

# Elm Park, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex: archaeological watching brief on installation of electric cable around car park

March 2016



report prepared by Howard Brooks BA FSA MCIfA

on behalf of Partnerships in Care

Scheduled Ancient Monument ref: 1002146

CAT project ref.: 15/12d

NGR: TM 0550 2882 (centre)

OASIS: colchest3-246306



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**CAT Report 929**

March 2016

## Summary

Ardleigh is rich in archaeological cropmarks representing prehistoric and Romano-British burials, boundaries and settlement (Fig 2). A watching brief on the laying of an electric cable linking six lamp posts around the car park NW of Elm Park Brain Injury Services revealed no archaeological features or finds. The narrow cable trench made observation difficult. Nevertheless, the trench did not intercept any known cropmarks, nor were any previously-unknown features seen (Fig 1).



Plate 1: cable trench on western side of car park, looking SW into the paddock

## Introduction

Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) was commissioned by Partnerships in Care to monitor the laying of an electric cable around the car park north-west of the main Elm Park buildings (NGR: TM 0550 2882). Apart from its extreme western edge (near Station Road, all of Elm Park is Scheduled Ancient Monument (reference: 1002146).

Partnerships in Care applied for Scheduled Monument Consent for the works. Archaeological site work was carried out according to a *Written Scheme of investigation* approved by Historic England (CAT 2016), 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). 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 (Brooks 2001). More recently, a watching brief on the laying of a new water pipe to the west of the car park revealed no archaeological features or finds (CAT 2015).

## Report

CAT staff were on site to monitor the cable trench on 7th-8th March 2016. The trench was 20cm wide and up to 60cm deep.

In one of the lamp-post-holes, stratigraphy was 10cm of topsoil, over 20cm of light brown clean silty clay (probably natural), over 30cm of brown sandy gravel (natural) to trench bottom. Nothing of archaeological significance was seen, nor were there any finds.



*Plates 2-3: views west and north-west of the trench on the northern and eastern side of the car park*



Plate 4: view west on trench on the northern side of the car park. 1-metre scale is in one of the lamp-post holes.

## References

- |                |      |   |
|----------------|------|---|
| Brooks, H      | 2001 | 'A Beaker burial, Late Iron Age and Roman features: observation and excavation at Elm Park, Ardleigh, 1994-96', <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> <b>32</b> (2001), 75-91  |
| CAT Report 894 | 2015 | <i>Elm Park, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RT: archaeological watching brief on installation of new water pipe, November 2015</i> . CAT client report, by Howard Brooks |
| Brown, NR      | 1999 | <i>The Archaeology of Ardleigh, Essex: Excavations 1955-1980</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Report 90, Essex County Council Heritage Conservation                             |
| CAT            | 2016 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for watching brief at Elm Park, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RT</i> (by C. Lister, 22.12.2015).                                     |
| CIfA           | 2014 | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>   |
| EH             | 2006 | English Heritage. <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 <b>24</b> )                       |

## **Acknowledgements**

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The project was monitored by Historic England.

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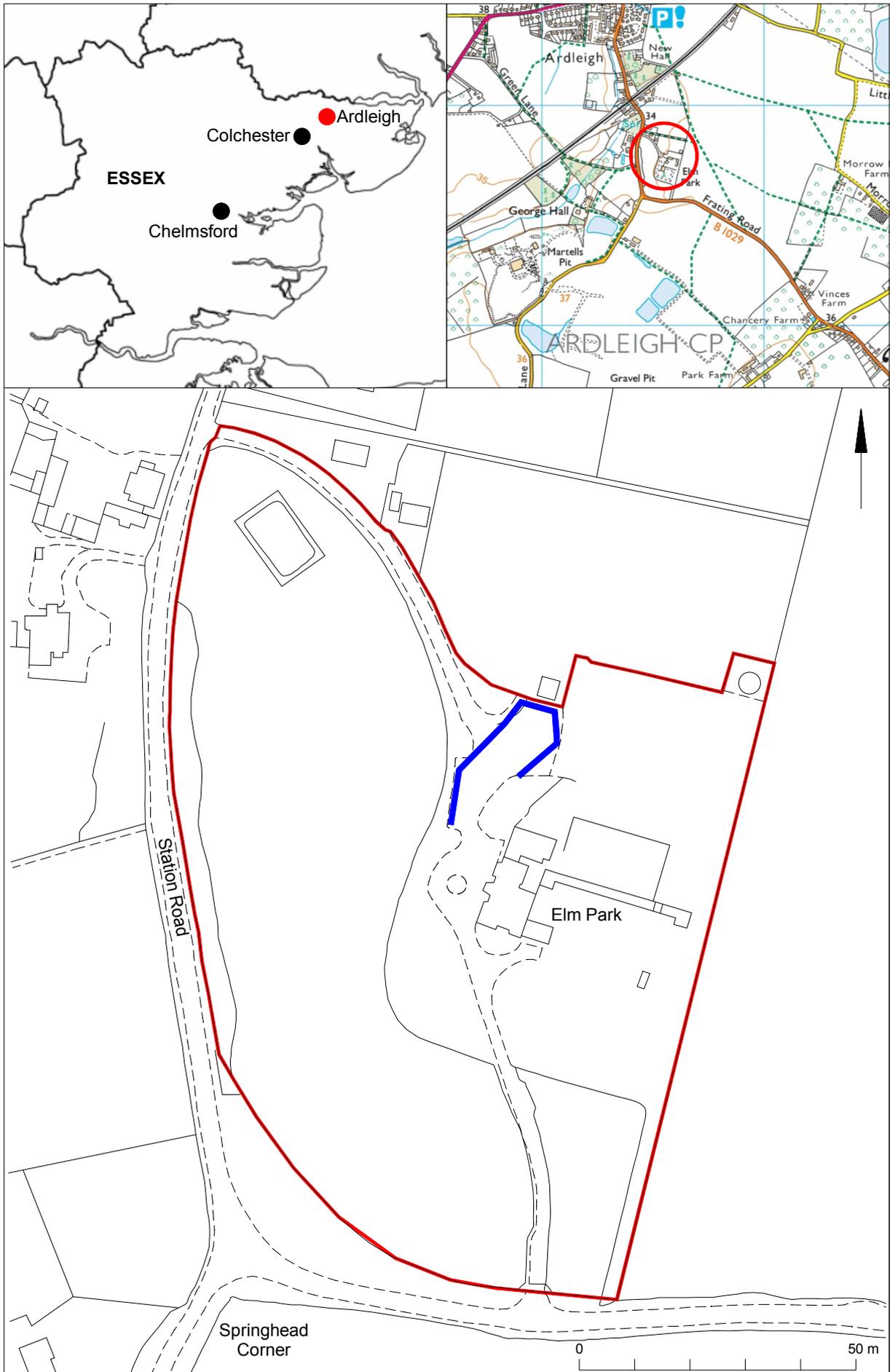
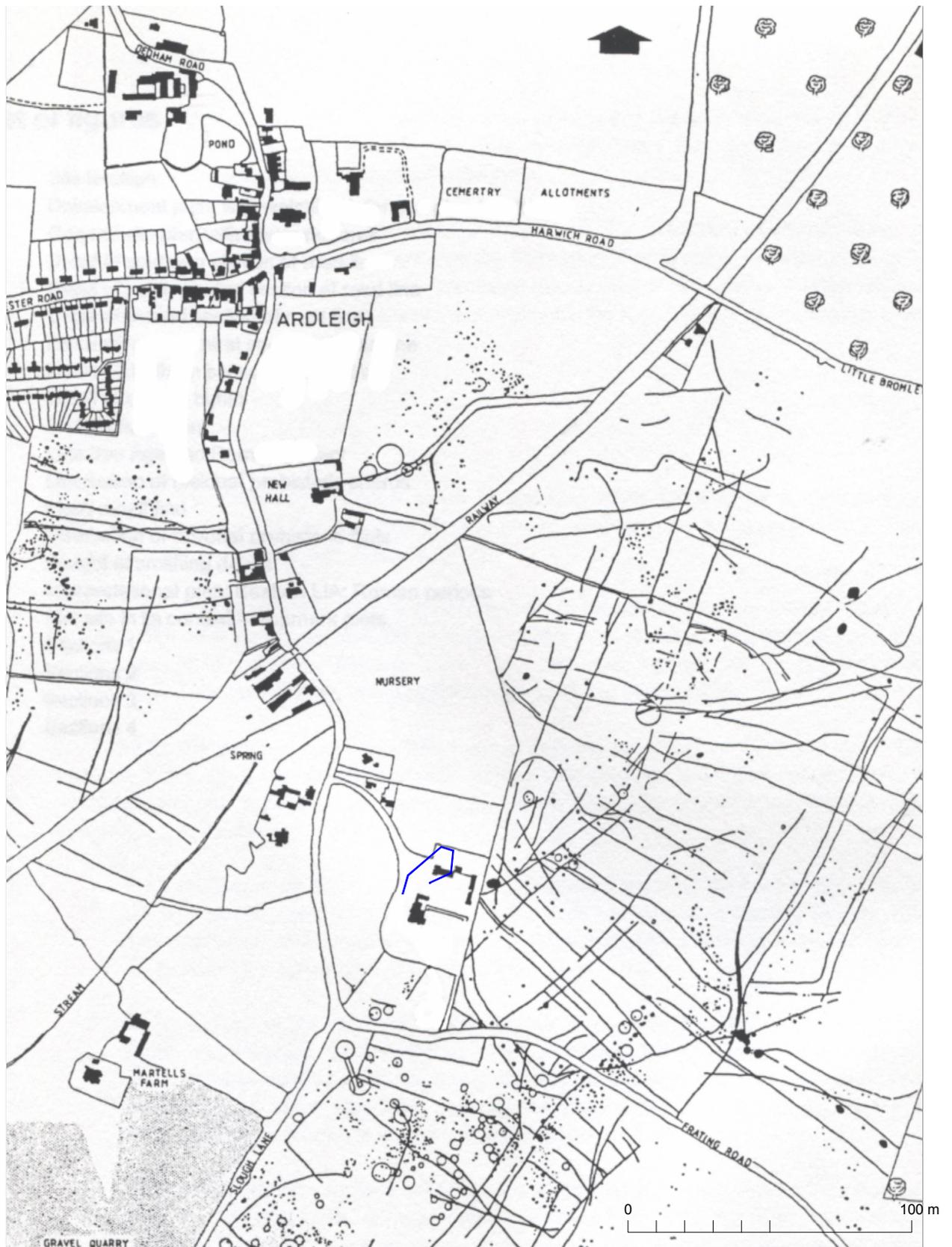


Fig 1 Site location, with electricity cable shown in blue.



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Fig 2 Electric cable trench (blue) in relation to cropmark sites at Ardleigh.

# Essex Historic Environment Record

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Elm Park, Station Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7RT	
<b>Parish:</b> Ardleigh	<b>District:</b> Tendring
<b>NGR:</b> TM 0550 2882	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code – 15/12d
<b>Type of work:</b> watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> March 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> approx 60m length
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester: accession code: 2016.32	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related EHER number:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 929	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>Ardleigh is rich in archaeological cropmarks representing prehistoric and Romano-British burials, boundaries and settlement. A watching brief on the laying of an electric cable linking six lamp posts around the car park NW of Elm Park Brain Injury Services revealed no archaeological features or finds. The narrow cable trench made observation difficult. Nevertheless, the trench did not intercept any known cropmarks, nor were any previously-unknown features seen.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> neg
<b>Author of summary:</b> Howard Brooks	<b>Date of summary:</b> March 2016