

Elm Park, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RT: archaeological watching brief on installation of new water pipe

November 2015



report prepared by Howard Brooks BA FSA MCIfA

on behalf of Partnerships in Care

Scheduled Ancient Monument ref: 1002146

CAT project ref.: 15/09c

NGR: TM 0550 2880 (centre)

OASIS: colchest3-232231



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 894

November 2015

Summary

Ardleigh is rich in archaeological cropmarks representing prehistoric and Romano-British burials, boundaries and settlement (Fig 1).

A watching brief on the laying of a new water pipe from Station Road to Elm Park Brain Injury Services revealed no archaeological features or finds. The pipe trench was very narrow (20 cm), making observation difficult. Nevertheless, the pipeline did not intercept any known cropmarks, nor were any previously-unknown features seen (Fig 2).



Plate 1: The start of the pipe, near Station Road

Introduction

Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) was commissioned by Partnerships in Care to monitor the laying of a replacement water pipe from Station Road (NGR: TM 05444 28869) to the main Elm Park buildings (NGR: TM 05556 28723). Apart from the extreme western edge close to Station Road, the whole of Elm Park is Scheduled Ancient Monument (reference: 1002146).

Partnerships in Care applied for and were granted Scheduled Monument Consent for the works. Archaeological site work was carried out according to a *Written Scheme of investigation* approved by Historic England (CAT 2015), and in accordance with ClfA 2015, EH 2006, and Medlycott 2011.

The project was monitored by Historic England.

Archaeological background

Elm Park Brain Injury Services falls within an area of Scheduled Ancient Monument encompassing one of the region's most important archaeological landscapes, recently summarised by Nigel Brown (1999). There have been recent excavations within the grounds of Elm Park (Brooks 2001). Watching briefs and excavation in 1994-6 revealed a Beaker burial, Late Iron Age and Early Roman field ditches, and post-medieval pits and garden features.

Report

CAT staff were on site to monitor the pipe on 9th-12th November 2015. The trench for the new pipe was 20cm wide and between 60cm and 90cm deep.

At the Station Road end of the pipe, stratigraphy was 20cm of topsoil, 45cm of light brown silty clay, and 10cm of slightly cleaner silty brown clay to trench bottom. In the Paddock, midway along the pipe route, the stratigraphy was 50cm of brown silty sand over 40cm of clean sandy gravel. There was much disturbance from roots in the Paddock. Nothing of archaeological significance was seen, nor were there any finds.



Plates 2-4: views east (top), then west along the main route of the pipe through the Paddock between Elm Park and Station Road



Plates 5-6: view east of pipe crossing car park and running along north side of Elm Park

References

- Brooks, H 2001 'A Beaker burial, Late Iron Age and Roman features: observation and excavation at Elm Park, Ardleigh, 1994-96', *Essex Archaeology and History* **32** (2001), 75-91
- Brown, NR 1999 *The Archaeology of Ardleigh, Essex: Excavations 1955-1980. East Anglian Archaeology Report 90*, Essex County Council Heritage Conservation
- CAT 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for watching brief at Elm Park, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RT* (by H Brooks, 10.09.2015).
- CifA 2014 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*
- EH 2006 English Heritage. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
- Medlycott, M 2011 *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA **24**)

Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Partnerships in Care for commissioning and funding the work (especially Michael Elsom).

The project was monitored by Historic England.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2015

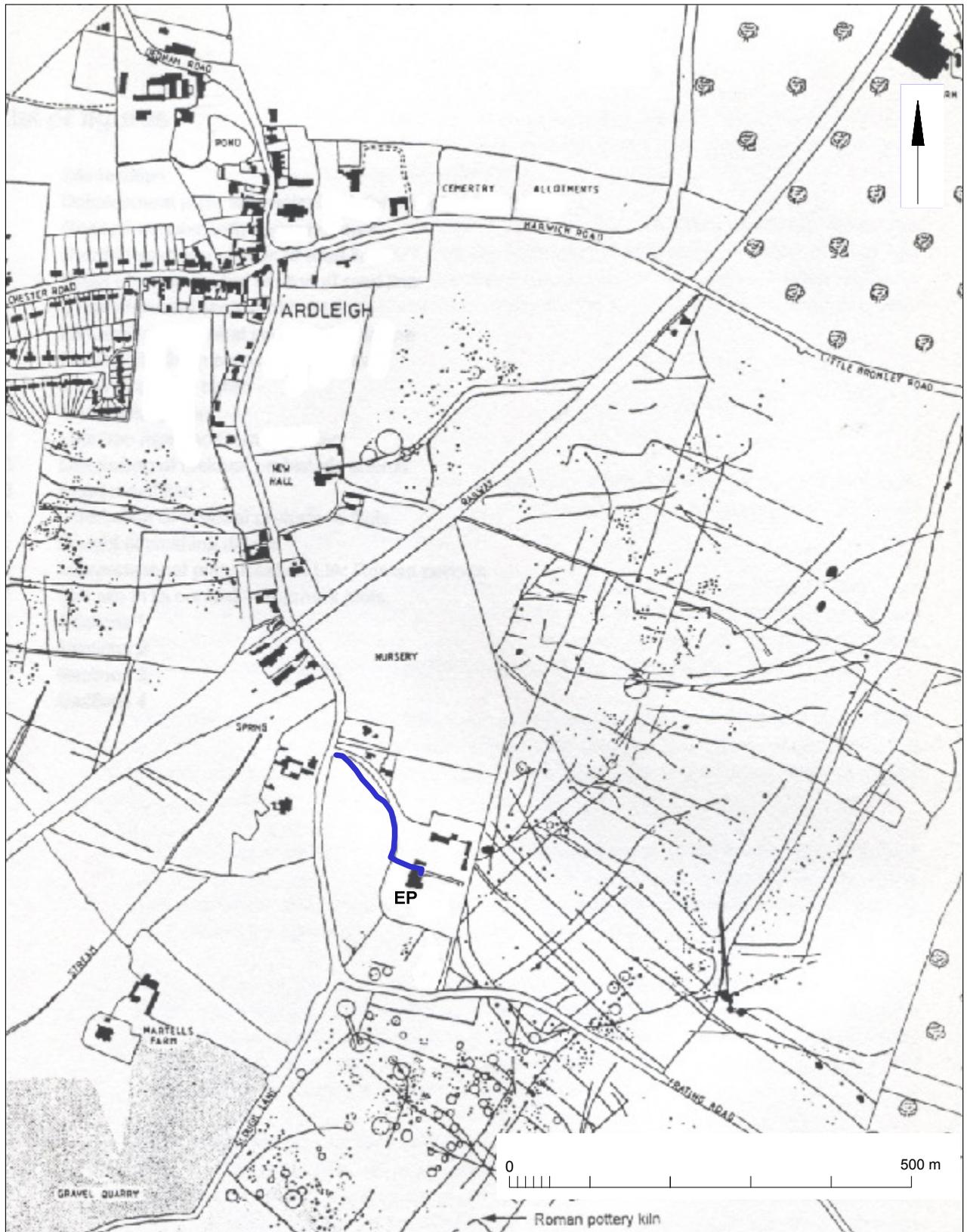


Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Circular Road North,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

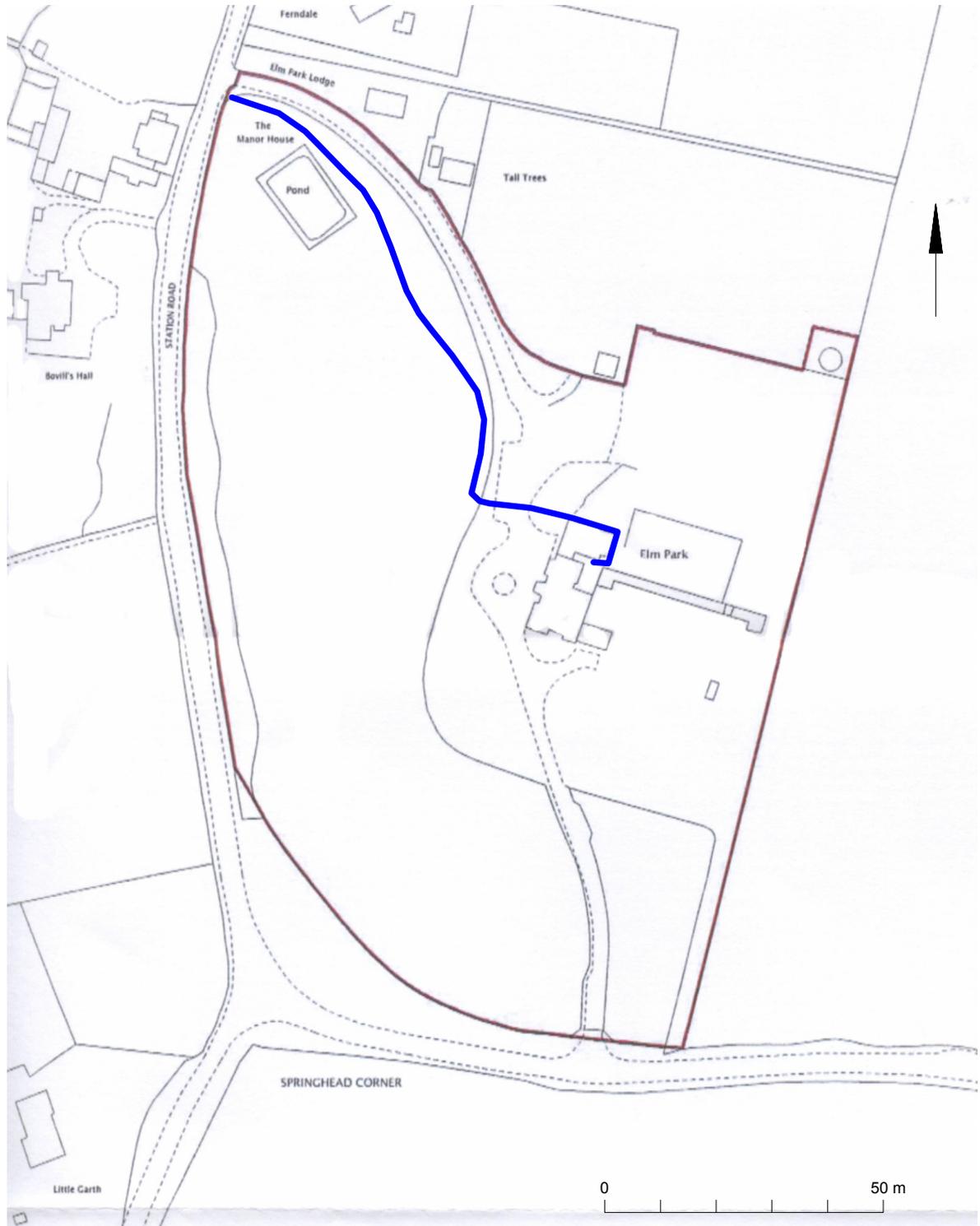
tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org



Copyright Colchester Archaeological Trust. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Location of Elm Park (EP) with new water pipe (blue), and Ardleigh cropmarks.



Copyright Colchester Archaeological Trust. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Figure 2 Location of new water pipe

Essex Historic Environment Record

Summary sheet

Address: Elm Park, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RT	
Parish: Ardleigh	District: Tendring
NGR: TM 0550 2880	Site code: CAT project code – 15/09c
Type of work: watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: November 2015	Size of area investigated: approx 140m length
Location of curating museum: Colchester: accession code: tbc	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related EHER number:
Final report: CAT Report 894	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Ardleigh is rich in archaeological cropmarks representing prehistoric and Romano-British burials, boundaries and settlement.</i> <i>A watching brief on the laying of a new water pipe from Station Road to Elm Park Nursing Home revealed no archaeological features or finds. The pipe trench was very narrow (20 cm), making observation difficult. Nevertheless, the pipeline did not intercept any known cropmarks, nor were any previously-unknown features seen.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports:	
Keywords: -	Significance: <i>neg</i>
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: November 2015