

# The Triple Dyke: Archaeological evaluation at 78 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9DB

March 2018



**by Laura Pooley**

with contributions by Lisa Gray  
with figures by Sarah Carter and Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Robin Mathieson

**commissioned by David Syrett  
on behalf of Balcerne Gate Developments (Southeast) Ltd**

NGR: TL 9647 2477 (centre)

Planning ref.: 180144

CHER project: ECC4162

CAT project ref.: 18/03j

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM: 2018.25

OASIS ref.: colchest3-312273



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**CAT Report 1253**  
May 2018

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Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue) and the Triple Dyke (green).

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## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (one trench) was undertaken at 78 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling. Located within the projected line of the Roman earthwork known as the Triple Dyke, evaluation revealed the remains of the central ditch of the dyke. The eastern edge of the ditch was located outside the evaluation trench, but three small test-holes suggest that the ditch measures between 5.2m-6.5m wide. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.9m but the base of the feature was not reached. There were no archaeological finds.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 78 Straight Road, Colchester, which was carried out on 27th March 2018. The work was commissioned by David Syrett, on behalf of Balkerne Gate Developments (Southeast) Ltd, in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

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 field evaluation* (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) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer.

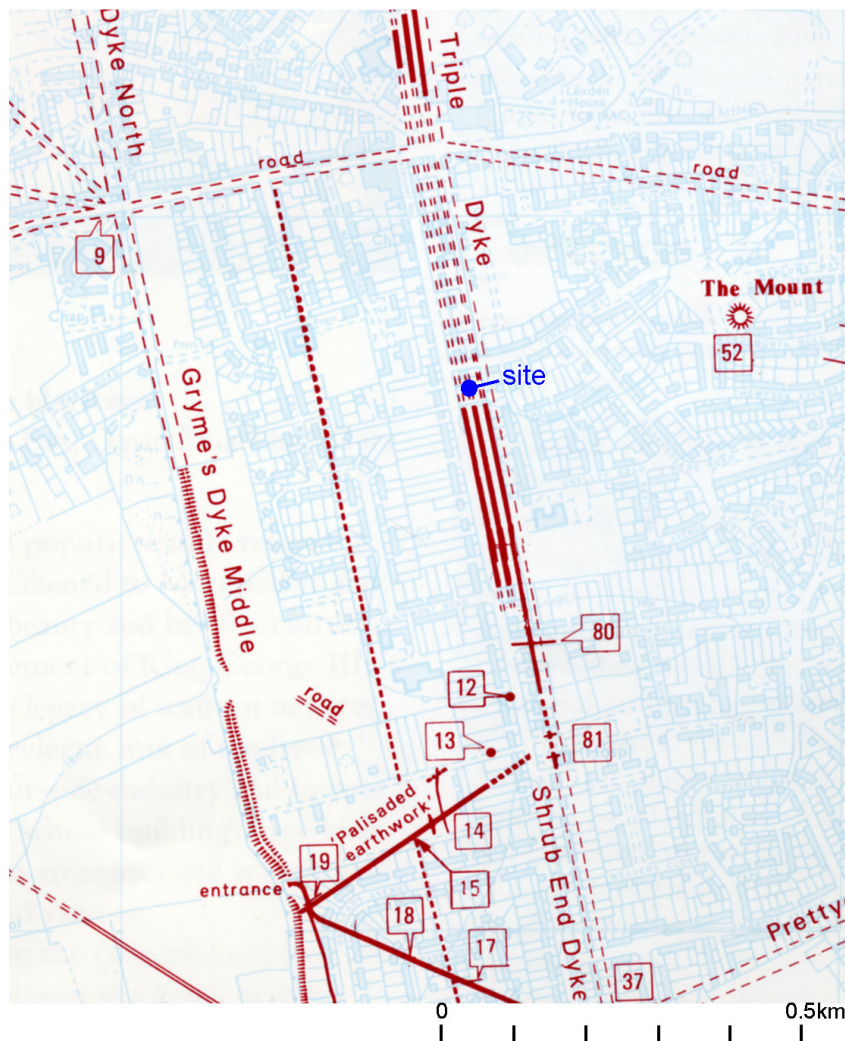
The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological significance. It lies within the projected line of the earthwork known as the Triple Dyke (scheduled monument 1019993; CHER MCC7041) and Shrub End Dyke (MCC7467). The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. *Camulodunum* was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Colchester Archaeological Report 11 (CAR 11): Camulodunum 2*, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995).

The Shrub End Dyke was originally a single ditch thought to have been constructed in approximately AD 10 which formed part of a system with the Lexden and Sheepen Dykes. Aerial photography in 1933 revealed that a little north of Heath Road, two

further ditches had been added to the west side of the Shrub End Dyke, forming the Triple Dyke. Photographs show that the Triple Dyke continued for approximately 1.61km northwards to the River Colne (CAR 11, 53-7).

In 1961, Colchester Archaeological Group excavated a section through the Triple Dyke. The section revealed that the innermost ditch had larger dimensions than the outer two. Philip Crummy believes this shows that the innermost ditch is the original Shrub End Dyke and the two additional ditches and banks were added later. This triplication was dated to the Roman period (CAR 11, 57 Fig 2.33 and 59). In 1984, two sections of the Shrub End Dyke were excavated. Its western edge was recorded at 21.5m east of the western site boundary (on Straight Road). Its width was recorded at 6m and its depth varied from approximately 1m to 3m deep (CAR 6, 1045-6, fig 13.278).

In more recent years little archaeological work has been carried out in this area. Monitoring at the former 'Brights' Public House along Straight Road in 1996 revealed the partial remains of the central ditch of the Triple Dyke (CAT project code 96/4d; soon to be published in CAT Report 1000). No significant archaeological remains were encountered during monitoring at 93-97 Straight Road (CAT Report 109) or 91 Straight Road (CAT Report 135). Development work in 2006 at 108 Straight Road uncovered one possible undated ditch (CAT report 381) that appeared to be too far to the east to be the Shrub End Dyke.



**Map 1** Extract of the general map of Colchester showing the locations of earthworks and excavations discussed in CAR11 (Fig 6.1). The development site is shown in blue.

#### 4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site, particularly those of the Triple Dyke.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

One trial-trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. It measured 8m long by 1.8m wide, and was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.15-0.3m thick, dark grey/brown sandy-loam) onto natural sandy-silt (L2).

The western edge of a ditch (F1), aligned north-south, was excavated at the far eastern end of the evaluation trench. The eastern edge of the ditch extended beyond the limit of the trench. The fill of the ditch was a soft, moist, medium yellow/brown slightly loamy sandy-silt, containing abundant gravel and stone. Safe-working depths meant that the ditch could only be excavated to a depth of 0.9m, and an attempt to auger to the base of the ditch was abandoned as the fill was too full of stone. There were no archaeological finds from the fill of the ditch.

Based on previous archaeological investigations and a projected plot of the earthworks, this is the central ditch of the Triple Dyke. There was no trace of a bank to the west of the central ditch, between the central ditch and the outermost ditch, which if it had been extant at the time was presumably levelled when the houses along Straight Road were built.



**Photograph 1** F1, the central ditch of the Triple Dyke, looking SW

Three small test-holes were excavated to the east of the trial-trench, each measuring 0.3m by 0.3m, in an attempt to establish the eastern extent of ditch F1. The results were as follows:

**Test-hole 1:** 2.28m east of the evaluation trench. Excavated through 0.35m of topsoil (L1) onto a medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with gravel inclusions, which is probably the fill of F1.

**Test-hole 2:** 3.6m east of the evaluation trench. Excavated through 0.3m of topsoil (L1) onto natural (L2).

**Test-hole 3:** 5.5m east of the evaluation trench. Excavated through 0.3m of topsoil (L1) onto natural (L2).

Indicating that the eastern edge of ditch F1 is located somewhere between test-hole 1 and 2, making the central ditch between 5.2m and 6.5m wide.

## 6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

## 7 Environmental assessment

*by Lisa Gray, Archaeobotanist*

### Introduction – aims and objectives

A sample (sample no. 1, finds no. 1) was taken from a the central ditch of the Roman Triple Dyke.

### Sampling and processing methods

A forty litre sample was taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried. A 50ml flot was produced.

Once with the author the flot was scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flot was examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts was recorded. A magnet was passed across to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammer-scale.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

### Results

This sample contained so few items a table was not created.

#### ***The plant remains***

The sample contained only abundant uncharred root/rhizome fragments, moderate quantities of charcoal flecks and low numbers of identifiable charcoal fragments.

#### ***Faunal and other remains***

No faunal remains were present. No significant inorganic remains were observed.

## **Discussion**

### ***Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination***

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for this sample. Uncharred root/rhizome fragments and earthworm cocoon can indicate that bioturbation is possible.

### **Quality and type of preservation**

Preservation was by charring. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2; English Heritage 2011, 17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57). Preservation by waterlogging occurs when plant remains are in anoxic conditions such as sealed pits or layers or a high water-tables (English Heritage 2011, 13).

No plant remains were preserved by mineralisation (Green 1979, 281) or silicification (Robinson and Straker 1990), which means that there is no archaeobotanical evidence for the cess disposal or slow-burning aerated fires.

### **Significance and potential of the samples and recommendations for further work**

The identifiable charcoal fragments were present in low numbers relative to sample size. These are small and durable enough to have been move about the site in backfill, re-working and bioturbation so cannot be guaranteed to be the same date as the sampled feature or context.

A recent study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record for southern England (Pelling *et al.* 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning charred plant remains such as these to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96).

Radiocarbon dating may be possible on the charcoal if it is identified and suitable taxa found to be present, but no further work is recommended on this sample. Future work should continue to bulk sample as charred plant remains have survived in this context.

## **8 Conclusion**

Archaeological evaluation at 78 Straight Road identified the Roman central ditch of the Triple Dyke. This ditch is aligned north-south and is located across the eastern third of the proposed new development. The central ditch at this location is estimated to measure 5.2m-6.5m wide, which corresponds to previous archaeological work 0.63km to the north which recorded the central ditch as c 5.3m wide (by c 1.8m deep with a flat base) (CAR 11, 57 Fig 2.33 and 59). Any future groundworks within the proposed development site would potentially impact upon this important archaeological monument.

## **9 Acknowledgements**

CAT thanks David Syrett and Balkerne Gate Developments (Southeast) Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with R Mathieson. Figures are by S Carter and L Pooley. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

## 10 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at

<http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- |   |              |   |
|---|--------------|---|
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| CAR 11  | 1995         | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy  |
| CAT   | 2014         | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT Report 109  | 2000         | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 93-97 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2000</i>   |
| CAT Report 135  | 2001         | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Plot 6 to the rear of 91 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2001</i>  |
| CAT Report 381  | 2006         | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Kingsmead House, 108 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2004-February 2005</i>   |
| CAT Report 1000   | forth-coming | <i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000</i>  |
| CBCAA   | 2016         | <i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 78 Straight Road, Colchester, CO3 9DB</i> , by J Tipper  |
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| ClfA  | 2014a        | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| ClfA  | 2014b        | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>  |
| ClfA  | 2014c        | <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>   |
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Robinson, M & Straker, V	1990	'Silica skeletons of macroscopic plant remains from ash' in Renfrew, J M <i>New light on early farming. Recent Developments in Palaeoethnobotany</i> . Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 3-13, Edinburgh University Press.
Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles</i> , 3rd edition, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1253)

CBC 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

## 13 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: 2018.25.

**Distribution list:**

David Syrett, Balkerne Gate Developments (Southeast) Ltd  
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

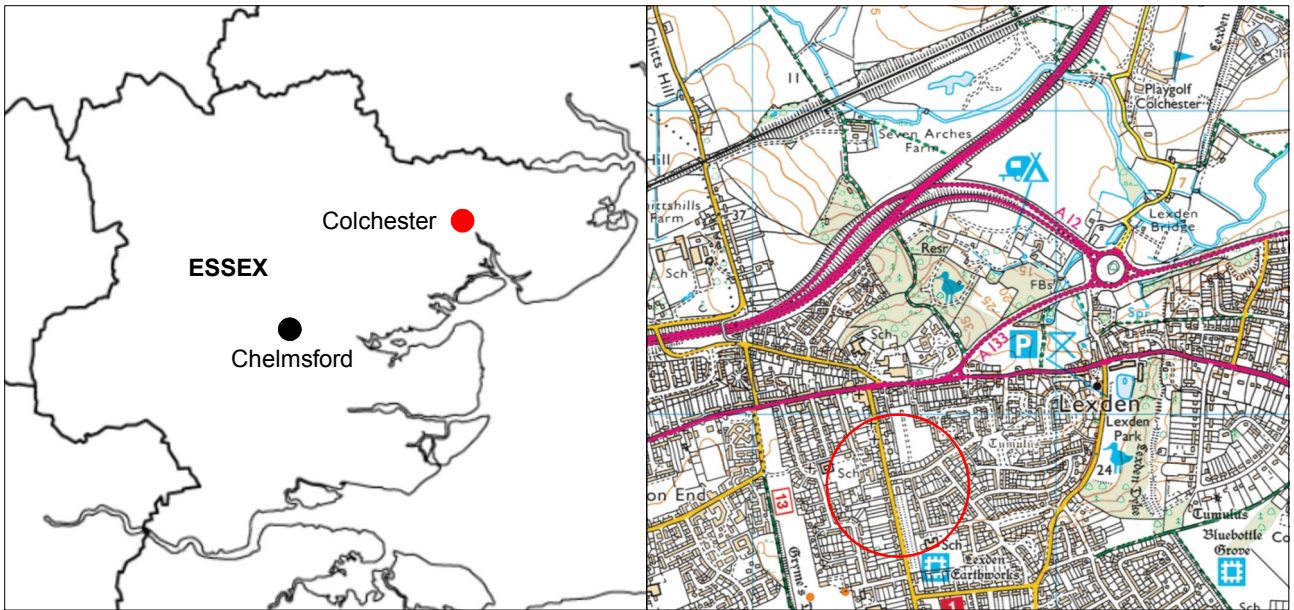
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 6.4.2018



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue) and the Triple Dyke (green).



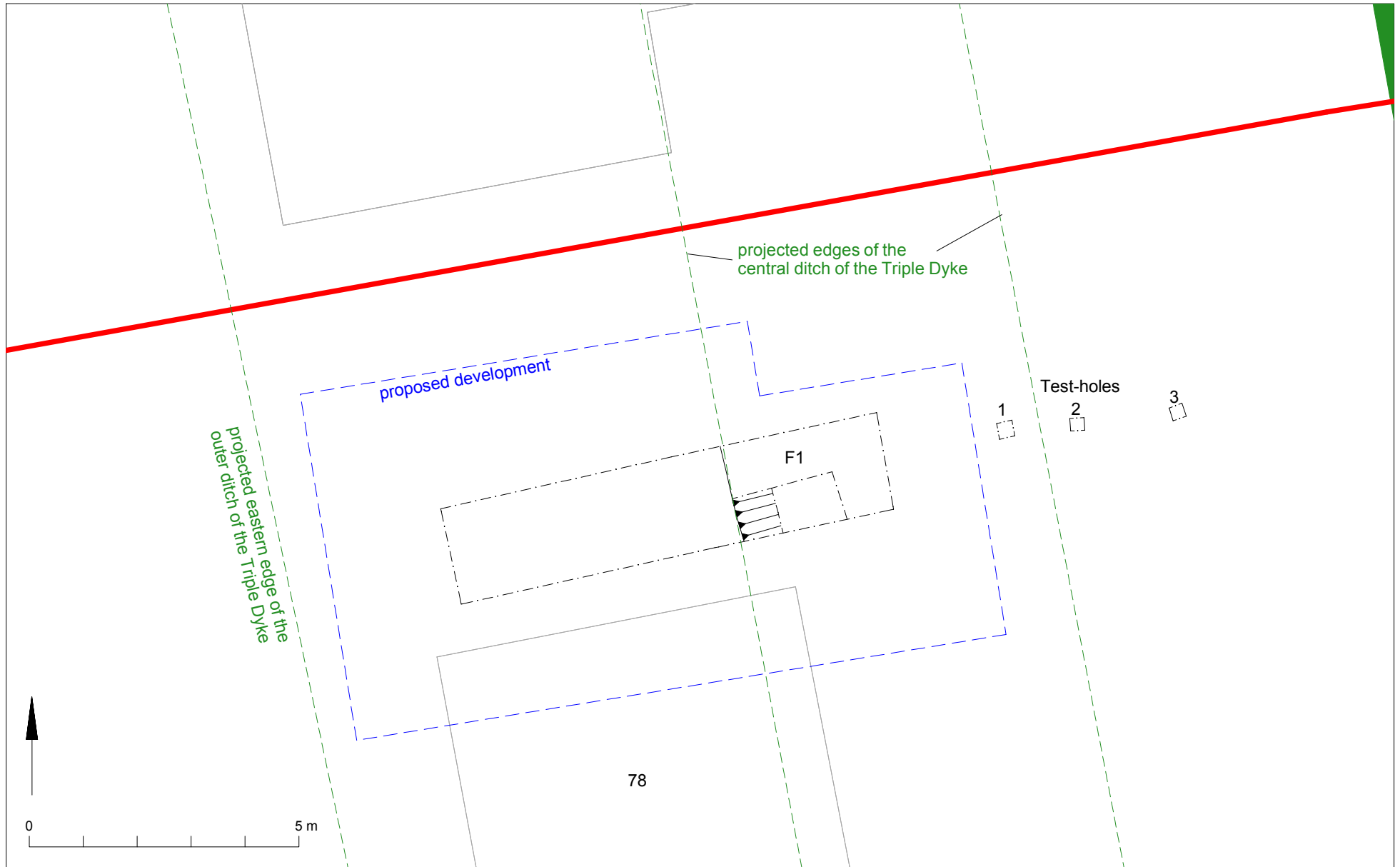


Fig 2 Results

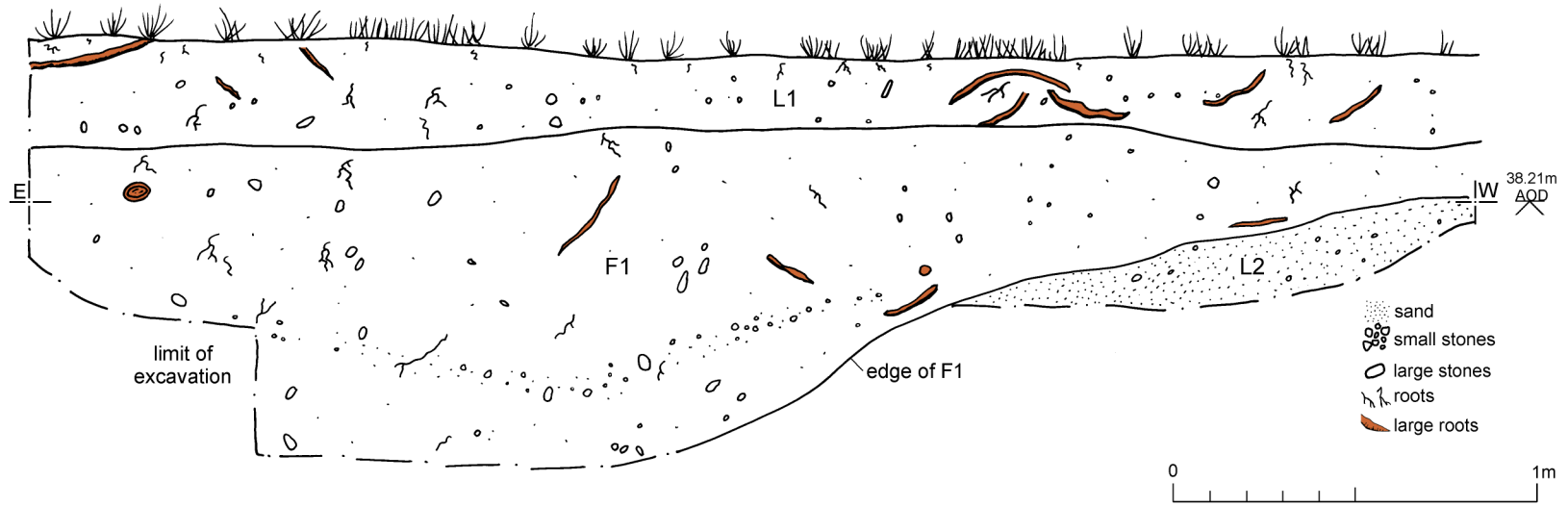


Fig 3 Feature and representative section.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> 78 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9DB	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9647 2477 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 18/03j CHER ref: ECC4162 OASIS ref: colchest3-312273
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 27th March 2018	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.1ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.25	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC7041, MCC7467 Scheduled monument 1019993
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1253	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (one trench) was undertaken at 78 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling. Located within the projected line of the Roman earthwork known as the Triple Dyke, evaluation revealed the remains of the central ditch of the dyke. The eastern edge of the ditch was located outside the evaluation trench, but three small test-holes suggest that the ditch measures between 5.2m-6.5m wide. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.9m but the base of the feature was not reached. There were no archaeological finds.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> <i>Camulodunum</i> , by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947) <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11 (CAR 11): Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995).	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> Triple Dyke	<b>Significance:</b> **
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> April 2018

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for an archaeological evaluation by trial-  
trenching at 78 Straight Road, Colchester,  
Essex, CO3 9DB.**

**NGR:** TL 9647 2477

**Planning references:** 180144

**Commisioned by:** David Syrett

**Client:** Balkerne Gate Developments (Southeast) Ltd

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** tbc

**CHER number:** tbc

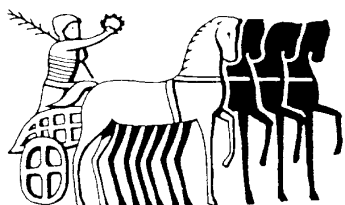
**CAT project code:** 18/03j

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-312273

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 21.03.2018



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 3.8km west of the main centre of Colchester at 78 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9DB (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 9647 2477.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of an existing single storey structure attached to the existing dwelling, the formation of a building plot, and the erection of a two storey dwelling with associated parking facilities for both properties, served by an improved access as well as any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

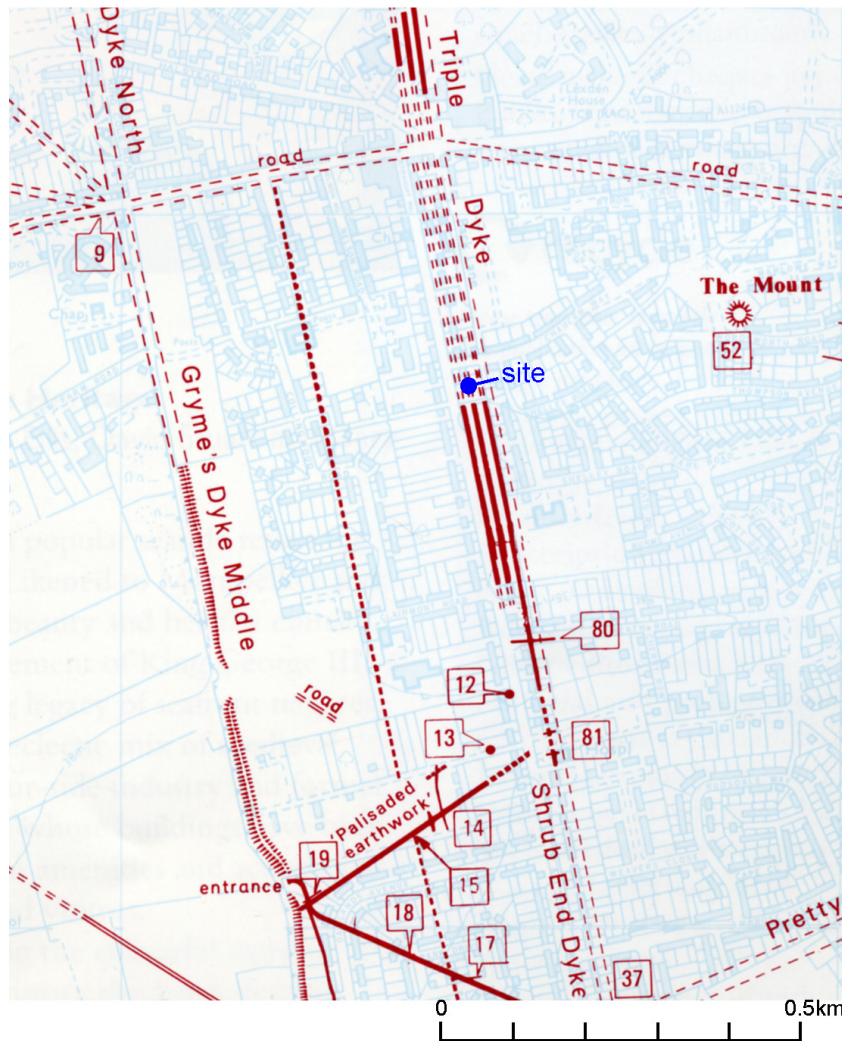
The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)), and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed by Heritage Gateway.

The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological significance. It lies below the projected line of the earthwork known as the Triple Dyke, Scheduled Monument 1019993 (MCC7041) and Shrub End Dyke (MCC7467). The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. *Camulodunum* was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably of the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11* (CAR 11), by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995).

The Shrub End Dyke was originally a single ditch thought to have been constructed in approximately AD10 and formed part of a system with the Lexden and Sheepen Dykes. Aerial photography in 1933 revealed that a little north of Heath Road the Shrub End Dyke became three ditches. The photographs show the Triple Dyke continues for approximately 1.61km to the north from Heath Road to the River Colne (CAR 11, 55-7). In 1961 by Colchester Archaeological Group excavated a section through the Triple Dyke. The section revealed that the innermost ditch has larger dimensions than the outer two. Crummy believes this shows the innermost ditch is the original Shrub End dyke and the two additional ditches and banks were added later and are likely Roman in date (CAR 11, 57 Fig 2.33 and 59). In 1984 two sections of the Shrub End Dyke were excavated. Its western edge was recorded at 21.5m east of the western site boundary (on Straight Road). Its width was recorded at 6m and its depth varied from approximately 1m to 3m deep (CAR 6, 1045-6, fig 13.278).

In more recent years little archaeological work has been carried out in this area. In 2000 CAT monitored a small development at 93-97 Straight Road but only an indeterminate, possibly natural feature was seen (CAT Report 109). During monitoring in 2001 at 91 Straight Road no archaeological features were seen (CAT Report 135). Development work in 2006 at Kingsmead House, 108 Straight Road uncovered one possible undated ditch seen in the south-facing section of the northern wall of the eastern half of Block B (CAT report 381). However, the ditch was considerably farther to the east than the recorded line of the Shrub End Dyke (49m east, as opposed to 21.5m east of the western site boundary on Straight Road). Therefore, although tempting to assume that it may have been part of the dyke system, it could not be proven.





**Map 1:** Extract of the general map of Colchester showing the locations of earthworks and excavations discussed in CAR11 (Fig 6.1).

### Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2018 (application No.180144) proposing the demolition of the extension attached to the existing dwelling, splitting the site to create a second two-storey dwelling on the plot. New parking facilities for both dwellings with improved access.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the 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 archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Specifically, the work will involve the excavation of a single trench 8m long by 1.8m wide located within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling . The purpose of the trench is to

assess the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if further archaeological investigation is required. Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should provide for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- **Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.**

## **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 supervisor plus one archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner/Ben Holloway

## **Evaluation methodology**

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

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

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine trenches, contexts and 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.

## **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**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

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. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science

(East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

## 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: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman / 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 / Ian Betts (MOLA)

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 the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site 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**

Note: 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>  |
| CAR 6    | 1992 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy |

CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 109	2000	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 93-97 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex: October 2000</i> , unpublished CAT archive report, by C Crossan
CAT Report 135	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Plot 6 to the rear of 91 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2001</i> , unpublished CAT archive report, by K Orr
CAT Report 381	2006	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Kingsmead House, 108 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex: July 2004-February 2005</i> , unpublished CAT archive report, by K Orr and H Brooks
CBCPS	2018	<i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at 78 Straight road, Colchester, CO3 9DB</i> by J Tipper
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>
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 14 (EAA 14).
Hawkes, CFC, and Hull, MR	1947	<i>Camulodunum</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

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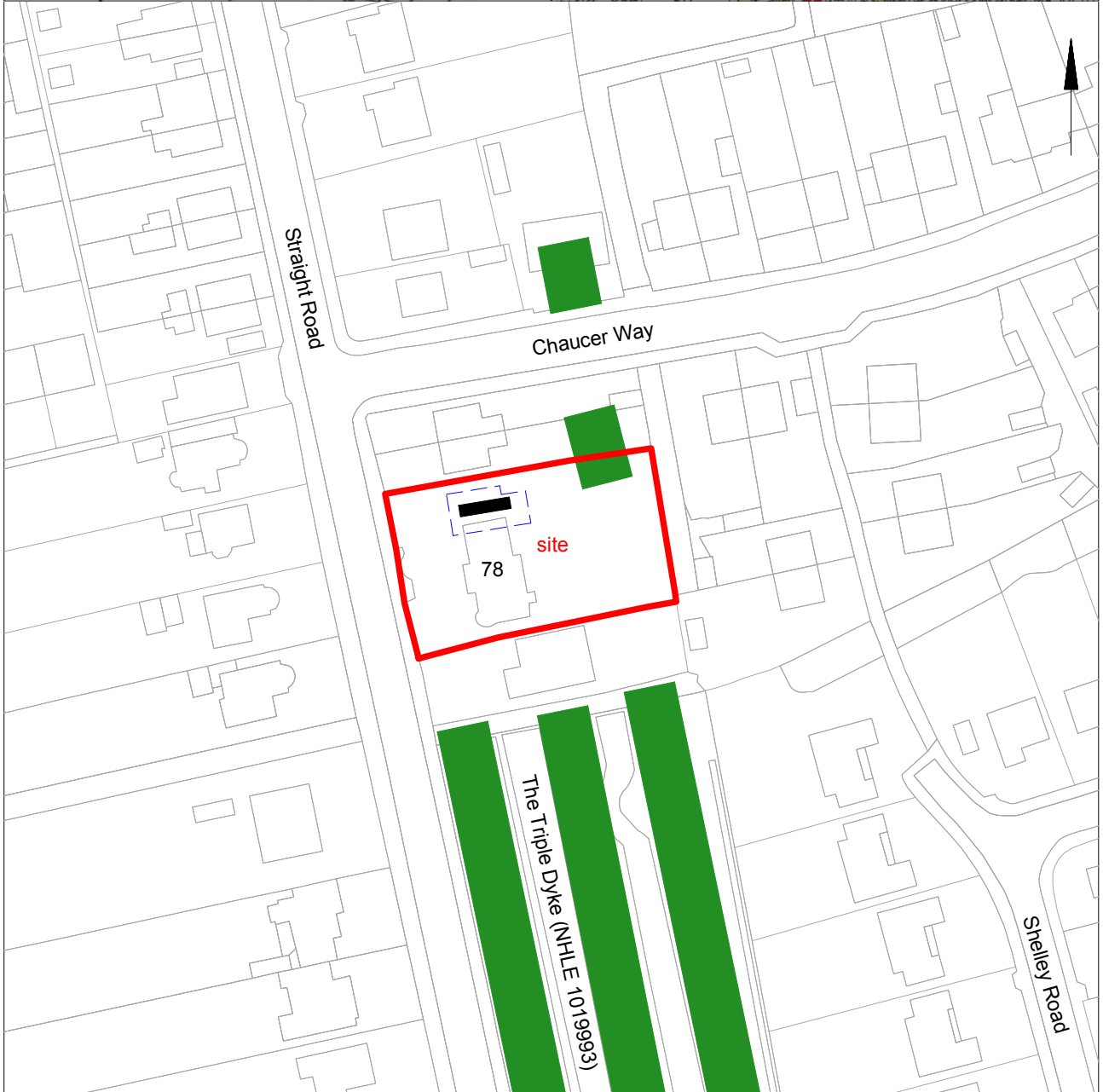
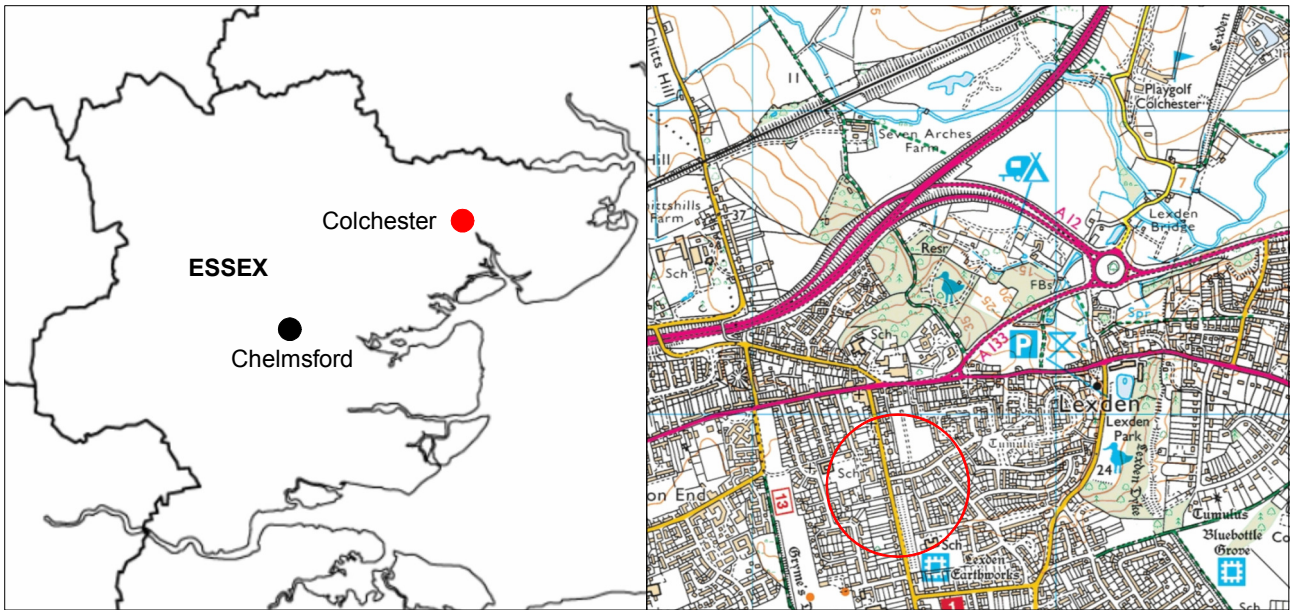


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-312273**

## Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at 78 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9DB
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (one trench) was undertaken at 78 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling. Located within the projected line of the Roman earthwork known as the Triple Dyke, evaluation revealed the remains of the central ditch of the dyke. The eastern edge of the ditch was located outside the evaluation trench, but three small test-holes suggest that the ditch measures between 5.2m-6.5m wide. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.9m but the base of the feature was not reached. There were no archaeological finds.
Project dates	Start: 27-03-2018 End: 27-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/03j - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	180144 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4162 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.25 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	TRIPLE DYKE Roman
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 78 Straight Road
Postcode	CO3 9DB
Study area	0.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9647 2477 51.886292647851 0.855220323766 51 53 10 N 000 51 18 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38m Max: 38.4m

## Project creators

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

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum



Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.25
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.25
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Triple Dyke: An archaeological evaluation at 78 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9DB
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1253
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ringbound loose-leaf
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html</a>
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	6 April 2018

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