

Archaeological monitoring and recording at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AB

August 2017



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**
figures by **Adam Tuffey and Sarah Carter**

fieldwork by **Adam Tuffey**

Commissioned by Robert Ferguson

NGR: TM 05880 33143 (centre)

Planning reference: 170970

CAT project ref.: 17/06e

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2017.91

CHER ref: ECC4009

OASIS reference: colchest3-287335



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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CAT Report 1160

September 2017

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham in advance of the construction of an L-shaped glasshouse. The development site is located to the east of the medieval parish Church of St Mary and to the west of a series of Bronze Age and Roman cropmarks. No significant archaeological features were uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham, Essex, which was carried out on the 7th – 8th August 2017. The work was commissioned by Robert Ferguson, in advance of the construction of an L-shaped glasshouse, 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 application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and 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 briefs* (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 Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The CHER/EHER shows that the proposed development site is located within the medieval town of Dedham, although the 'ham' name suggests it has Anglo-Saxon origins. The medieval town rose to prominence with the cloth trade, specialising in bay and say cloth. It contains a wealth of 14th-century and later buildings, and retains its medieval street pattern and morphology. The site is located 150m E of the 14th century parish Church of St Mary, which was rebuilt in the late 15th or early 16th century.

The CHER/EHER also shows that to the east of Dedham is an important 'cropmark' landscape. Most of the cropmarks are unexcavated and undated, but where excavation has taken place, Bronze Age (2,500- 700 BC) and early Roman (1st century AD) material has come to light. The most significant cropmark sites indicate the presence of enclosures and ring-ditches and therefore a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (EHER 9725). These are located approximately 250-780m E/ESE of the development site, to the north of Manningtree Road. Cropmarks have also been identified 190m E (EHER 2766 – faint linear features), 500m-1.5km SE, to the south of Manningtree Road (EHER 2736 – double-ditched trackway and rectilinear enclosure) and 750m W (EHER 17077 – rectilinear enclosure).

Therefore is high potential for encountering below-ground archaeological remains on the development site.

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 27m of foundation trench were dug under archaeological supervision in the garden of the property. The trench measured 0.5m wide by 0.52m deep.

The foundation trench was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.4m thick, friable, moist, dark brown silty-clay) onto a layer of subsoil (L2, friable medium brown silty-clay).

No significant archaeological horizons were encountered.



Photograph 1 Site shot – looking west southwest

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered.

6 Discussion

Archaeological monitoring and recording at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham was undertaken due to the proximity of the site to several areas of archaeological interest including the medieval Parish Church of St Mary and a complex of cropmarks dating to the Bronze Age and Roman period. Despite being located within a site of considerable archaeological interest, no significant archaeological remains were encountered.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Robert Ferguson for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by A Tuffey. Figures were prepared by AT and S Carter. 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>

- | | | |
|----------|------|--|
| Brown, D | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2017 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological</i> |

		<i>monitoring and recording at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AB</i>
CBC	2017	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AB, by Jess Tipper</i>
CIfA	2014	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching briefs</i>
CIfA	2014	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1160)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

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 2017.91.

Distribution list

Robert Ferguson
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

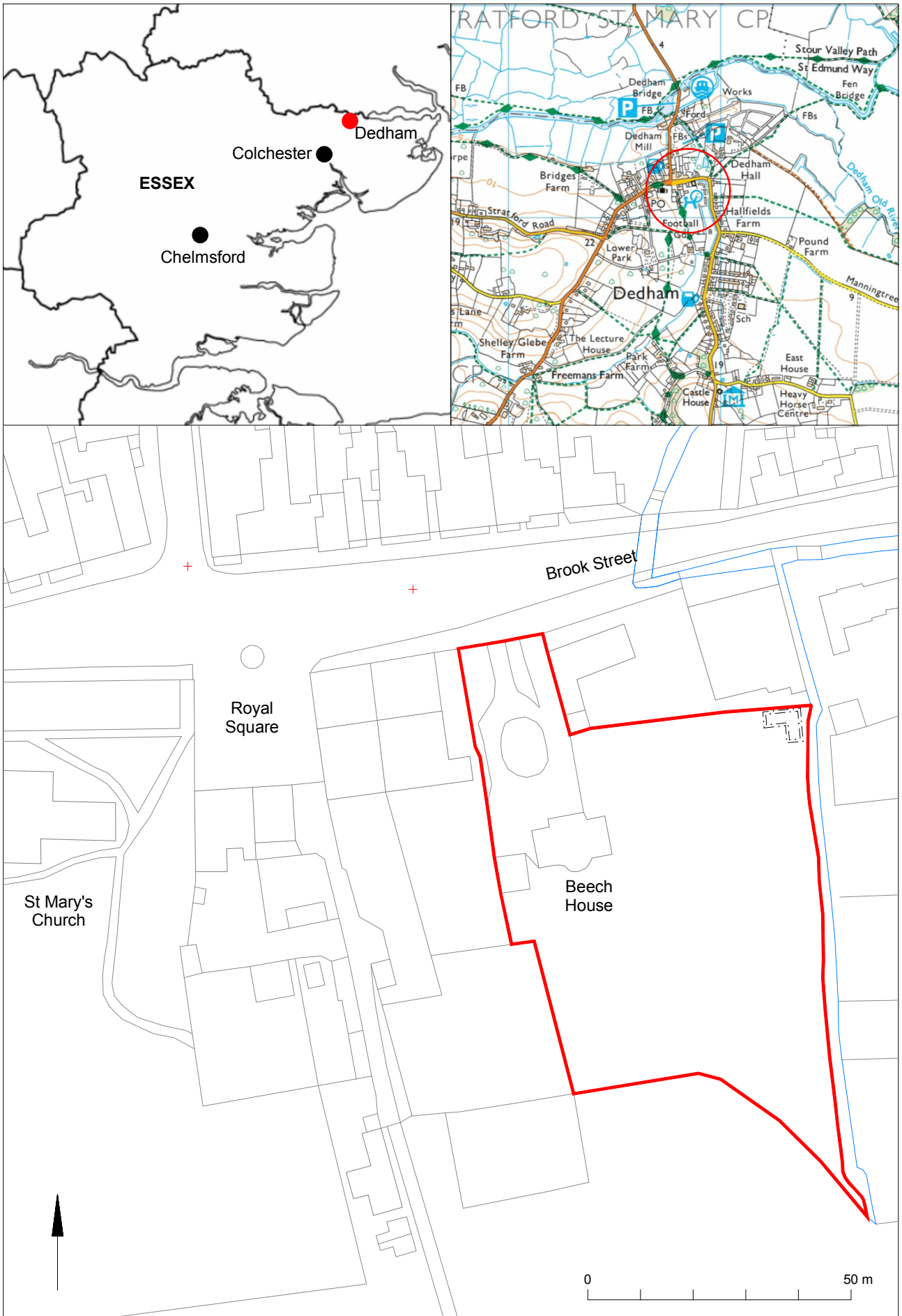
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 6.9.2017



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Fig 1 Site location.

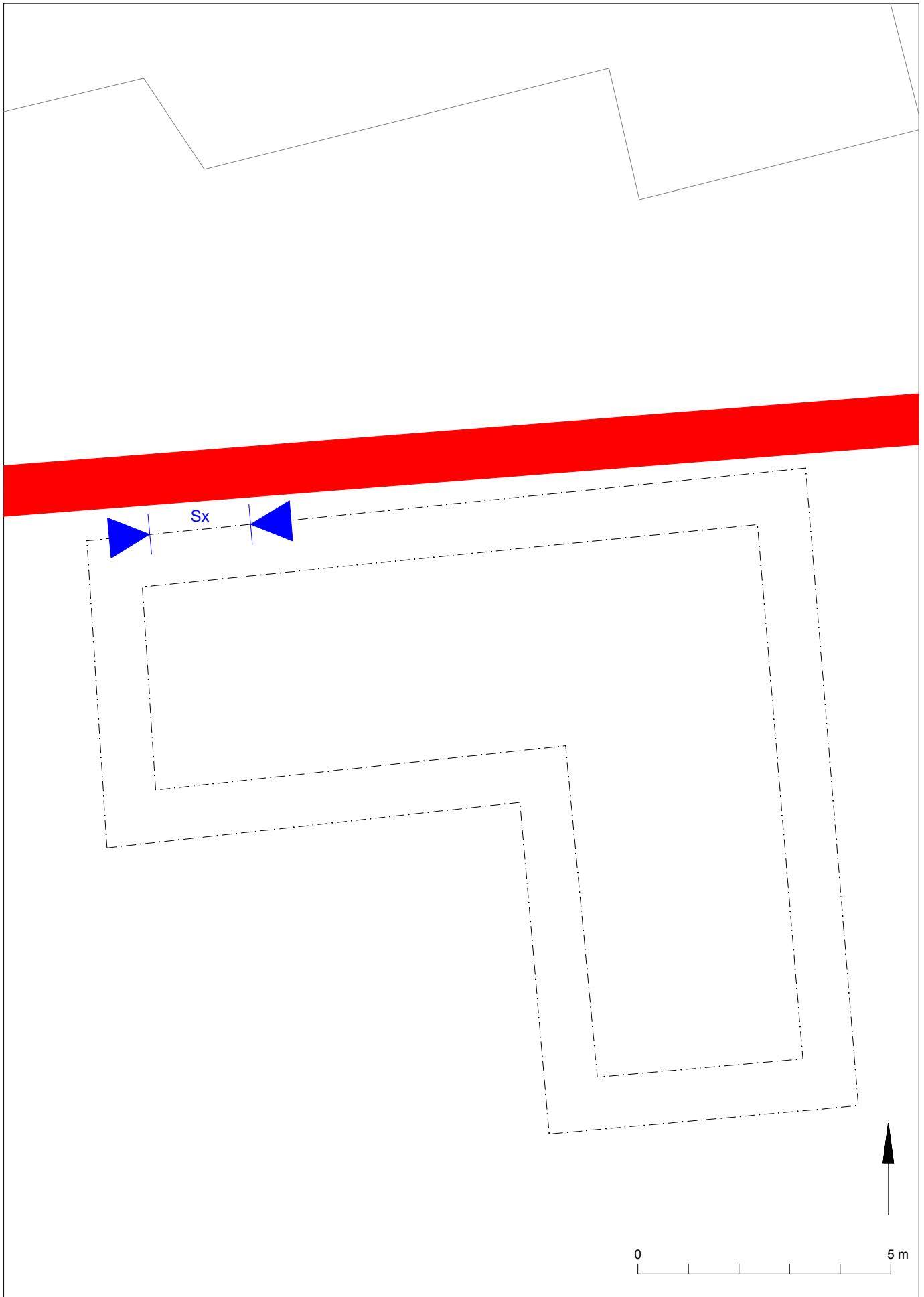
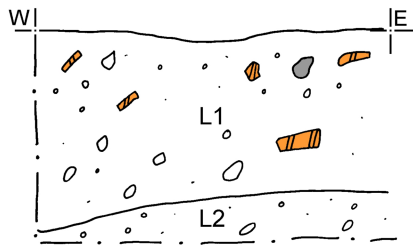






Fig 2 Results



-  small stones
-  large stones
-  concrete
-  post-Medieval/Modern brick

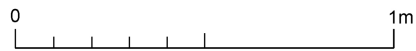


Fig 3 Representative section

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AB	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 05880 33143 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/06e CHER ref: ECC4009 OASIS ref: colchest3-287335
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 7th-8th August 2017	Size of area investigated: 0.44 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.91	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: EHER 2736, 2766, 9725, 17077
Final report: CAT Report 1160	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham in advance of the construction of an L-shaped glasshouse. The development site is located to the east of the medieval parish Church of St Mary and to the west of a series of Bronze Age and Roman cropmarks. No significant archaeological features were observed.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: August 2017

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AB

NGR: TM 05880 33143 (centre)

Planning reference: 170970

Client: Robert Ferguson

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

CHER project code: [tbc](#)

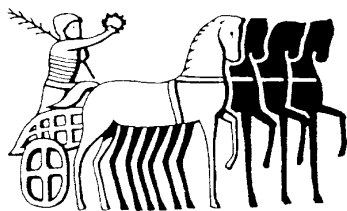
CAT project code: 17/06e

OASIS ref.: colchest3-287335

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 13.6.2017



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies 9.5km northeast of Colchester town centre at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TM 05880 33143.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of an L-shaped glasshouse.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The CHER/EHER shows that the proposed development site is located within the medieval town of Dedham, although the 'ham' name suggests it has Anglo-Saxon origins. The medieval town rose to prominence with the cloth trade, specialising in bay and say cloth. It contains a wealth of 14th century and later buildings, and retains its medieval street pattern and morphology. The site is located 150m E of the 14th century Parish Church of St Mary, which was rebuilt in the late 15th/early 16th century.

The CHER/EHER also shows that to the east of Dedham is an important 'cropmark' landscape. Most of the cropmarks are unexcavated and undated, but where excavation has taken place, Bronze Age (2,500- 700 BC) and early Roman (1st century AD) material has come to light. The most significant cropmark sites indicate the presence of enclosures and ring-ditches and therefore a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (EHER 9725). These are located approximately 250-780m E/ESE of the development site, to the north Manningtree Road. Cropmarks have also been identified 190m E (EHER 2766 – faint linear features), 500m-1.5km SE, to the south of Manningtree Road (EHER 2736 – double-ditched trackway and rectilinear enclosure) and 750m W (EHER 17077 – rectilinear enclosure).

Therefore is high potential for encountering below-ground archaeological remains on the development site.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in April 2017 (application No. 170970) proposing the construction of an L-shaped glasshouse.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2017).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and may decide that amendments to the brief and wsi are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would be otherwise damaged or destroyed.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2017).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If any features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Site surveying

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Processing will be carried out by trained CAT staff with analysis and reporting done by VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter / Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter / Alec Wade

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

Brown, D 2007

Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation

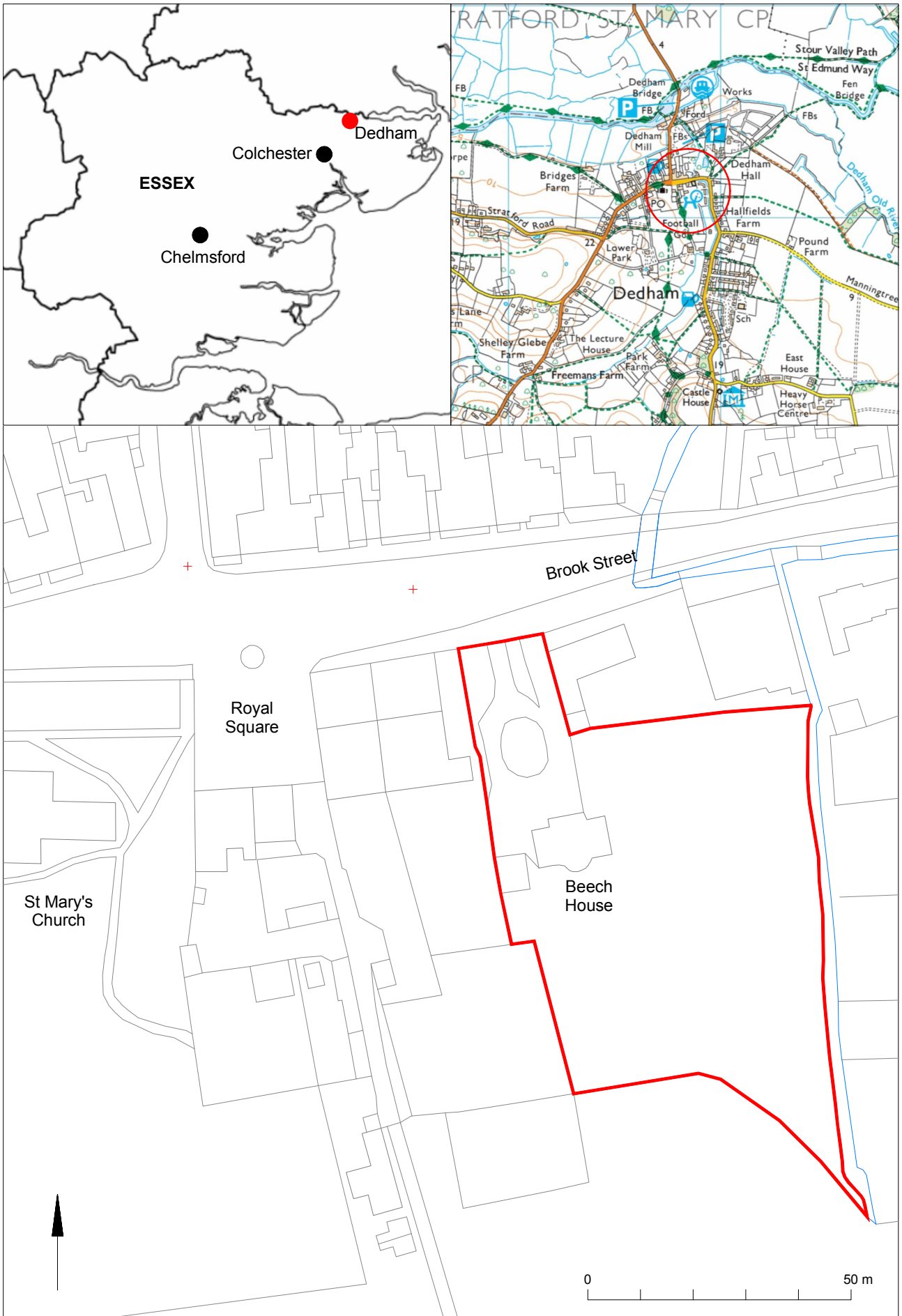
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CBC	2017	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AB, by Jess Tipper</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching briefs</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

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Fig 1 Site location.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-287335

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AB
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham in advance of the construction of an L-shaped glasshouse. The development site is located to the east of the medieval parish Church of St Mary and to the west of a series of Bronze Age and Roman cropmarks. No significant archaeological features were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 07-08-2017 End: 08-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/06e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	170970 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.91 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4009 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER DEDHAM Beech House, Brook Street
Postcode	CO7 6AB
Study area	0.44 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 05880 33143 51.958066049541 0.996782215061 51 57 29 N 000 59 48
E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator Laura Pooley
Project director/manager Chris Lister
Project supervisor Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2017.91
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2017.91
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at Beech House, Brook Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AB: August 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1160
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Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
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URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>
Entered by Elliott Hicks (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on 6 September 2017

OASIS:

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