## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UG	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 99837 25284 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 15/12b CHER ref: ECC 4015 OASIS ref: colchest3-288073
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring and recording	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 9th June 2017	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.02 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code: COLEM: 2017.95	<b>Funding source:</b> Borough Council
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related CHER/SMR numbers:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1119	
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Castle Park, Colchester (a scheduled monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the removal of two tree stumps. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> June 2017





## Written Scheme of Investigation

### Monitoring and recording of the removal of two tree stumps in Colchester Castle Park (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217)

#### Aim

- To continuously monitor the removal of two tree stumps.
- To record, as appropriate, any impact this removal may have on the Scheduled Monument.
- To ensure that the agreed method statement is adhered to in full, and does not damage the Scheduled Monument.
- To report any damage to CBC and Historic England immediately, so that amendments can be made to the brief if required.

#### Method

CAT Staff will be in attendance at all times when the stumps are ground down by the contractor.

#### Work will be compliant with:

- the conditions laid down in the Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic England (HE 2015).
- *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a)
- *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a)

#### Particular attention will be paid to:

- negotiating with CBC and the contractors, to ensure the programme is fully understood and can therefore be monitored.
- the potential for disturbance caused to buried archaeological remains.

#### Preparation

In accordance with Historic England's conditions photographs of the site will be taken prior to the commencement of works. This will enable an assessment to be made of the effects of the work.

A risk assessment will be carried out to minimise potential risks.

One week's notification of the start of work will be given to the CBC Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA).

#### Reporting

Reporting should be commensurate with results (degree to which the monument was affected by the removal of the arboreal remains). The report will contain, as appropriate: location (grid ref), planning application number, dates of visits, methodology, plan

showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance / proposed development (a digital vector plan when possible), depth of ground disturbance and soil profile in each area, observations as to land use history, etc.

Recording of any disturbance to consist of photographs, measured drawings, and written notes.

Results will be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and Essex Heritage & Environment Record (EHER).

The written report will follow *East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers* 14 and 24 (2003 and 2011) as appropriate, and will be as agreed with CBCAA.

### **Archive**

An accession number for the work will be sought from Colchester and Ipswich Museums' Documentation Officer.

An Event number will be obtained from CBCAA.

An archive of all records and finds will be prepared to the satisfaction of Colchester and Ipswich Museums' Store and will be in accordance with *Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums* (2008b).

### **References:**

Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- |            |             |  |
|------------|-------------|--|
| CIfA       | 2014a       | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>  |
| CIfA       | 2014b       | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>  |
| CIMS       | 2008a       | <i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>   |
| CIMS       | 2008b       | <i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums</i>   |
| <b>EAA</b> | <b>2003</b> | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14</i> , ed by D Gurney  |
| <b>EAA</b> | <b>2011</b> | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the Eastern Counties. Research agenda and strategy, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 24</i> , ed by M Medlycott |

C Lister BA, 10th December 2015



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

#### **Roman Circus House**

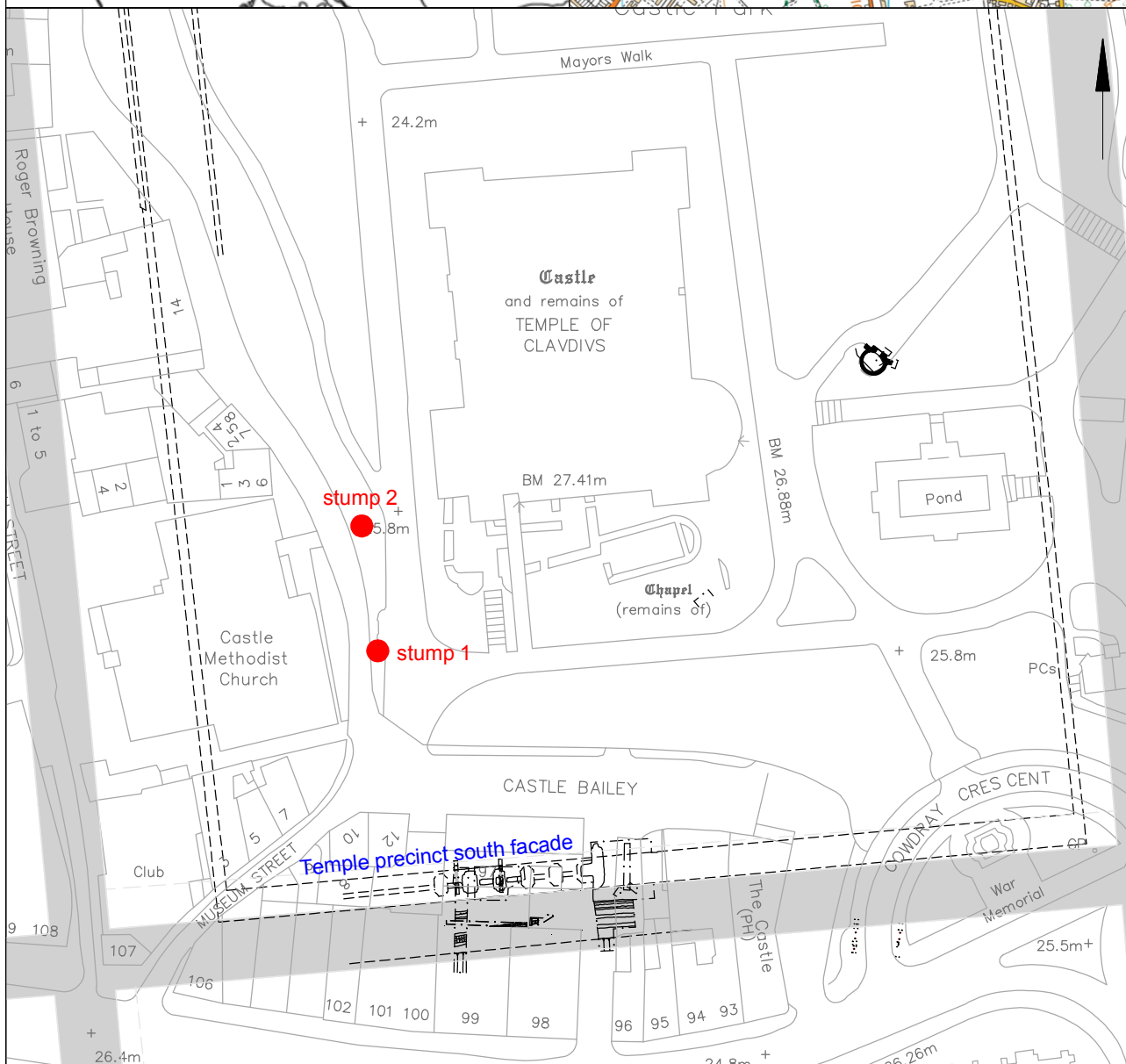
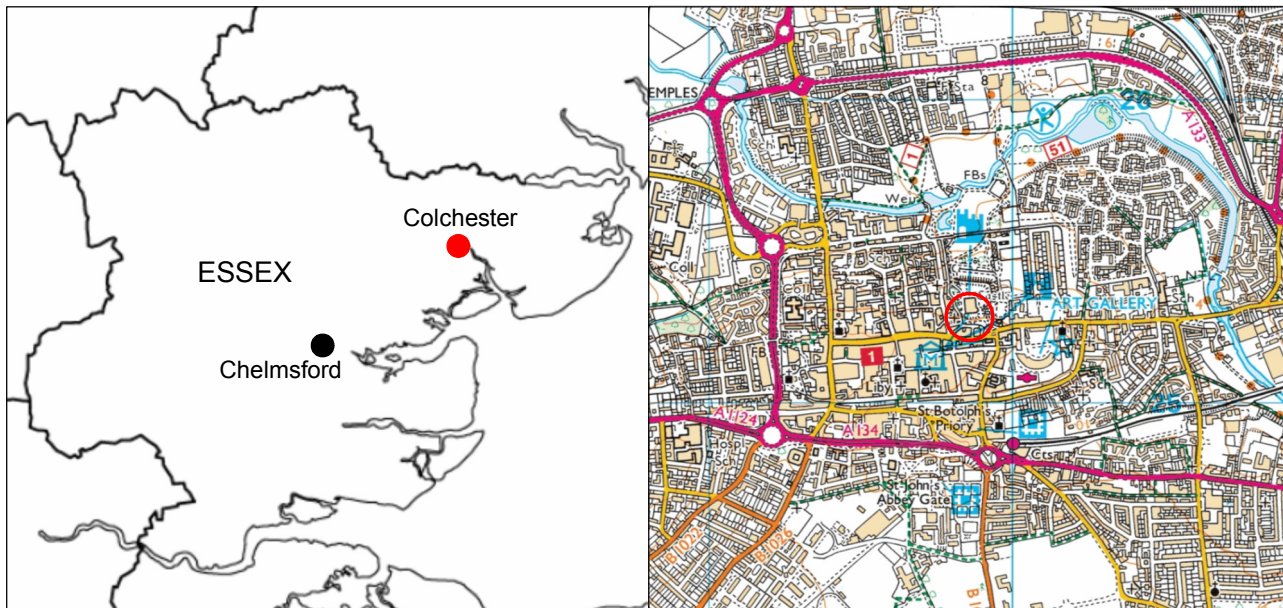
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Fig 1 Site location.



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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-288073**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UG
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Castle Park, Colchester (a scheduled monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the removal of two tree stumps. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 09-06-2017 End: 09-06-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	15/12b - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Castle Park (stump grinding)
Postcode	CO1 1UG
Study area	0.02 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 99837 25284 51.889706183479 0.904382118249 51 53 22 N 000 54 15 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	none
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Adam Tuffly
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council

### Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.95
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.95
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UG, June 2017
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Entered on	26 June 2017

## OASIS:

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