

An archaeological watching brief at Plot 6 to the rear of 91 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex

March 2001

**on behalf of
Colchester Borough Council**

CAT project reference: 01/3D
NGR: TL 9644 2457
Colchester Museum accession code: 2001.75



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CAT Report 135

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Figure

Fig 1 Site location.

1 Summary

Observations were made after groundworks for a new house had been excavated at plot 6 to the rear of 91 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex. The watching brief has shown that no archaeological deposits or artefacts are present on the development site.

2 Introduction

2.1 This is the report on an archaeological watching brief carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 16th of March 2001, at the request of Colchester Borough Council. The work was necessitated by the construction of a house to the rear of 91 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex.

2.2 The site is located in Lexden, on the western side of Straight Road. The plot is 10m west of the hedge that separates it from no 91. To the south is another plot. The site is located at National Grid Reference TL 9644 2457.

2.3 This report follows the standards set out in the Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1999).

3 Archaeological background

3.1 The development site is situated within a system of dykes, the closest of which are Triple Dyke which is located 40m to the east (Essex Heritage Conservation Record no 11636) and Dugard Dyke which is 150m to the west. The Iron Age settlement of Camulodunum was flanked by a number of large linear earthwork dykes, most of which were built in the late Iron Age to define and protect this important settlement centre which was succeeded by Roman Colchester. However, some can be dated to the early Roman period, which is probably when Triple Dyke and Dugard Dyke were constructed (*CAR 11*, 26).

3.2 Running 450mm to the north of the site is the main Roman road from Colchester to London.

4 Aims and objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features, finds or deposits revealed by the groundworks.

5 Methods

5.1 One visit was made by Stephen Benfield and Kate Orr on the 16th of March after the foundations for the house had been excavated. The size of the plot was 7m x 10.4m. The width of the foundations was 600mm and their depth 1m.

5.2 A record of the position of the site excavations was made which has been reproduced on Figure 1. The sides of the trenches were checked for features and artefacts and soil types were noted.

6 Results

The following soil profile was observed:

Layer 1 - light - medium brown silt topsoil, 0-200mm.

Layer 2 - mottled lighter brown with medium orangey brown silty clay with root activity, 200mm-400mm.

Layer 3 - mixed orange sand with orangey brown silty clay with stones, 400mm-1m.

There were no finds and no features apart from a pit 700mm deep that had been dug by the contractors on the northern side of the site.

- 7 Discussion
There were no archaeological remains or artefacts on the site. The soil appeared to be undisturbed.

- 8 Archive deposition
A copy of this report will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museum under accession code 2001.75

- 9 Acknowledgements
Colchester Archaeological Trust is grateful to the following for their help and co-operation:
East Anglian Homes
Martin Winter, Archaeological Officer for Colchester Museums

- 10 References
CAR 11 Colchester Archaeological Report 11, by Philip Crummy & C F C Hawkes, 1995

Kate Orr, April 2001

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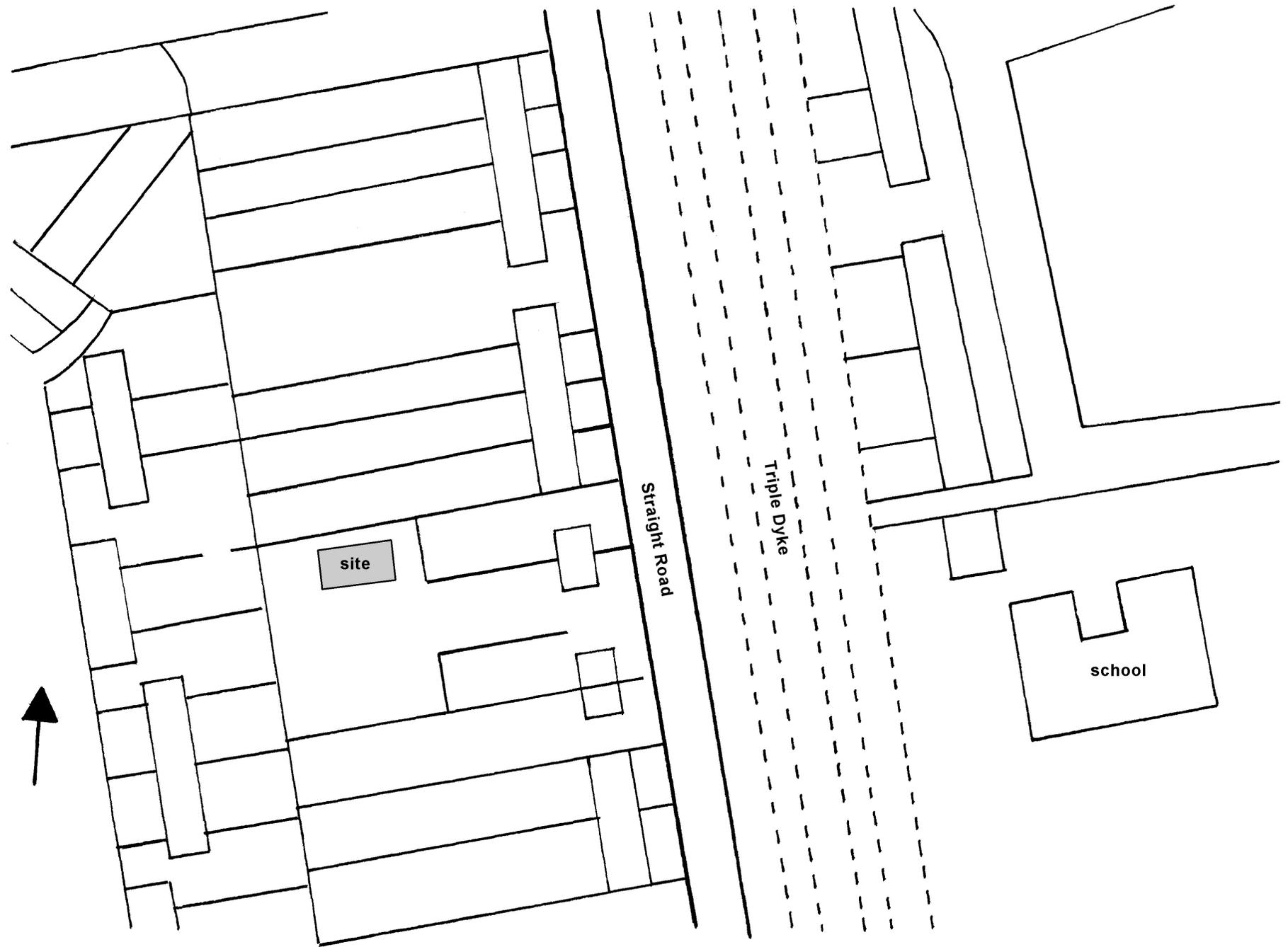


Fig 1 Site location.



**Essex Heritage Conservation Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site name/address: Plot 6, rear of 91 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 9644 2457	Site code: 2001.75
Type of work: watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 16th March 2001	Size of area investigated: 7m x 10.4m
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHCR nos: 11636
Final report: CAT Report 135	
Periods represented: None	
Summary of fieldwork results: Observations were made after 1m-deep foundations for a house had been excavated to the rear of 91 Straight Road. The watching brief has shown that there are no archaeological deposits or artefacts on the site.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: April 2001