Archaeological monitoring and recording at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BG

November 2017

by Laura Pooley
figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway
fieldwork by Ben Holloway

on behalf of Silverswan Homes

NGR: TQ 6924 9890 (centred)
Planning application number: CHL 17/00827/FUL
CAT project ref.: 17/07i
Chelmsford Museum accession CHMRE: 2017.096
ECC code: SKCL17
OASIS reference: colchest3-291136
OASIS Summary

List of maps, photographs and figures
Cover: general site shot

Map 1  Six-inch OS map of 1919 (ESSEX nLXX.NW) showing ditch/culvert (blue arrow)  2

Photograph 1  Foundation trenches excavated through the piling mat onto natural. Previous ground level is shown around the edge of the site boundary.  3

Fig 1  Site location
Fig 2  Results
Fig 3  Representative section
1 Summary
Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling. Stock was an important centre for pottery manufacture in the 16th to 19th centuries with evidence for kilns close to the development site. However, monitoring revealed substantial modern disturbance associated with a large ditch/culvert which crossed the site and other more recent groundworks. There were no significant archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)
This archive report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, which was undertaken on 29th November 2017. The work was commissioned by Silverswan Homes, in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Essex County Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett advised that to establish the scope of the archaeological impact 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, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England’s Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015), and with Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24). This report implements standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists’ Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (CfA 2014a) and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background
The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The EHER shows that the development sites lies within an area of archaeological potential. Immediately to the south, the northern side of an earthwork enclosure (EHER 5382, 9135), possibly of prehistoric origin, extends southwards towards the church. In the later period, pottery manufacture was an important industry in Stock from the 16th to the 19th centuries. This has been evidenced by the finding of post-medieval pottery kilns to the northeast of the development site around Stock Common (dug for clay for pottery manufacture), to the north at Stock Bowling Club (EHER 5507), to the east at 10 The Paddock where large quantities of post-medieval pottery indicate a nearby kiln (EHER 48334), and near the junction of Common Road and Mill Road where evidence of kilns was found. For further details of the history of Stock see Phillips (2003).

A study of the historic OS maps of Stock has revealed that a large modern earthwork, probably a ditch or culvert, ran east-west through the development site. It was not visible on the six-inch OS map of 1873/4 (published 1881) but was plotted on the six-inch OS maps of 1919 (published 1923) (Map 1) and 1938 (published c 1946). It was presumably backfilled when the current residential estate was built. Most of the proposed groundworks took place within the backfill of this ditch/culvert and as per the wsi, were not monitored.
4 Aims
Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that existed on the site.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)
As per the wsi, only those groundworks located within the northwest corner of the new dwelling (outside of the backfilled ditch/culvert) were monitored. These groundworks were carried out by the contractor under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Approximately 22m of foundation trenching was monitored, measuring 0.9m wide by 0.9m deep. It was excavated through a modern piling mat of crushed concrete (L1, c 0.5m thick) onto natural clay and gravel (L2). All groundworks associated with the construction of the piling mat took place before CAT was requested to attend the site.

An auger sample was also carried out within one of the eastern foundation trenches to establish the depth of the backfilled ditch/culvert. The auger started at a depth of 0.9m below current ground level (bgcl), above this c 0.5m of piling mat sealed a dark grey/black silty-clay (L3). The auger sample showed that this silty-clay layer continued for another 1.1-1.2m (totalling 1.5-1.6m thick). Within this layer an organic peaty element was noted at 0.6m, a fragment of London Brick Company brick at 0.7m, plant matter (leaves and sticks) at 0.8m, and ground water at 0.85-0.9m depth. A coarse gravel layer at the base of the 1.1-1.2m auger sample may possibly be natural, identified at a total depth of 2-2.1m bgcl.
6 Finds
There were no archaeological finds.

7 Conclusion
Archaeological monitoring and recording at Caer Luel revealed modern disturbance within the NW corner of the development site, associated with groundworks for the current development. Further to the east, the disturbance caused by the ditch/culvert was recorded for a depth of 2-2.1m below current ground level. There were no significant archaeological remains.

8 Acknowledgements
CAT thanks Bill Wright and Silverswan Homes for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway. Figures were prepared by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

9 References
Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at http://cat.essex.ac.uk

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<th>Institution</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Health &amp; Safety Policy</td>
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<td>CAT</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>2014a</td>
<td>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs</td>
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<td>CIfA</td>
<td>2014b</td>
<td>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</td>
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Abbreviations and glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Colchester Archaeological Trust</td>
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<td>CIfA</td>
<td>Chartered Institute for Archaeologists</td>
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<tr>
<td>context</td>
<td>specific location of finds on an archaeological site</td>
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<td>ECC</td>
<td>Essex County Council</td>
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<td>ECCHEA</td>
<td>Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor</td>
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<td>ECCPS</td>
<td>Essex County Council Place Services</td>
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<td>EHER</td>
<td>Essex Historic Environment Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>feature (F)</td>
<td>an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain ‘contexts’</td>
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<tr>
<td>layer (L)</td>
<td>distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material</td>
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<tr>
<td>modern</td>
<td>period from c AD 1800 to the present</td>
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<tr>
<td>natural</td>
<td>geological deposit undisturbed by human activity</td>
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<td>NGR</td>
<td>National Grid Reference</td>
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<td>OASIS</td>
<td>Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>post-medieval</td>
<td>from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>section</td>
<td>(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wsi</td>
<td>written scheme of investigation</td>
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Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

- The report (CAT Report 1201)
- ECCPS 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

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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE: 2017.096.

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Distribution list
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Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record
Fig 1  Site location
Fig 3  Representative section.
OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: colchester3-291136

Project details

Project name: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BG
Short description of the project: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Caer Luel, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling. Stock was an important centre for pottery manufacture in the 16th to 18th centuries with evidence for kilns close to the development site. However, monitoring revealed substantial modern disturbance associated with a large ditch/culvert which crossed the site and other more recent groundworks. There were no significant archaeological remains.
Previous future work: No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes:
- 17/071 - Contracting Unit No.
- CHL 17/00827/FUL - Planning Application No.
- SKC17 - HER event no.
- CHMRE: 2017.096 - Museum accession ID

Type of project: Recording project
Site status: None
Current Land use: Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type: DITCH/CULVERT Modern
Significant Finds: N/A None
Investigation type: "Watching Brief"
Prompt: Planning condition

Project location

Country: England
Site location: ESSEX CHELMSFORD STOCK Caer Luel, The Paddock
Postcode: CM4 9BG
Study area: 0.12 Hectares
Site coordinates: TQ 6924 9890 51.662850979834 0.447309148647 51 39 46 N 000 26.50 E

Project creators

Name of Organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator: HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator: Laura Pooley
Project director/manager: Chris Lister
Project supervisor: Ben Holmow
Type of sponsor/funding body: Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?: No
Digital Archive recipient: Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID: CHMRE: 2017.096
Digital Contents: "Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available: "Images raster / digital photography";"Survey"
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Paper Archive ID: CHMRE: 2017.96
Paper Contents: "Stratigraphic","Survey"
Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Caesar's Luet, The Paddock, Stock, Essex, CM4 9BG: November 2017

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