

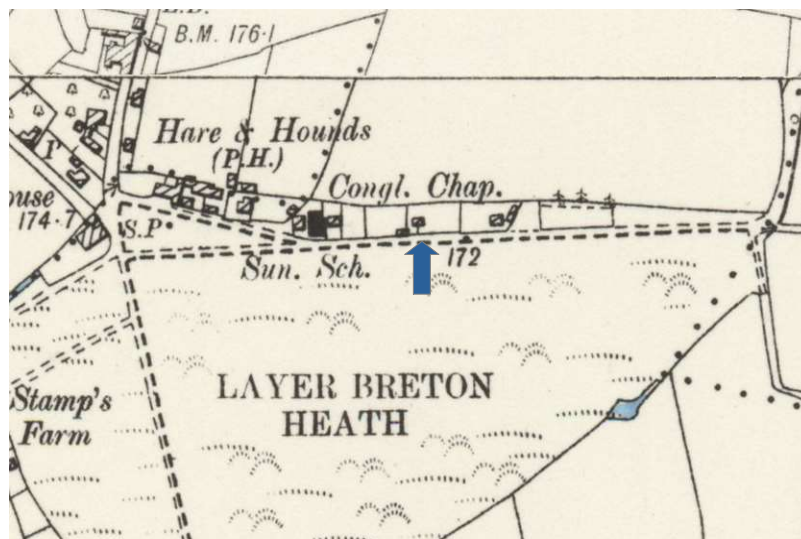


Colchester
Archaeological
Trust

CAT Report 1436	Parish: Layer Breton
Archaeological monitoring at Five Oaks, Layer Breton, Essex, CO2 OPN: May 2019	Planning reference: 182288
	CHER Event no.: ECC4311
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-343924
	Grid Reference: TL 94573 18805
	Number of site visits: 3
	Dates of visits: 20th, 22nd and 28th May 2019

Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for a first-floor balcony across the rear elevation of the existing property.

Reason for condition: The site lies within a burial ground of the Congregation Chapel which was demolished in the 1920s (see Map 1 below). Immediately to the south is a cropmark complex thought to indicate the presence of prehistoric archaeological remains. It also sits in the midst of a number of findspots of Roman artefacts and building material which suggest the presence of Roman villa nearby, and near to areas of historic heathland and village greens.



Map 1 Essex XXXVI.SE; rev. 1895, pub. 1898. Site indicated by the blue arrow

% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.

Results: The excavation of six foundation pads, each measuring 0.75m by 0.8m and 0.55-0.6m deep, was archaeologically monitored in response to a brief set by Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

Groundworks penetrated four layers. Pad 1, Pad 2 and Pad 3 were excavated through a modern patio (L1, c 0.15m thick, block paving with soft, dry medium yellow sand sub-base), a make-up or subsoil layer (L2, c 0.35m thick, friable/firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with brick flecks) onto natural (L3, firm, moist medium yellow/orange/brown clay, encountered at a depth of c 0.5m below current ground level). Pad 4, Pad 5 and Pad 6 were excavated through modern topsoil (L4, c 0.2m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay) and L2 (c 0.3-0.35m thick) onto L3 (encountered at a

depth of 0.5-0.55m thick).

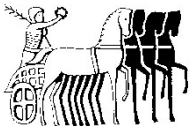
A modern service was present in Pad 4, but otherwise no significant archaeological deposits or material were encountered.



Photograph 1 Site shot

Recorded by: Dr Elliott Hicks

Date: 14th June 2019



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 17.06.2019

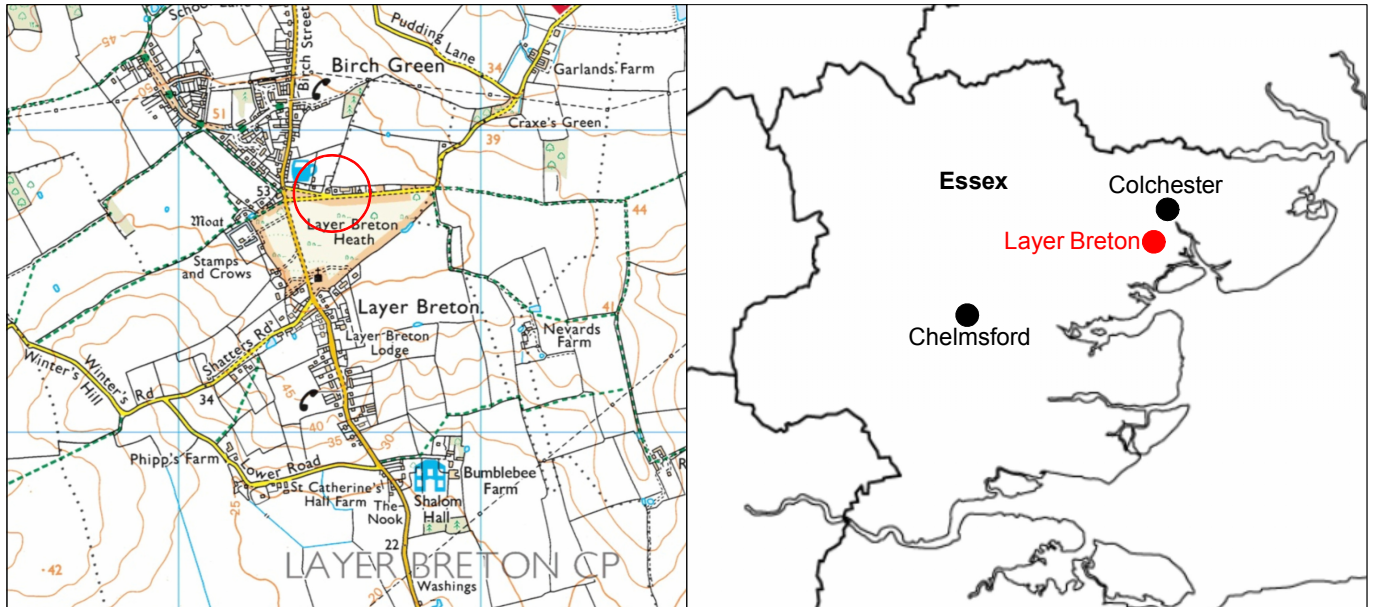


Fig 1 Site location

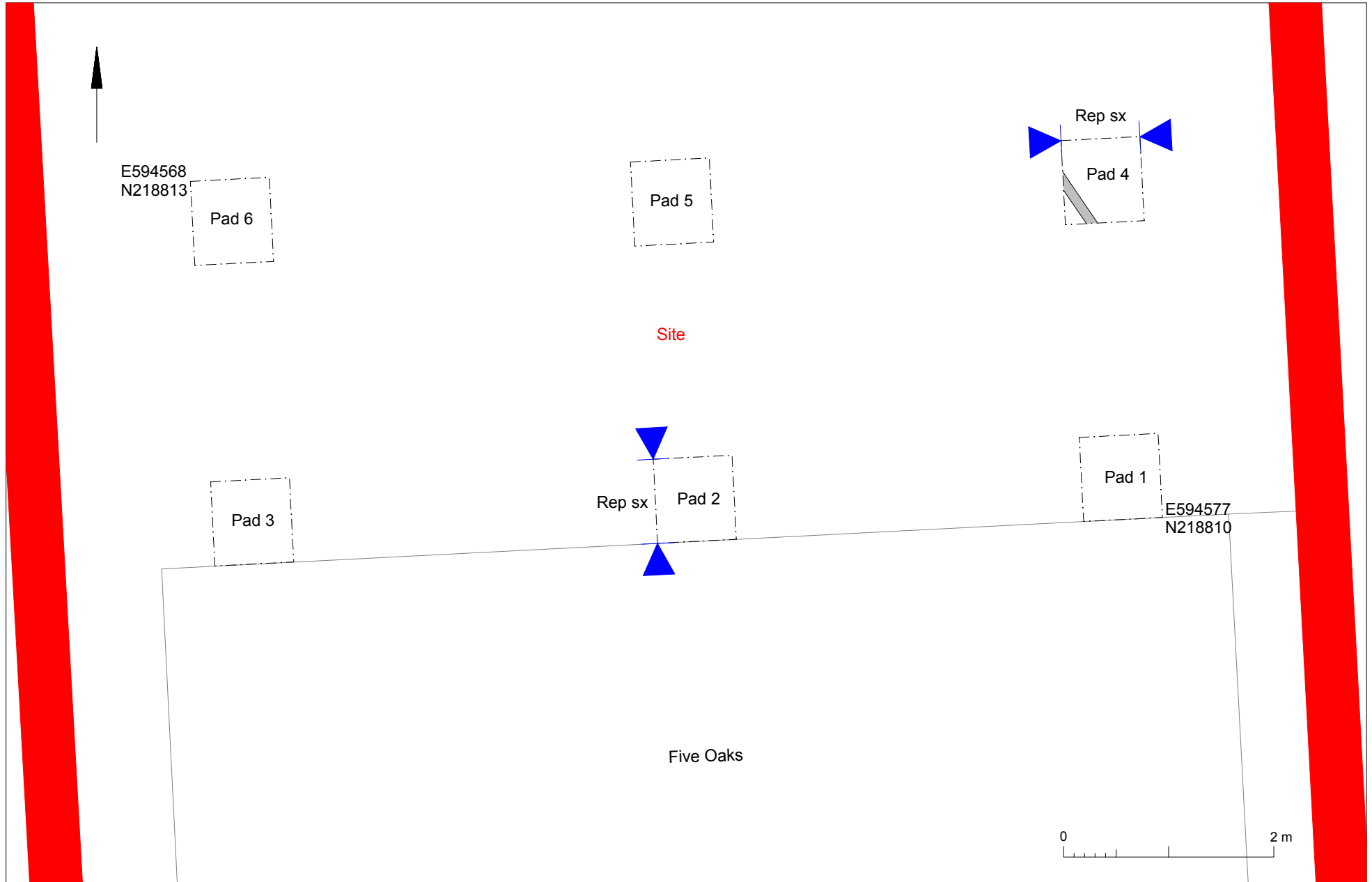


Fig 2 Monitoring results.

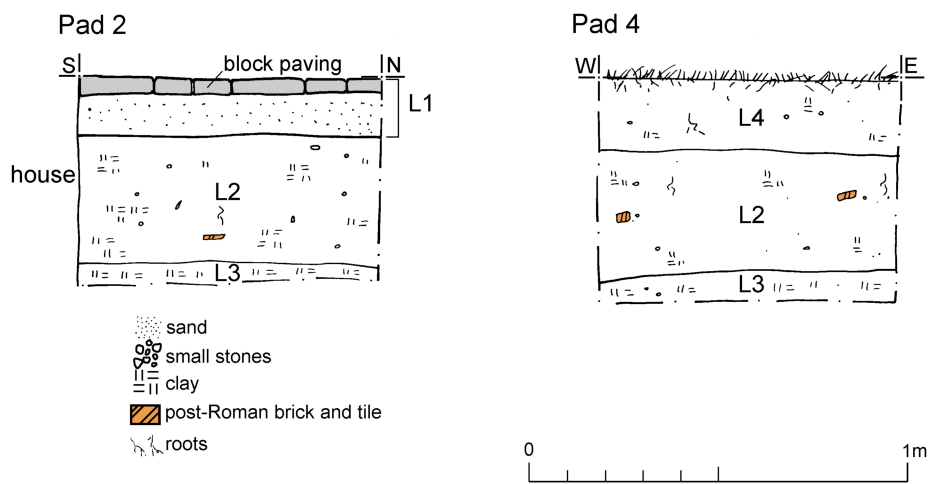


Fig 3 Representative sections.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for continuous archaeological monitoring and
recording at Five Oaks, Layer Breton, Essex,
CO2 0PN.**

NGR: TL 94573 18805 (centre)

Planning references: 182288

Commissioned by and on behalf of: Mark Peat, N.D.Smith (Contracts) Ltd

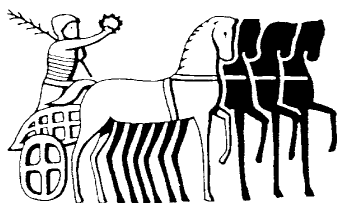
Curating museum: Colchester
Museum accession code: tbc

CHER number: ECC4311
CAT project code: 2019/02m
OASIS project number: colchest3-343924

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 27/02/2019



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 8.15km southwest of the main centre of historic Colchester, at Five Oaks, Garlands Road, Layer Breton, Essex, CO2 0PN (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 94573 18805.

Proposed work

The development involves the construction of a first floor balcony across the rear elevation of the existing property, and 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):

The site is located c 250m east of the village of Birch Green, within an area of very gently undulating, rural landscape to the southwest of Colchester. The field pattern is very varied, ranging from irregular fields (these are probably medieval or earlier in origin) to a more co-axial rectilinear system (medieval or earlier in origin).

To the immediate north of the site is an area of cropmarks recorded through aerial photography. Interpretations of the cropmarks suggest there is half a sub-circular enclosure with two entrances, a small ring-ditch with a central pit, and ditches towards the east (MCC8157). Cropmarks can tenuously suggest evidence of prehistoric occupation, but may also be evidence of old agricultural boundaries. A find spot of Neolithic flints recovered within the cropmark area could indicate the cropmarks may well be prehistoric in origin (MCC8257).

There have been multiple HER recordings of Roman artefacts to the south of the site on farmland east of Layer Breton Lodge. Large quantities of Roman roof, floor and flue tiles alongside Roman pottery have been spotted across the field, especially after ploughing (MCC7340-2, MCC7423-4, and MCC8244). The concentration suggests there is Roman occupation close by, probably a Roman villa.

The site is located on the northwestern edge of Layer Breton heath (MCC9138), east of the historic Birch Green (MCC9111) and southwest of Craxe's Green (MCC9316). The historic heathland and green areas are recorded on the 1777 map of Essex by Chapman and André.

The CHER records tell us of a small Independent Chapel fronting the north side of Layer Breton Heath, which included a manse and two small burial grounds to the east; only the easternmost burial ground survives today (the other has been built over with dwellings). The chapel was opened in 1798 and demolished mid 1920s (CHER 9319). The current site lies within the area defined for one of the small burial grounds.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2018 (application No.182288) proposing a *1st floor balcony across rear elevation of existing property. Glass balustrade to rear of balcony, privacy and sound absorbing partition to left side, to provide additional privacy and acoustic screening from and to neighbouring property.*

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* (MHCLG 2018).

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 2019).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site. As groundworks have already commenced, prior to an approved WSI, the monitoring will be limited to recording sections of open foundations, searching the spoil heap and monitoring any outstanding groundworks and services.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

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 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork alongside a project or site code 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 archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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.

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. Any processing and reporting will be 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 or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA. 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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ 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.

Matthew Loughton (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): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman
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: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown
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* (Historic England 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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) 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: 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	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CBCAA	2019	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Five Oaks, Garland Road, Layer Breton, CO2 0PN.</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>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
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)
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

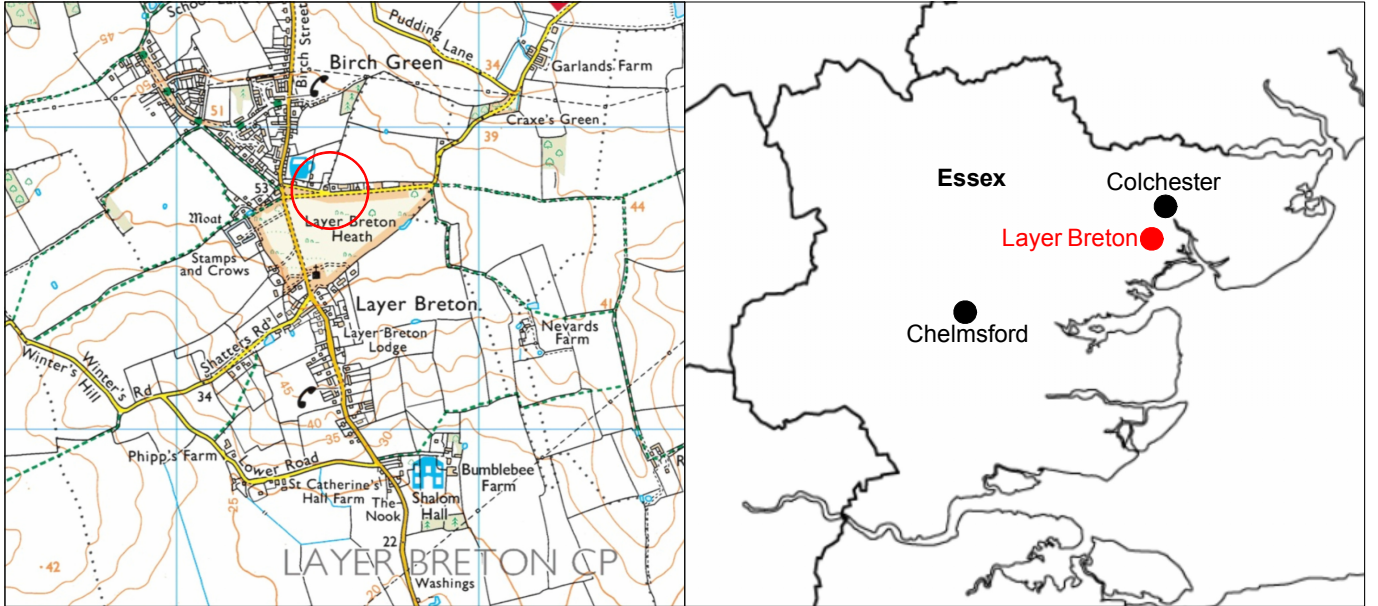
E Holloway



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Fig 1 Site location

0 20 m

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OASIS ID: colchest3-343924

Project details

Project name	Continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at Five Oaks, Layer Breton, Essex, CO2 0PN
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Five Oaks, Layer Breton, during the excavation of six foundation pads to accommodate a first-floor balcony. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 20-05-2019 End: 28-05-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	182288 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/02m - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2019.16 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4311 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER LAYER BRETON Five Oaks, Layer Breton, Essex
Postcode	CO2 0PN
Study area	0.03 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 94573 18805 51.833389723295 0.824329161089 51 50 00 N 000 49 27 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mark Peat, N.D.Smith (Contracts) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2019.16
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2019.16
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography

1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at Five Oaks, Layer Breton, Essex, CO2 0PN: May 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1434
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	17 June 2019

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