

Archaeological excavation on land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Colchester, Essex, CO6 1JG

July-August 2020



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton, Laura Pooley and Alec Wade
figures by Chris Lister, Mark Baister and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Nicholas Pryke and Alexander Smith

commissioned by Sophie Gittins (Granville Developments)

NGR: TL 89246 25610 (centre)

Planning ref.: 192249

CAT project ref.: 20/02e

ECC code: ECC4560

OASIS ref.: colchest3-385687



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

CAT Report 1597

September 2020

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CAT wsi
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1 Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out on land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex prior to the construction of fifteen new homes with associated garages, landscaping and a new access road. Excavations revealed five features: a Middle Bronze Age pit and a Bronze Age pit, a undated possible pit, an undated pit or treethrow and a treethrow, all of which lay in the northern part of the site. It was also determined that all of the features uncovered during evaluation at the site were natural in origin. The remains uncovered during this investigation may represent an extension of activity at Teybrook Farm to the south, where excavations have revealed deposits dating to the Bronze Age.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological excavation on land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex which was carried out during 27th July-7th August 2020. The work was commissioned by Sophie Gittins on behalf of Granville Developments in advance of the construction of fifteen new homes with associated garages, landscaping and a new access road, 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 excavation 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 Archaeological Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2020).

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 excavation* (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 draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (ECC and MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

As part of the initial pre-planning application, CAT completed a Heritage Impact Assessment on the proposed site (CAT Report 1429). A number of archaeologically significant sites lie nearby. CAT subsequently undertook a trial-trenched evaluation of the site in January 2020 (CAT Report 1508). Six trial-trenches were laid out across the development area. All of the trenches revealed potential archaeological features, although those in Trench 6 at the south end of the site could not be investigated due to the poor ground conditions. A number of probable ditches, gullies, three throws, pits and/or post holes were uncovered. Artefactual evidence proved scarce, however, consisting of a small sherd of pottery of possible Bronze Age date, and another sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery.

During 2003-5, excavations were carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Group at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey, approximately 500m south of the site. The earliest evidence of human activity recorded was a large number of pieces of residual and unstratified

worked flint, dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. A single Neolithic pit/scoop was also excavated. The most significant discovery was a ring-ditch (barrow) within which were fourteen cremation burials. Eleven of the burials were in urns of the Middle Bronze Age Ardleigh-style, a regional variant of the broad Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition found in northeast Essex and southeast Suffolk. The cremated remains of eight individuals survived. Both males and females were represented, ranging in age from 30-40 years to a neonate/infant 0-1 years old. An Anglo-Saxon ditch, possibly an estate boundary, had later been cut through the ring-ditch. Most of the pottery recovered from this ditch was of 6th- to early 8th-century date and indicated the likely presence of an Anglo-Saxon settlement in the vicinity. A pit and two or three postholes were of similar date (Pooley & Brooks, forthcoming).

Southwest of the site, on land 450m south of Warren Farm, is the site of Roman villa (Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 1013516). In 1953, deep ploughing between the farmhouse and Roman River tore up mortar, painted wall plaster and tiles, mostly hollow flue tiles (ECC3437/MCC7023). A small Constantinian coin and Roman pottery were also found. Excavations at the site in the mid 1950s revealed a corridor paved with red tesserae, though to be part of a winged corridor villa (ECC3431). Further excavations carried out in 1971 uncovered part of a masonry building dating from the later 2nd to the mid/late 4th century. Further investigation distinguished at least four phases of occupation at the site. There was also evidence for timber buildings, as yet undated.

Both resistivity and magnetometry geophysical surveys were conducted to locate the Roman villa, which was excavated by an amateur group in the 1960s. The resistivity survey, made on a very dry soil just after harvest, showed only ridge and furrow patterns. The magnetometry survey showed a number of ditches, some parallel to each other. No conclusive evidence of the presence of a building was found.

Immediately to the north of the site is the location of Great Tey Vicarage (noted on historical mapping as The Rectory). The Vicarage is located within a large, subrectangular homestead moat dating to the medieval period, complete apart from the northwest angle and part of the western arm (MCC7008).

The Church of St Barnabas lies to the northwest (MCC4249). Parts of the church tower are thought to pre-date the Norman Conquest; however, the RCHM dated the church to the 12th century (MCC7019). The church includes a large quantity of Roman brick and tile, especially within the tower, which is thought to have come from the villa near Warren Farm (MCC7018).

Some historic buildings ranging in date from the 15th to 19th centuries are located around the junction of The Street and Brook Road. These include Rectory Cottage, a Grade II listed 16th-century timber-framed house to the immediate northwest of the site (MCC42033), and 1-6 Brook Road, a row of late 19th-century workers' cottages built by Hunts Atlas Works, which are located opposite the site (MCC5452).

Apart from the recent evaluation preceding the present investigation, little archaeological work has been carried out in the immediate area. During October and November 1992, however, CAT monitored the installation of a water pipe by Anglia Water (CAT Report 1000, 92/10b and 92/11b). Part of the pipe trench runs north-south following the eastern boundary of the adjacent moated enclosure and continues to the south c 98m east of the current site boundary. Finds recovered included isolated fragments of slag and pottery.

4 Aim

The aim of this this investigation was to excavate and record all archaeological horizons due to be destroyed during the proposed development.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

All feature, layer and finds numbers used during the current excavation follow on from numbers assigned during the evaluation stage of this investigation (CAT Report 1508).

An area measuring 0.14ha was reduced through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.31-0.36m) and subsoil (L2, c 0.16-0.19m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.48-0.52m below current ground level).

Bronze Age

Pit F24 was located in the northwestern corner of the excavation area. It was 1.3m wide and 0.26m deep. The feature yielded two sherds of pottery which possibly derived from a small Bucket urn dating to the Middle Bronze Age.



Photograph 1 F24 sx – looking east southeast

Bronze Age ditch terminus F28 lay in the northeastern corner of the excavation area. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation, but its exposed extent was 2.09m wide and 0.68m deep. Four further sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this feature.



Photograph 2 F28 sx – looking northeast

Undated

Possible pit F25 lay immediately to the east of pit F24. It was 0.19m wide and 0.06m deep. The feature produced no dating evidence but its proximity to the latter feature suggests it may also have been of prehistoric date.

Pit or treethrow F26 was situated in the western half of the northern part of the excavation area. It was 1.01m wide and 0.08m deep. No artefactual evidence was recovered from the feature but it appeared to be modern.

Treethrow F27 was also excavated.



Photograph 3 Site shot

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The excavation produced six sherds of handmade flint-tempered prehistoric pottery with a weight of 18g. This material came from:

Pit F24 (4): two sherds (12g) of handmade flint-tempered pottery in a brown coloured fabric with a black core. There was a rounded rim (EVE: 0.06) which is possibly from a small Bucket urn of Middle Bronze Age date (c 1500-1000 BC).

Pit F28 (7): four sherds of handmade flint-tempered pottery (8g) in an orange-coloured fabric.

Finally, there was sherd of baked clay (1g) which also came from pit F28.

6.2 Stone

by Laura Pooley

A piece of natural quartz (now broken into joining pieces) came from F28 (finds no. 7) weighing 85.4g.

6.2 Animal bone by Alec Wade

The excavation produced two small pieces of animal bone weighing just 4g from two features: F24 and F28.

Pit F24 produced a fragment of mandible from a large sized mammal, most likely a cow and pit F28 an incisor from a rodent (possibly a field vole) that is highly likely to be intrusive to the context.

7 Environmental assessment by Lisa Gray

Introduction

One sample, sample <3>, was taken from Middle Bronze Age ditch F28 during this excavation phase and was presented for assessment. The sample had an initial volume of 50L.

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the sample, consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

Sampling and processing methods

Samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded.

Identifications were made using uncharred 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; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter.

At this stage, to allow comparison between samples, numbers have also been estimated but where only a very low number of items are present, they have been counted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been separate from charred wood flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman 1988, 178-179). Charred wood flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

Results

This sample produces a 10ml flot. The flot contained low numbers (<10) of charcoal fragments of identifiable size, low numbers of uncharred, possible modern rootlet fragments, low numbers of terrestrial mollusc shells and one poorly preserved barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended on this sample. The charred plant remains are present in such low density they could be residual or intrusive and not related to the sampled feature. Only radiocarbon dating would properly link these items to the dated feature.

8 Discussion

Further excavations at this site revealed five features: a pit, a ditch, a possible pit, a pit or treethrow and a treethrow. It was also determined that all of the features uncovered during the evaluation were in fact natural in origin.

The stripping of the site showed that archaeological remains here were sparse and concentrated towards the northern end of the site. Very few finds were recovered, and only two of these features could be dated, both of which originated from the Bronze Age. It is likely that these remains represent an extension of activity at Teybrook Farm, some 500m to the south, where excavations carried out by Colchester Archaeological Group in 2003-5 uncovered remains dating from the Mesolithic period to the Bronze Age, the most significant of which was a ring-ditch containing fourteen cremation burials.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Sophie Gittins and Granville Developments for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with N Pryke and A Smith. Figures are by C Lister, M Baister and S Carter. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr 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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| CAT Report 1508 | 2020 | <i>Archaeological evaluation on land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex, CO6 1JG: January 2020</i> |
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| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |

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Pooley, L & Brooks, H	forthcoming	<i>Middle Bronze Age burials and an Anglo-Saxon ditch: Excavations by the Colchester Archaeological Group in 2003-5 at Teybrook Farm, Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex, CO6 1JF</i>
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11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
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: pottery (part of one box)

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1597)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (sections)

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1597)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

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 project ref. ECC4560.

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Distribution list:

Sophie Gittins (Granville Developments)

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 30.09.2020

Appendix 1 Context list¹

Context Number	Trench Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with 1% stones	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Friable, moist medium/dark brown clayey-silt	Undatable
L3	All	-	Natural	Firm, moist medium yellow/brown clay	Post-glacial
F24	-	4	Pit	Hard, dry medium orange/brown silty clay	Middle Bronze Age
F25	-	-	?Pit	Hard, dry dark orange/grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F26	-	5	Pit / treethrow	Hard, dry dark grey/brown silty-clay	Undatable but appears modern
F27	-	6	Treethrow	Hard, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F28	-	7, 8	Ditch	Hard, dry medium/dark brown clay with charcoal flecks	Middle Bronze Age

¹ Finds no. 6 was not assigned to a context.

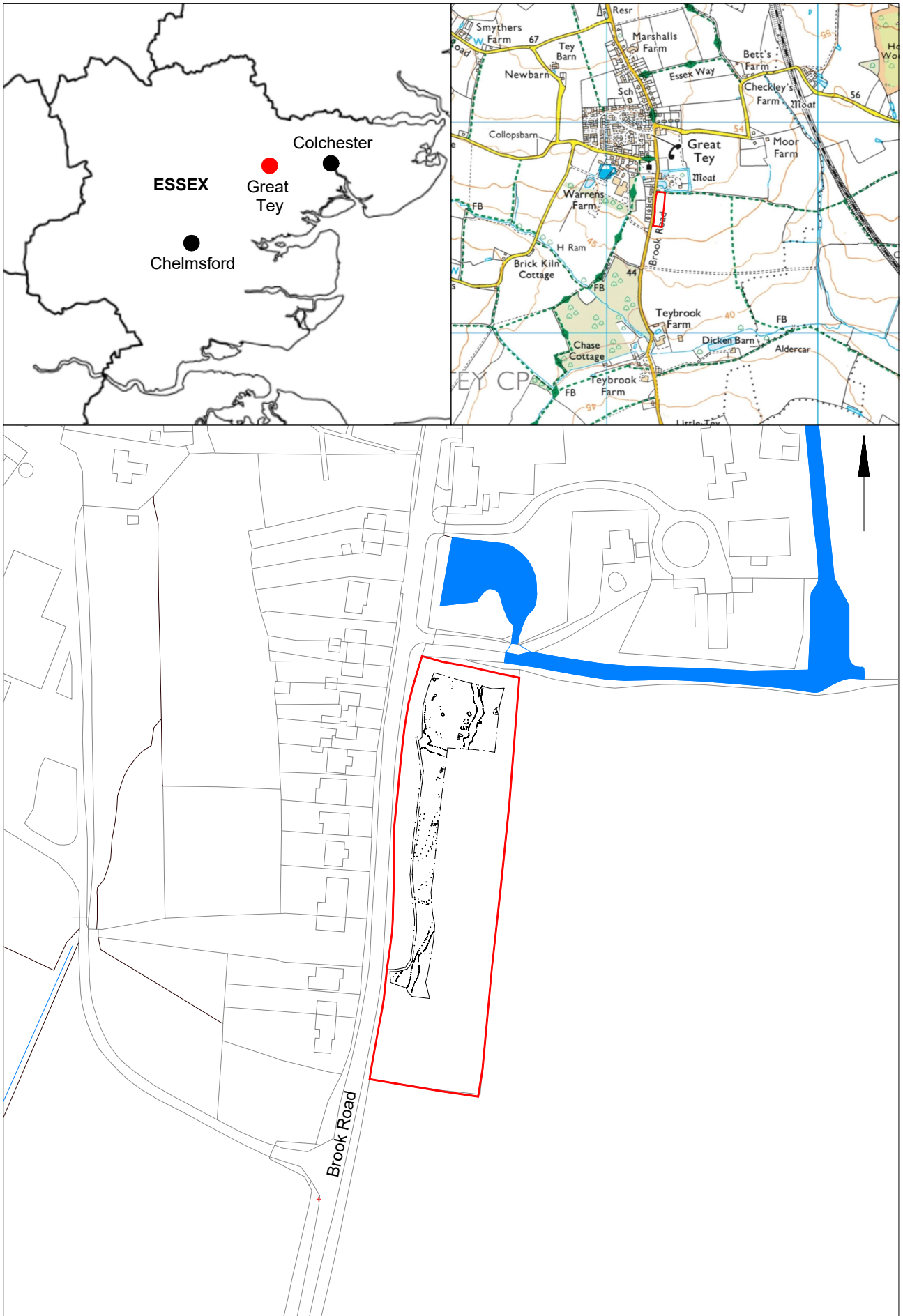


Fig 1 Site location.

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Fig 2 Excavation area in relation to the evaluation trenches, with natural/geological features highlighted.



Fig 3 Detail of excavation area, showing excavated features with overlaid evaluation trenches T1 and T2.

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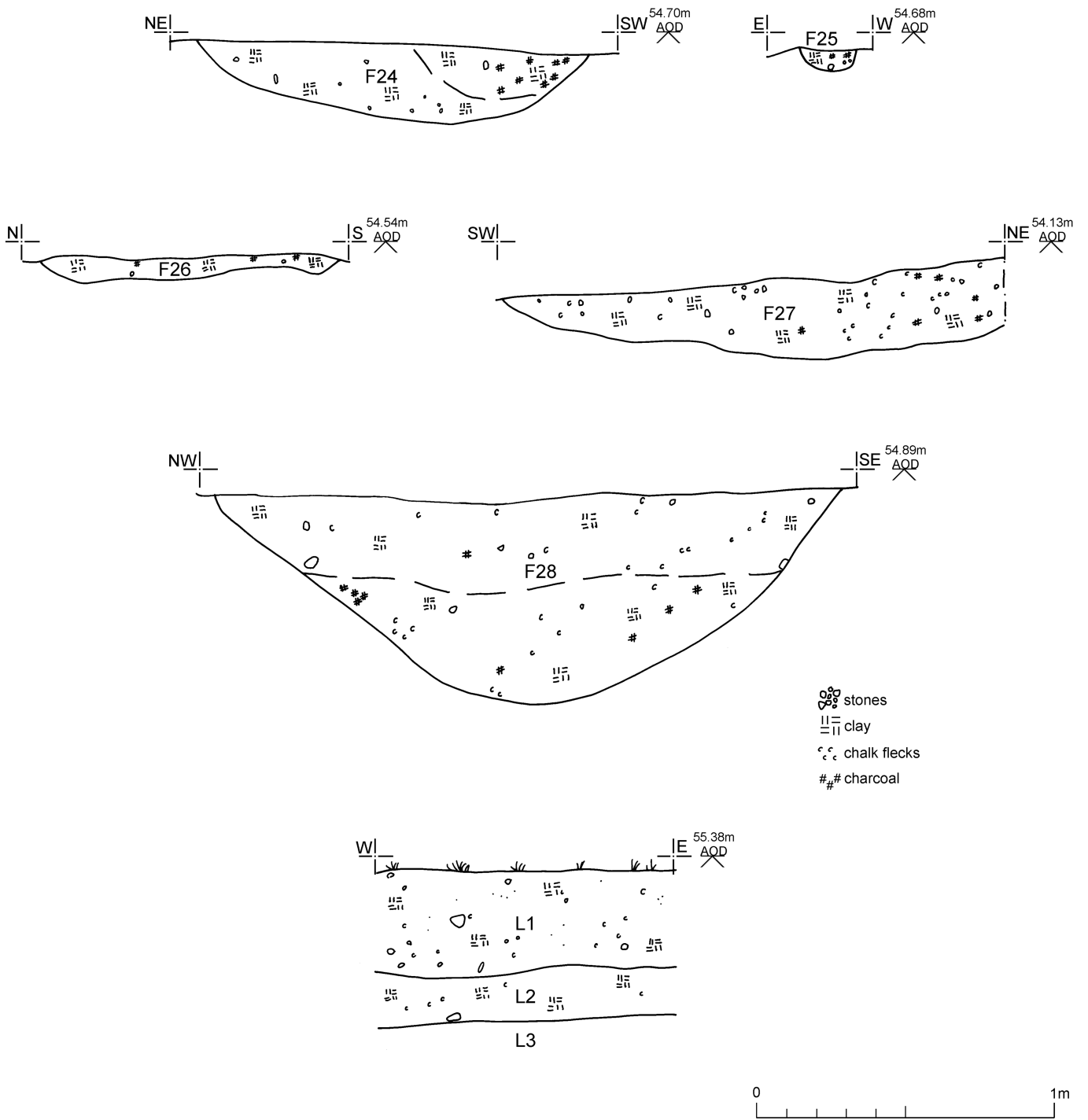


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex, CO6 1JG	
Parish: Great Tey	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 89246 25610 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 20/02e CHER ref: ECC4560 OASIS ref: colchest3-385687
Type of work: Excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 27th July-6th August 2020	Size of area investigated: 0.6 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC4249, MCC5452, MCC7008, MCC7018, MCC7019, MCC7023, MCC42033; ECC3431, ECC3437
Final report: CAT Report 1597	
Periods represented: Bronze Age	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological excavation was carried out on land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex prior to the construction of fifteen new homes with associated garages, landscaping and a new access road. Excavations revealed five features: a Middle Bronze Age pit and a Bronze Age pit, a undated possible pit, an undated pit or treethrow and a treethrow, all of which lay in the northern part of the site. It was also determined that all of the features uncovered during evaluation at the site were natural in origin. The remains uncovered during this investigation may represent an extension of activity at Teybrook Farm to the south, where excavations have revealed deposits dating from the Mesolithic period to the Bronze Age.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 1508	
CBC monitor: Dr Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: *
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: September 2020

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological excavation on land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex CO6 1JG.

NGR: TL 89246 25610 (centre)

District: Colchester

Planning reference: 192249

Commissioned by: Sophie Gittins (Granville Developments)

On behalf of: Granville Developments

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER project code: tbc

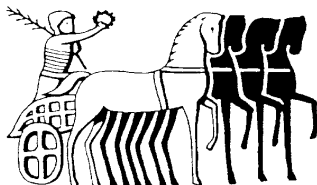
CAT project code: 2020/02e

Oasis project ID: colchest3-385687

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 20/02/2020



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785

email: cl@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located on a plot of land to the East of Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex, CO6 1JG (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 89246 25610. The site is situated on the south-eastern edge of the village on land currently used as agricultural farmland.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of 15 dwellings, including four affordable homes, with associated garages, landscaping and the formation of a new access onto Brook Road.

Archaeological background

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

As part of the initial pre-planning application CAT completed a Heritage Impact Assessment on the proposed site, see CAT Report 1429 for a full archaeological background. Some key nearby sites include:

Southwest of the site on land 450m south of Warren Farm is the site of Roman villa (Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 1013516). In 1953 deep ploughing between the farmhouse and Roman River tore up mortar, painted wall plaster and tiles, mostly hollow flue-tiles (ECC3437/MCC7023). A small Constantinian coin and Roman pottery were also found. The site was part excavated by Campen in the mid 1950s who claimed it was a winged corridor villa, of which he had excavated the corridor paved with red tesserae (ECC3431). The site was confirmed by Bassett in 1971. Finds included window glass, 4th-century coins, a samian stamp and polychrome painted wall plaster. According to OS record part of a masonry building was uncovered, dating from the later 2nd- to mid/late-4th century. Further investigation distinguished at least four phases of occupation: (a) an east-west ditch containing pottery of mid 1st to mid 2nd century; (b) a stone foundation parallel to this, and presumably contemporary, cut by a small drainage channel running into the ditch, (c) a north-south corridor on the western side of the late 2nd century house overlay the ditch and had subsided into it; (d) an east-west corridor on the northern side of the house belonging to a later structural period. There is also evidence for timber buildings, as yet undated.

Both resistivity and magnetometry geophysical surveys were used in order to locate the Roman villa which was excavated in one season in the 1960s by an amateur group. The resistivity survey, made on a very dry soil just after harvest, showed only ridge and furrow patterns. The magnetometry survey was more promising, showing a number of ditches, some parallel to each other. No conclusive evidence of the presence of a building was found.

Immediately to the north of the site is the location of Great Tey Vicarage (noted on historical mapping as The Rectory). The Vicarage has a large, sub-rectangular homestead moat dating to the medieval period, complete apart from the north-west angle and part of the western arm (MCC7008).

To the north-west is the Church of St Barnabas (MCC4249). Parts of the tower are thought to date to pre-Norman Conquest, however the church is dated by RCHM as 12th-century with later alterations (MCC7019). The fabric of the church includes a large quantity of Roman brick and tile, especially within the tower, thought to have possibly come from the villa to near Warren Farm (MCC7018).

Around the junction of The Street and Brook Road there are a number of historic buildings ranging in date from the 15th to 19th centuries. These include Rectory Cottage, a Grade II listed 16th-century timber-framed house to the immediate north-west of the site (MCC42033), and 1-6 Brook Road, a row of late 19th-century workers cottages built by Hunts Atlas Works located opposite the site (MCC5452).

Archaeological work in the area is limited, although CAT carried out an Anglian Water pipework project in October and November 1992 connecting between the eastern side of the village (CAT Report 1000, 92/10b) and the western side of the village (CAT Report 1000, 92/11b). The western pipe trench runs north-south following the eastern boundary of the adjacent moated enclosure and continues to the south c 98m east of the current site boundary. Finds recovered during the watching brief included isolated fragments of slag and pottery until.

Excavations at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey, Essex were carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Group in 2003-5. The earliest evidence of human activity recorded was a large number of pieces of residual and unstratified worked flint, dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. A single Neolithic pit/scoop was also excavated. The most significant discovery was a ring-ditch (barrow) within which were 14 cremation burials. Eleven of the burials were in urns of the Middle Bronze Age Ardleigh-style, a regional variant of the broad Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition, found in north-east Essex and south-east Suffolk. The cremated remains of 8 individuals had survived. Both males and females were represented, ranging in age from 30-40 years to a neonate/infant 0-1 years old. An Anglo-Saxon ditch, possibly an estate boundary, had later been cut through the ring-ditch. Dated from the 6th to the early 8th century, most of the pottery recovered from this ditch was domestic in nature and likely indicates the presence of an Anglo-Saxon settlement in the vicinity. A pit and two/ three post holes were also of similar date (Pooley & Brooks, forthcoming).

Project background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2019 (application No. 192249) for *15 No. dwellings, associated garages and formation of a new access to Brook Road, Great Tey.*

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 was based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019 and was for pre-application assessment of the development site by trial-trenching.

Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook a trial-trenched evaluation of the site in January 2020 (CAT Report No: 1508, January 2020; OASIS id: colchest3-378487; HER event code ECC4418).

The trial-trenched evaluation comprised six trial-trenches, each 30m long x 1.80m wide, distributed systematically across the development area. All of the trenches revealed potential archaeological features; those in Trench 6 (at the south end of the site) could not be investigated due to the poor ground conditions. The range of identifiable feature types comprised probable ditches, gullies, three throws, pits and/or post holes. Artefacts proved scarce; a small sherd (1g) of handmade, possibly Bronze Age, pottery was recovered from pit F4 (T2) and a sherd (10g) of Middle Bronze Age pottery was found on the surface of ditch F7 (T2).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

Following on from the evaluation phase it was decided that further work would be required to quantify the exact nature of the potential archaeological features identified during the trial-trenching. The required archaeological work is for phased archaeological excavation across the site in advance of the development. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020).

Specifically, the site is to be stripped in three phases totalling 4,326m² which is the maximum available area for investigation due to arboreal constraints in the form of root protection zones (Fig 2). Each phase is to be signed off by the CBCAA before the next phase commences. If,

after completion of the first phase of excavation, it is determined that the features encountered are demonstrably of natural origin the fieldwork will be terminated and the LPA will be informed in writing.

The aim of the excavation is 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

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 2019)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2020).

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 one archaeologists for the stripping of each phase with additional staff as needed.

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

Excavation 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.

Topsoil will be stockpiled on site for reinstatement with excess topsoil removed from site. Dedicated machine runs will be employed to minimise rutting at each phase of excavation.

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.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. 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, and only then after discussion with the CBCAA, will these be removed.

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

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all areas of the strip and map both before and during excavation. All features and spoil heaps will be scanned and 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. A representative section will be drawn to include ground level and the depth of machining. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Site surveying

The excavation area and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, 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.

Provision will be included (where necessary) for column or core samples to be taken, for the assessment and/or full analysis of those samples, and for absolute dating of the sequence. Provision will also be made (where necessary) for the identification and absolute dating of suitable deposits of charred remains. Should VF/LG make a recommendation that suitable samples not datable by other means (ie associated finds) be submitted for absolute dating, then these samples will be sent to the SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory at Glasgow University for analysis.

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 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 excavation.

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 excavation, 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.

If it cannot be demonstrated that future ground works are able to avoid impacting them, burials will be fully excavated. However, 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 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, absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice on this.

Post-excavation assessment

An updated post-excavation assessment (PXA) will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the ECCHEA. Post-excavation assessments and updated project designs will be prepared in accordance with Historic England principals of MoRPHE (HE 2006) and East Anglian Archaeology notes (2015). PXAs will include an assessment of the archaeological value of the results, and include a statement of significance for retention of artefacts, based on specialist advice, for retention or discard agreed with the depositing museum.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the ECCHEA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

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 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 inventory of the archive and any statement of retention and discard strategy based on specialist advice. CAT has a non-site specific finds retention strategy approved by Colchester Museum (CAT 2016).

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.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) is updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. CAT also works alongside the Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785.

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>

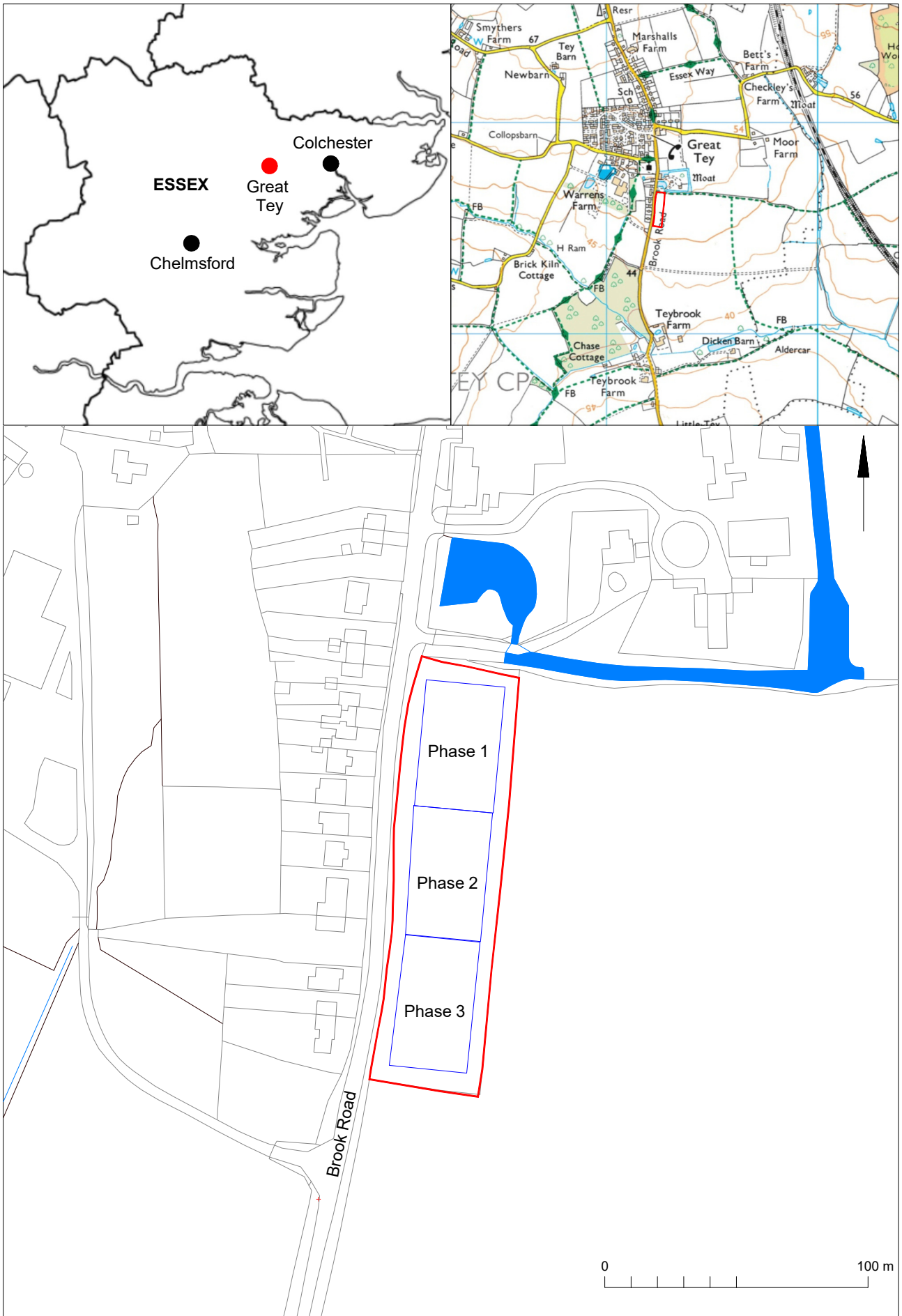
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Colchester Archaeological Trust Finds Retention Policy</i> . By S Benfield
CAT	2019	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997)</i> . By H Brooks
CAT Report 1429	2019	<i>Heritage Impact Assessment on Land to the east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Colchester CO6 1JG</i> . By C Lister
CBCAA	2020	<i>Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Land at Brook Road, Great Tey, Colchester</i> . By J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
East Anglian Archaeology	2015	<i>Advice note for Post Excavation Assessment</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)	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoPHE)</i>
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.
Pooley, L & Brooks, H	forthcoming	<i>Middle Bronze Age burials and an Anglo-Saxon ditch: Excavations by the Colchester Archaeological Group in 2003-5 at Teybrook Farm, Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex, CO6 1JF</i>

C Lister



Colchester Archaeological Trust,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: cl@catuk.org



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Fig 1 Site location.

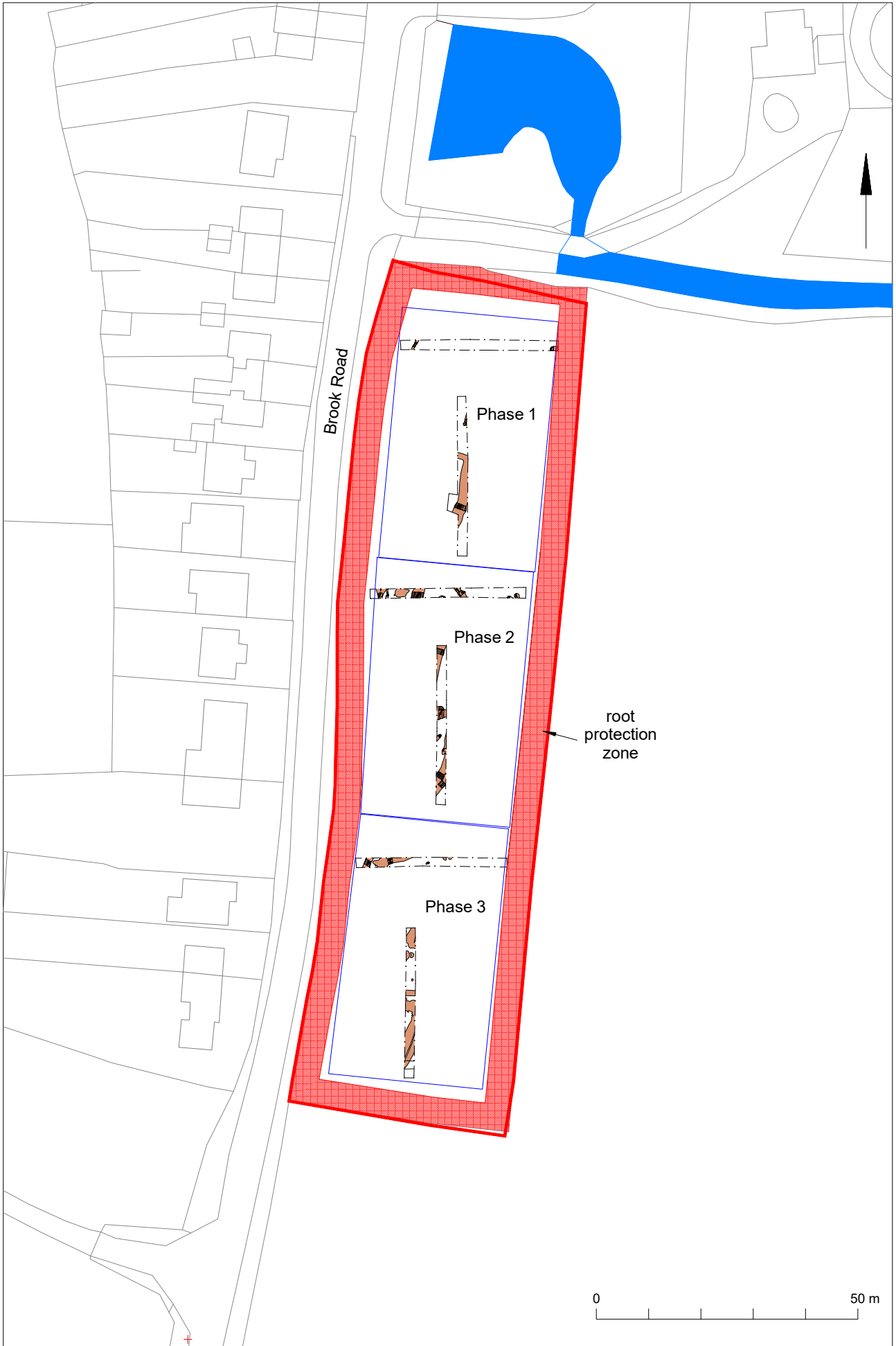


Fig 2 Excavation areas in relation to the root protection areas.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-385687

Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation on land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex CO6 1JG.
Short description of the project	An archaeological excavation was carried out on land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Essex prior to the construction of fifteen new homes with associated garages, landscaping and a new access road. Excavations revealed five features: a Middle Bronze Age pit and a Bronze Age pit, a undated possible pit, an undated pit or treethrow and a treethrow, all of which lay in the northern part of the site. It was also determined that all of the features uncovered during evaluation at the site were natural in origin. The remains uncovered during this investigation may represent an extension of activity at Teybrook Farm to the south, where excavations have revealed deposits dating to the Bronze Age.
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2020 End: 07-08-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	20/02e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4560 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-385687 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	PIT Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Bronze Age
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT/TREETHROW Uncertain
Monument type	TREETHROW Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	BAKED CLAY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	QUARTZ Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Investigation type	""Open-area excavation""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER GREAT TEY Land to the east of Brook Road, Great Tey
Postcode	CO6 1JG
Study area	0.64 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 89246 25610 51.896347353662 0.750830752739 51 53 46 N 000 45 02 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 54.47m Max: 54.85m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Elliott Hicks
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive	Colchester Museum
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recipient
Physical Archive ID ECC4560
Physical Contents "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID ECC4560
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID ECC4560
Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological excavation on land east of Brook Road, Great Tey, Colchester, Essex, CO6 1JG: July-August 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1597
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 1 October 2020

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