

Archaeological evaluation at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BG

June 2020



by Dr Elliott Hicks

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Ziya Eksen and Alexander Smith

**commissioned by Stephen Nixon (Stanley Bragg)
on behalf of Ali Cock (Oak Home Developments)**

NGR: TL 9763 2711 (centre)
Planning ref.: 181630 (& 190582)
CAT project ref.: 19/11d
ECC code: ECC4401
OASIS ref.: colchest3-374043



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CAT Report 1569
June 2020

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of five new dwellings. The site lies near to Moat Farm Dyke, one of a series of earthworks which define the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and is located in the midst of a number of cropmark complexes. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, only a medieval or post-medieval pit, a modern pit, an undatable pit or posthole and an undatable posthole were uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex which was carried out during 24th-25th June 2020. The work was commissioned by Stephen Nixon (Stanley Bragg) on behalf of Ali Cock (Oak Home Developments) in advance of the construction of a residential development of five new dwellings, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

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). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trenched Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

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

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECC and MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

The site is located within an area of archaeological interest, being situated c 150m northwest of Moat Farm Dyke. The Colchester dykes and earthworks 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). Moat Farm Dyke is aligned roughly NNE-SSW and was a continuation of Lexden Dyke North beyond the River Colne. Although the dyke has never been excavated, a map issued by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in 1922 shows it extending as far north as Baker's Lane (CAR 11, 34).

Plotted cropmarks, recorded through aerial photography, surround the site. To the southeast linear features are situated around Moat Farm cottages (MCC5739). Cropmarks to the south and southwest indicate the presence of a rectilinear feature and an isolated ring-ditch (MCC7758), and another ring-ditch and linear features (MCC7732). The presence of rectilinear enclosures, possible pits, trackways and linear features are evidenced by further cropmarks to the west include (MCC7720).

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the site. In 2017, Oxford Archaeology East (OA Report 2138, ECC4053) commissioned a geophysical survey and subsequently carried out an evaluation on land off Baker's Lane immediately to the south. Although few archaeological features were revealed, two shallow charcoal-rich pits were recorded. Archaeological investigations conducted by CAT at the Colchester Northern Gateway project have found numerous examples of this kind of feature that are thought to relate to charcoal production. A review of archaeological reports have found charcoal-rich pits to be quite common to the north of Colchester, and carbon-dating has indicated that these features range in date from the late prehistoric to the post-medieval periods (see CAT Report 1219 for an overview [ECC4112]).

To the northeast of the site a large plot of land has been designated the Colchester Northern Growth Area Urban Extension area (NGAUE/Colchester North). The northern parts of this area have been fieldwalked, evaluated and excavated by CAT (CAT Report 627; ECC2994). The southern areas have not yet been released for development. During the excavation of Area A, the principal discovery was a tile-built rectangular kiln. Over 530kg of medieval pottery was also recovered. The pottery included a significant number of wasters and misfired pots, some of which had been thrown into open pits which may have originally been clay quarries. Although rectangular kilns conventionally produced tile or brick, it may be the case that this kiln had a dual purpose of firing Colchester-type ware pots in addition to larger ceramic objects such as floor bricks, and peg-tiles. A wide range of pottery products appear to have been produced here, including pitchers, dripping pans, pipkins, sprinklers or bottles, and louvers in addition to the usual pots, jugs and bowls (CAT Report 1140).

During a watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, in Bakers Lane, CAT archaeologists observed the remains of two Late Iron Age or early Roman burials or burial-related features (CAT Report 709). The features lay within a large funerary enclosure, the presence of which was indicated by cropmarks. One of the burial features was a Late Iron Age or early Roman unurned cremation burial which produced an amphora and some worked bone, as well as a quantity of cremated human bone. Nearby, another feature was partially uncovered. From this came fragments of at least five iron spearheads, a couple of sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman imported pottery and a small quantity of cremated human bone. The ditch, which formed the western side of the enclosure, was recorded as it crossed the footprint of the extension. The funerary enclosure and the features within it are comparable to the ditched enclosures excavated by CAT at the Stanway gravel quarry between 1987 and 1997 (Crummy, 2007).

4 Aim

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Six trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trenches T1, T4 and T5 were 15m long and 1.8m wide; T3, which was an L-shaped trench, was 15m long and 1.8m wide; T2 and T6, which were both T-shaped trenches, were 20m long and 1.8m wide. The trenches were excavated through modern topsoil (L1,

0.16-0.42m thick, soft/friable dark brown sandy silt) and subsoil (L2, 0.03-0.37m thick, firm, dry light yellow/brown sandy-silt with 25% stones) onto natural (L3, light yellow/orange sandy-silt with 35% gravel, encountered at a depth of 0.26-0.76m below current ground level).

No archaeological remains were encountered in trenches T3 or T5.

Trench 1 (T1): 15m long by 1.8m wide

Natural feature F1 was excavated.

Trench 2 (T2): 15m long by 1.8m wide

Posthole or pit F2 and posthole F3 were situated together at the northern end of the trench. The former feature was 0.6m wide and 0.24m deep, the latter was 0.29m wide and 0.28m deep. Neither feature produced any dating evidence.



Photograph 1 T2 trench shot – looking south southwest

Trench 4 (T4): 15m long by 1.8m wide

Modern pit F4 was uncovered at the northern end of the trench. Asbestos was found in the feature and so it was not excavated.

Trench 6 (T6): 20m long by 1.8m wide

Medieval or post-medieval pit F5 was not fully excavated due to the presence of a drainage pipe which passed through the trench, but its exposed extent was 0.52m wide and 0.23m deep.

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The excavation produced five sherds of peg-tile with a weight of 349g, all of which came from the feature F5 (1). Some of the peg-tile was in an unusual white/cream coloured fabric. A medieval or post-medieval date can be given for this feature.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, only five features were uncovered during the course of this investigation: a posthole, two pits, a posthole or pit and a natural feature. Little artefactual evidence was recovered but one pit was established to be modern and another as medieval or post-medieval.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Stephen Nixon of Stanley Bragg and Ali Cock of Oak Home Developments for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with Z Eksen and A Smith. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Jess Tipper.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---|
| Brown, D | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy |
| CAT | 2019 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2019 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BG</i> , by E Holloway |
| CAT Report 627 | 2012 | <i>An archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial-trenching at the Northern Growth Area Urban Extension (NGAUE), Colchester, Essex September-December 2011</i> , by H Brooks, B Holloway & T Dennis |
| CAT Report 709 | 2014 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex: January-August 2013</i> , by D Shimmin |
| CAT Report 1140 | 2018 | <i>Pottery production in Mile End (Colchester) in the 12th to 16th centuries: excavations at 'Colchester North' (formerly NGAUE) Area A, January to March 2017</i> , by H Brooks |
| CAT Report 1219 | 2018 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub Plots 2-3, Colchester, Essex – November-December 2017</i> , by L Pooley |
| CBCAA | 2019 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester</i> , by J Tipper |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Crummy, C <i>et al</i> | 2007 | <i>Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum</i> . Britannia Monograph Series 24 |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14) |
| Historic England | 2015b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| 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 | 2019 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. |
| OA Report 2138 | 2017 | <i>Land off Bakers Lane, Braiswick Archaeological Evaluation report</i> , by N Cox |

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
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
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
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
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1569)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1569)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

12 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 ref. no. ECC4401.

Distribution list:

Stephen Nixon (Stanley Bragg)

Ali Cock (Oak Home Developments)

Dr Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

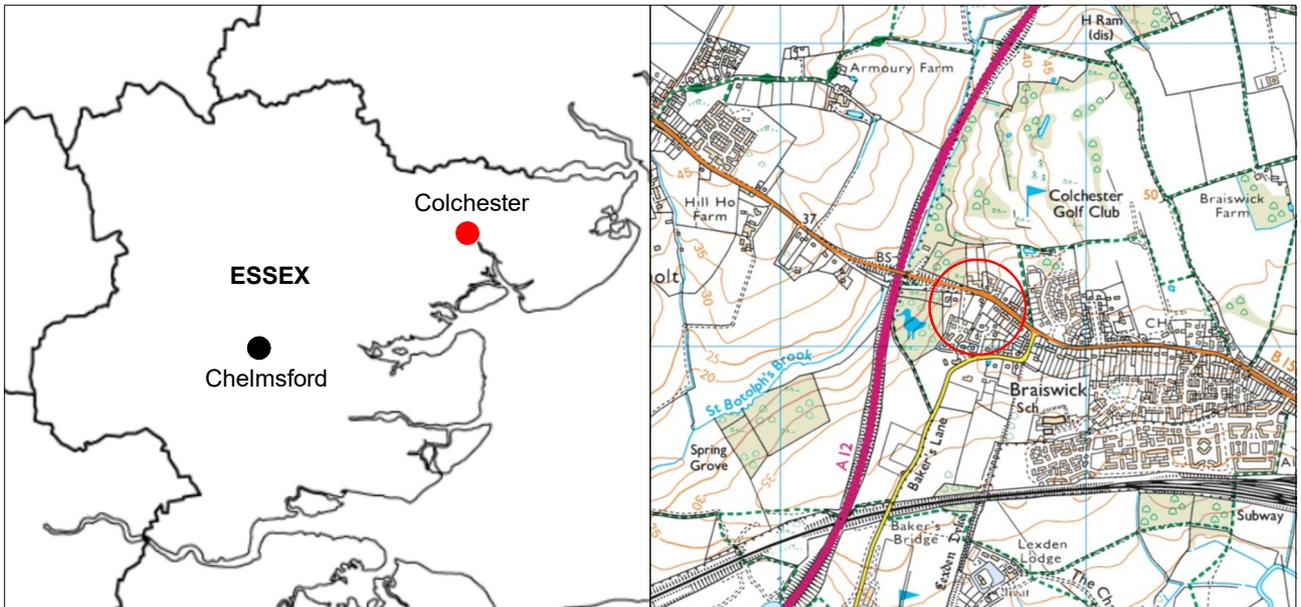
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 17.07.2020

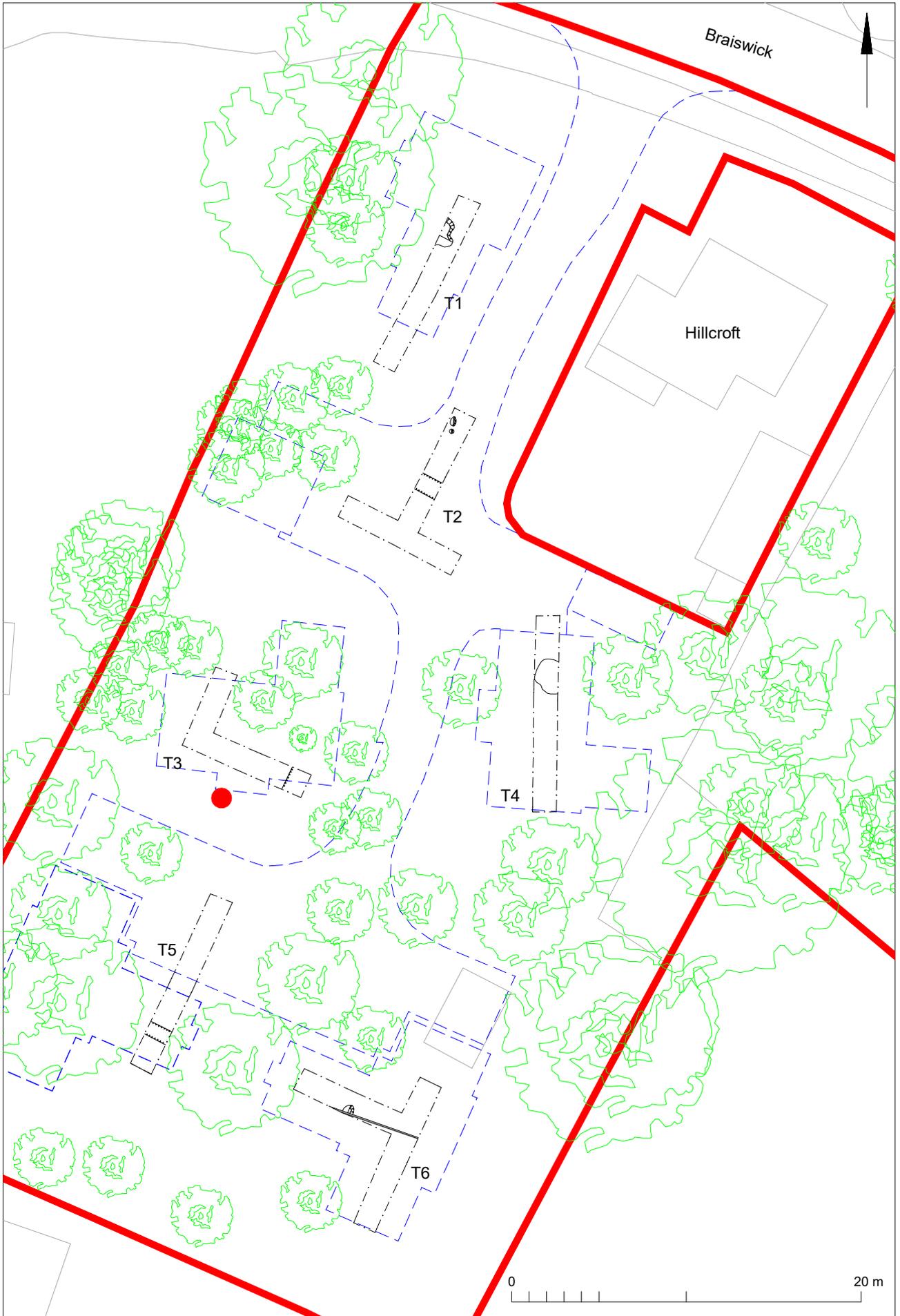


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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines) and arboreal constraints.

● = capped well





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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

● = capped well

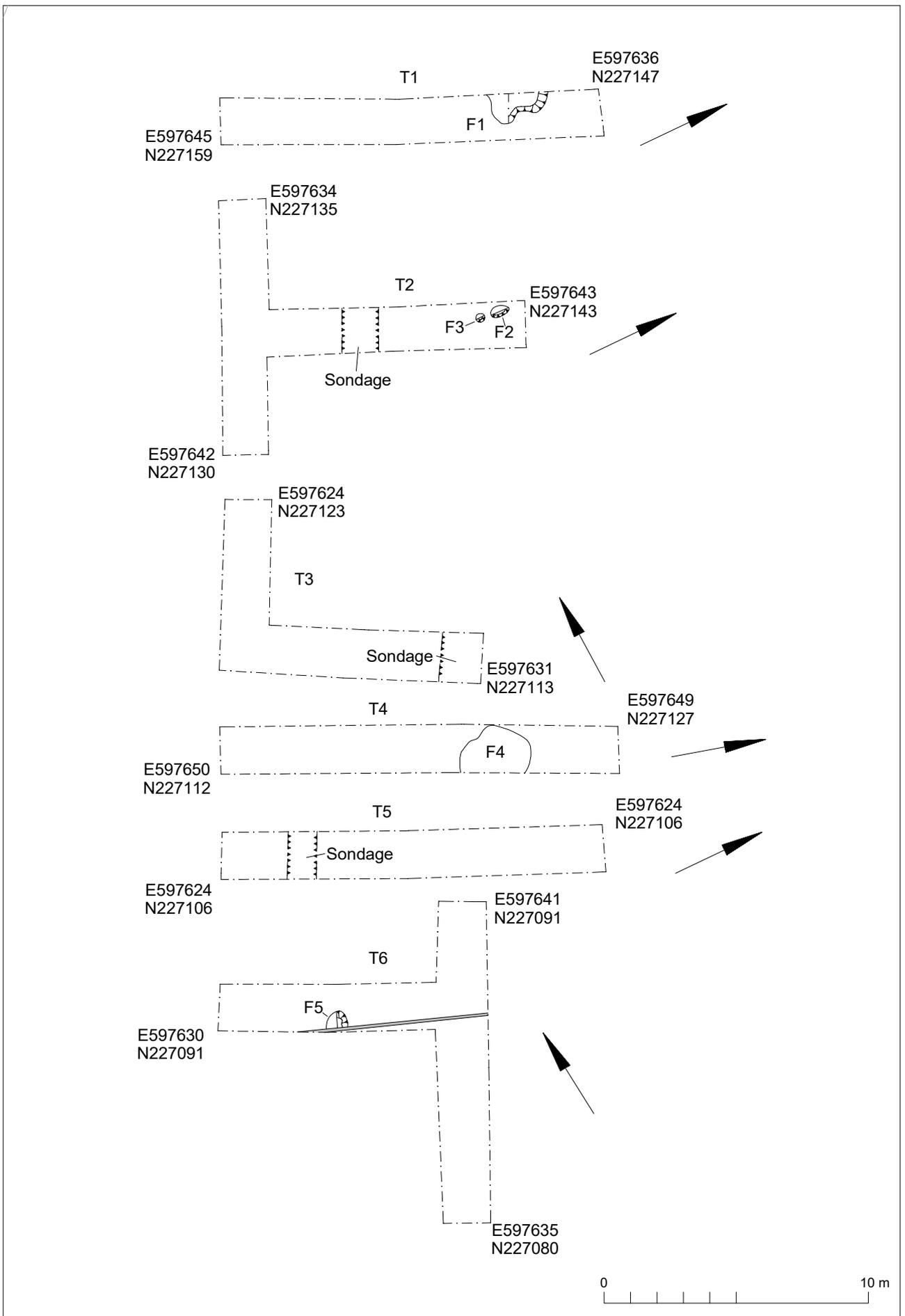


Fig 3 Evaluation trench results.

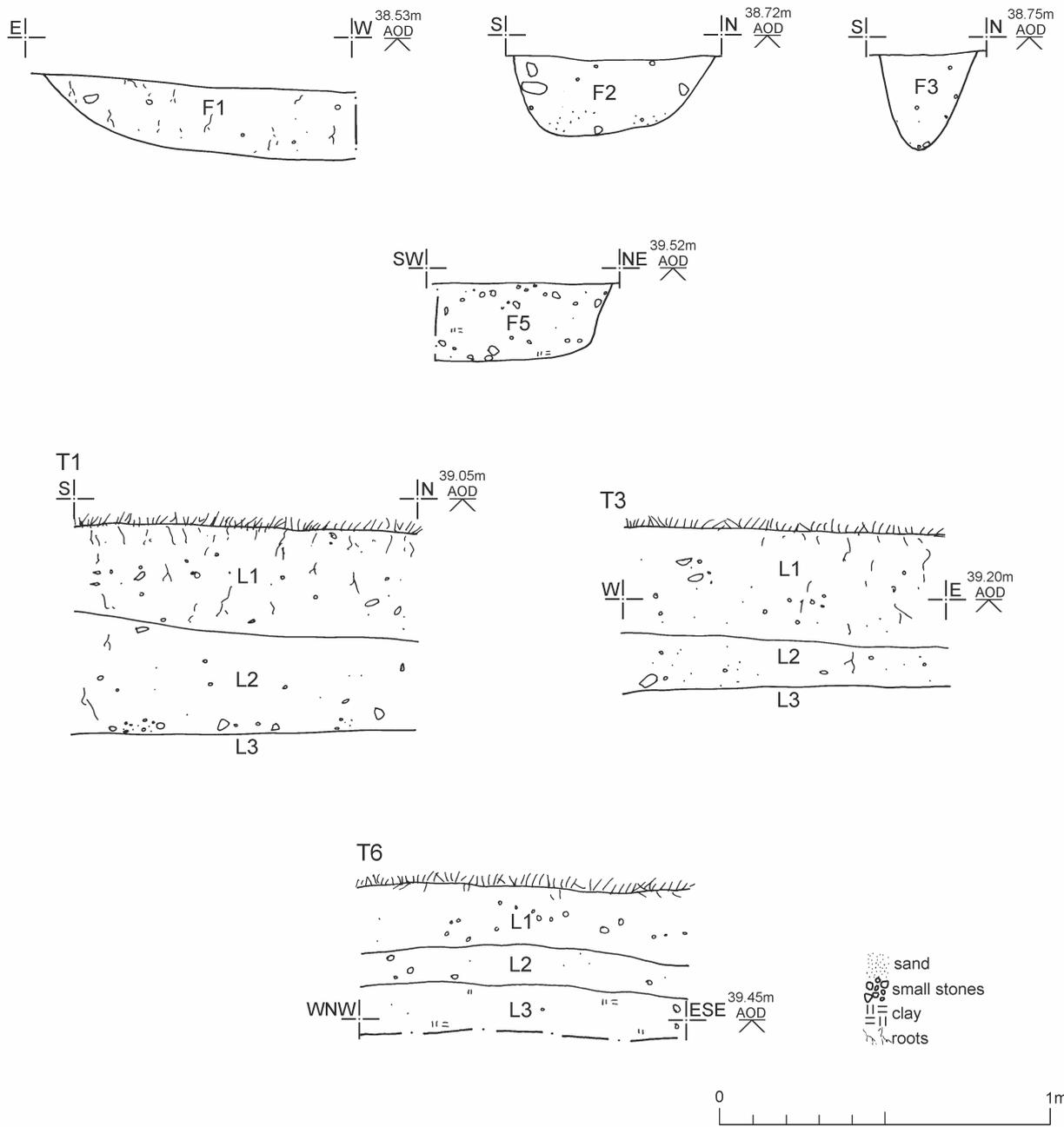


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BG	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9763 2711(centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 19/11d CHER ref: ECC4401 OASIS ref: colchest3-374043
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 24th-25th June 2020	Size of area investigated: 0.55ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC5739, MCC7720, MCC7732, MCC7758; ECC2994, ECC4053, ECC4112
Final report: CAT Report 1569	
Periods represented: Medieval, post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of five new dwellings. The site lies near to Moat Farm Dyke, one of a series of earthworks which define the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and is located in the midst of a number of cropmark complexes. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, only a medieval or post-medieval pit, a modern pit, an undatable pit or posthole and an undatable posthole were uncovered.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Dr Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: July 2020

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BG.

NGR: TL 9763 2711 (centre)
District: Colchester

Planning reference: 181630 (& 190582)

Commissioned by: Stephen Nixon (Stanley Bragg)
On behalf of: Ali Cock (Oak Home Developments)

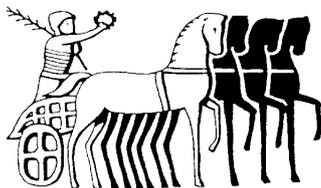
Curating museum: Colchester

CHER project code: ECC4401
CAT project code: 2019/11d
Oasis project ID: colchest3-374043

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 15/11/2019



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2.73km northeast of the main historic centre of Colchester Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BG (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9763 2711. The proposed residential development is a 0.58hectare plot to be built within the garden of the existing house.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of five new dwellings with associated, services, access, parking, landscaping and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECCMCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

The site is located within an area of archaeological interest, primarily by being situated c 150m northwest of Moat Farm Dyke. The Colchester dykes and earthworks 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). Moat Farm Dyke is aligned approximately NNE-SSW and it's purpose was a continuation of Lexden Dyke North beyond the River Colne. Although there has been no excavation of the dyke, the Royal Commission's 1922 map from a survey just prior to WWI showed the dyke marked as far north as Baker's Lane (CAR 11, 34).

Plotted cropmarks, recorded through aerial photography surround the site. To the southeast linear features are recorded at Moat Farm cottages (MCC5739). To the south/southwest cropmarks include rectilinear feature and isolated ring-ditch (MCC7758) and ring-ditch and linear features (MCC7732). To the west cropmarks include rectilinear enclosures, ?pits, trackways and linear features (MCC7720).

A number of archaeological investigations have occurred in fairly close proximity to the site. To the immediate south Oxford Archaeology East (OA Report 2138, ECC4053) had a geophysical survey undertaken followed by an evaluation on land off Baker's Lane. Although their trenches were primarily blank of archaeological features a couple of shallow charcoal-rich pits are recorded. Archaeological investigations by CAT at the Colchester Northern Gateway project have found numerous examples of this kind of feature that we believe relate to charcoal production. A review of archaeological reports to the north of Colchester have found this type of feature are quite common and carbon-dating has revealed results of mixed periods, see CAT Report 1219 (ECC4112) for an overview.

To the northeast of the site a large plot has been allocated as the Colchester Northern Growth Area Urban Extension area (NGAUE/Colchester North). The northern areas of this have been fieldwalked, evaluated and excavated by CAT (CAT Reports 627, ECC2994), the southern areas have not been released for development yet. During the excavation of Area A CAT's principal discoveries were over 530 kg of medieval pottery, and a tile-built rectangular kiln. The pottery included a significant number of wasters and misfired pots, some of which had been thrown into open pits which may have originally been clay quarries. Despite the usual convention that rectangular kilns produced tile or brick, it may be the case that this kiln had a dual purpose of firing Colchester-type ware pots, and also larger ceramic objects such as floor bricks, and peg-tiles. The range of pottery products was wide - apart from the usual pots, jugs and bowls, there were also pitchers, dripping pans, pipkins, sprinklers or bottles, and louvers (CAT Report 1140).

During a watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane CAT recorded the remains of two Late Iron Age or early Roman burials or burial-related features (CAT Report 709). The features lay within a large funerary enclosure, initially known from cropmarks. One of the burial features was a Late Iron Age or early Roman unurned cremation burial, from which were recovered an amphora and some worked bone, as well as a quantity of cremated human bone. Nearby, another feature was partially uncovered. From this came fragments of at least five iron spearheads, a couple of sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman imported pottery, and a small quantity of cremated human bone. The ditch, which formed the western side of the enclosure, was recorded as it crossed the footprint of the extension. The funerary enclosure and the features within it are comparable to the ditched enclosures excavated by CAT at the Stanway gravel quarry between 1987 and 1997 (Crummy, 2007)

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in June 2018 (application No. 181630) for a *proposed residential development of 5 No. dwellings with associated access, landscaping, and parking [Note description change from 6 No. dwellings and revised plans received] Plot 6 has been omitted from the proposals and some layout/design amendments have been made to the remainder of the scheme*. In February 2019 a further application (190582) was added in order to try and discharge condition 9 of the planning permission.

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 2019).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work was for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Specifically, the brief requested 161m of trenching to give a 5% sample of the site. Due to arboreal constraints and areas not due to be built over the CBCAA agreed to reduce the amount of trenching to 100m. This equates to six trenches: Three linear 15m long by 1.8m wide (T1, T4 and T5), two 'T' shaped trenches, both totalling 20m in length by 1.8m wide and one 'L' shaped trench 15m long and 1.8m wide. These are located to cover the location of the new dwellings and access route. The trench may need to be widened in localised areas to facilitate the excavation of deep archaeological features (if encountered)

The evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. To:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 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.

Further archaeological evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

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 CHER. 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. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus two archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Mark Baister

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.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible.

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 the trench, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

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

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. 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 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 micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming 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 process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or 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

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains *in situ* (i.e. a site visit).

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, 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. 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 the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Robin Mathieson/Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,
Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /
Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis. This can include soil micromorphological assessment and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon) if suitable deposits are identified. The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

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* (HE 2015b).

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 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. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

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>

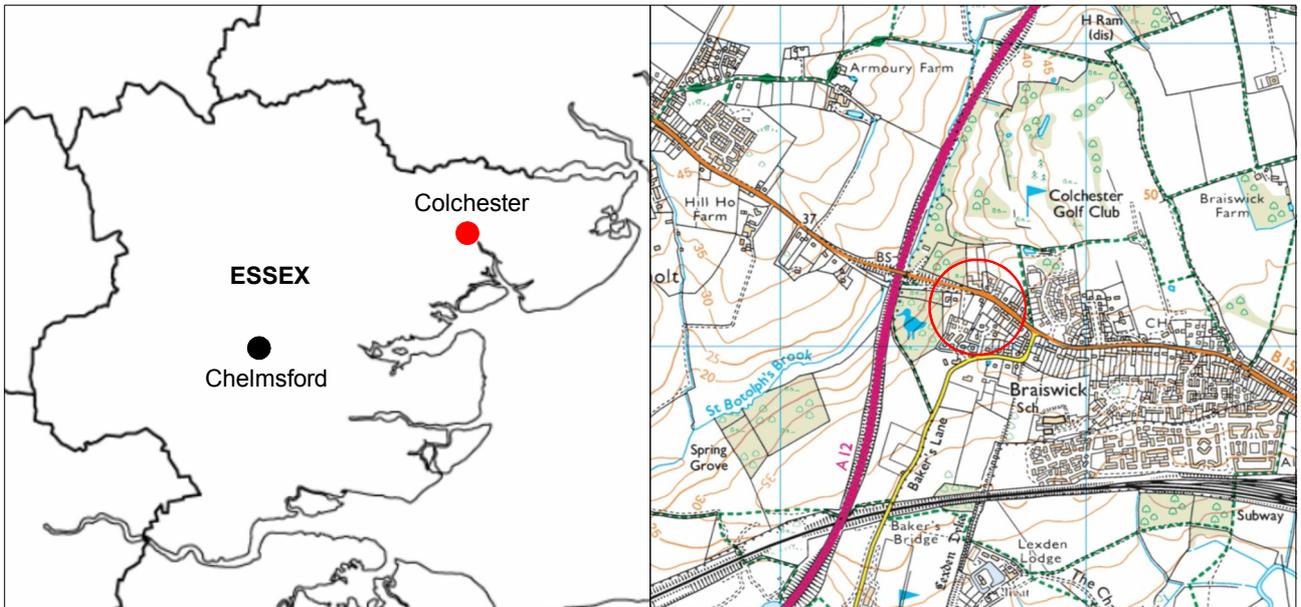
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|-----------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, D | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy |
| CAT | 2019 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 627 | 2012 | <i>An archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial-trenching at the Northern Growth Area Urban Extension (NGAUE), Colchester, Essex September-December 2011</i> |
| CAT Report 709 | 2014 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex: January-August 2013</i> |
| CAT Report 1140 | 2018 | <i>Pottery production in Mile End (Colchester) in the 12th to 16th centuries: excavations at 'Colchester North' (formerly NGAUE) Area A, January to March 2017</i> |
| CAT Report 1219 | 2018 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub Plots 2-3, Colchester, Essex – November-December 2017</i> |
| CBCAA | 2019 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester</i> . By J Tipper |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
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| Crummy, C et al | 2007 | <i>Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum</i> . <i>Britannia Monograph Series 24</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 (HE) | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse |
| Historic England (HE) | 2015b | <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 | 2019 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. |
| OA Report 2138 | 2017 | <i>Land off Bakers Lane, Braiswick Archaeological Evaluation report</i> . By N Cox |

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

● = capped well



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OASIS ID: colchest3-374043

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BG.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of five new dwellings. The site lies near to Moat Farm Dyke, one of a series of earthworks which define the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and is located in the midst of a number of cropmark complexes. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, only a medieval or post-medieval pit, a modern pit, an undatable pit or posthole and an undatable posthole were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 24-06-2020 End: 25-06-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	181630 (and 190582) - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/11d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4401 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NATURAL FEATURE Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO4 5BG
Study area	0.55 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9763 2711 51.90689513493 0.873396649211 51 54 24 N 000 52 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38.16m Max: 39.56m

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 Ben Holloway
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Oak Home Developments

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID ECC4401
 Digital Media available "Text","Images raster / digital photography"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Archive ID ECC4401
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological evaluation at Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BG: June 2020
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1569
 Date 2020
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Place of issue or publication Colchester
 Description A4 loose-leaf brass-stapled
 URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>
 Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
 Entered on 20 July 2020

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