

Archaeological monitoring and recording at Colchester Castle Park (Christmas Market), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ

December 2016



by **Laura Pooley**

fieldwork by **Chris Lister**

commissioned by **Will Jenkins**
on behalf of **Colchester Borough Council**

NGR: TL 99870 25334 (centre)

Planning reference: n/a

CAT project ref.: 16/12d

Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2017.3

CHER ref: ECC3936

OASIS reference: colchest3-272794



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1054
February 2017

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Results	3
5	Finds	3
6	Discussion	3
7	Acknowledgements	3
8	References	3
9	Abbreviations and glossary	4
10	Contents of archive	4
11	Archive deposition	4
	Appendix 1 Annotated photographs	6
	Figures	after p18
	EHER summary sheet	
	OASIS summary	

List of photographs, figures and tables

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1	West side of Castle before the Christmas Market, looking N	6
Photograph 2	North side of Castle before the Christmas Market, looking E	6
Photograph 3	West side of Castle before Christmas Market, looking S	7
Photograph 4	Castle entrance gates boarded for protection, looking NE	7
Photograph 5	Construction of the funfair, north side of Castle, surrounded by ground protection matting, looking NE	8
Photograph 6	Funfair constructed on raised blocks, north side of Castle, looking SE	8
Photograph 7	Construction of funfair and matting, north side of Castle, looking SW	9
Photograph 8	Funfair open, north side of Castle, looking SE	9
Photograph 9	Construction of matting for catering facilities, north side of Castle, looking E	10
Photograph 10	Construction of catering facilities and funfair, north side of Castle, looking SE	10
Photograph 11	Catering facilities open, north side of Castle, looking NNW	11
Photograph 12	Market stalls (marquees) and activities, east side of Castle, looking SW	11
Photograph 13	Market stalls (marquees), east side of Castle, looking NNW	12
Photograph 14	Market stalls and Snow Dome (erected on footpath), east side of Castle, looking NNE	12
Photograph 15	Market stalls (marquees), west side of Castle, looking N	13
Photograph 16	Market stalls (marquees), west side of Castle, looking S	13
Photograph 17	West side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking N	14

Photograph 18	West side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking N	14
Photograph 19	North side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking S	15
Photograph 20	North side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking W	15
Photograph 21	Minor damage to grass from funfair, north side of Castle, looking S	16
Photograph 22	North side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking SE towards Norman rampart	16
Photograph 23	East side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking W	17
Photograph 24	East side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking NNW	17
Photograph 25	East side of Castle after Christmas Market showing no damage to the Norman Rampart, looking E	18
Photograph 26	East side of Castle after Christmas Market showing no damage to the Norman Rampart, looking E	18

Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Plan showing layout of 2016 Christmas Market

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in Upper Castle Park to the north, east and west of Colchester Castle (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the set-up and removal of the 2016 Christmas Market. The site is in an area of the highest archaeological importance, surrounding the Norman Castle and the Roman Temple of Claudius in insula 22 of the Roman town. No significant archaeological horizons were damaged as they were buried too deeply (c 800mm deep) and, aside from a few tent/fence pegs through topsoil, at no point did any works penetrate below ground level. No damage was caused to any of the standing remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at Colchester Castle Park, Colchester, Essex which was carried out 5th-12th December 2016. The work was commissioned by Will Jenkins on behalf of Colchester Borough Council in advance of the construction of the 2016 Christmas Market and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). The market was located on the north, east and west sides of Colchester Castle.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

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 watching brief* (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 major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) (formally UAD, Urban Archaeological Database).

The monitoring site is located in Upper Castle Park to the south of Colchester Castle Museum and in an area of outstanding archaeological importance. It is within the Roman town, within the precincts of the Temple of Claudius, and within the grounds of the Norman Castle¹. The well-published archaeological background (see, for example, Hull 1958, Crummy 1997) need not be repeated here, but it will be useful to summarise the more relevant sites (below) by referring to the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

The temple of Claudius, and its precinct (UAD MONuments 785, 713).

The Temple of Claudius, Insula 22. Founded in the AD50's (some debate whether it would have been built before or after the death of Claudius in AD54). The temple served as the centre of the Imperial cult in the province and dominated the eastern half of the city. It was surrounded by a large precinct. Much of the vaulted podium base of the temple has been preserved below Colchester castle, although none of the superstructure has survived. The base provides a clear indication of the scale of the building and based on the principles of Roman architect Vitruvius the

¹ The site is a Scheduled Monument (EX 1, HA 1002217).

building would have been over 20m high. The podium measures 32 x 23.5m.

The Precinct and monuments within it (UAD MON 713)

A large walled precinct belonging to the Roman Temple of Claudius situated off the modern High Street and within the Castle Park. The current site is only 30m north of the northern edge of the southern precinct wall.

The arcade probably continued to stand until, in C11th it was demolished to provide material for the Norman castle and the foundation of the outer rampart. A watching brief during the excavation of trenches for an extension to NW corner of the Conservative Club revealed a N-S wall foundation (ELM1046) constructed mainly of mortared septaria with occasional tile fragments. To the east of the foundation was a thick clay loam deposit assumed to be makeup associated with the wall. The wall and clay deposit appear to be Roman and perhaps marks the W boundary of the temple precinct. The eastern part of the clayey deposit was possibly cut by the castle bailey ditch.

An abortive excavation (EVT3091) was undertaken by the Morant Club in search of the castle ditch and forum wall in 1921. A single trench was cut northwards from the north kerb of High Street, on the site of the War Memorial, opposite All Saints Church. This revealed a wall which Hull believed to be Roman.

The Norman Castle and its bailey ramparts (UAD MONs 679, 764).

MON 679 Norman ditch around the Castle bailey rampart, constructed in 11th century.

Antiquarian Philip Morant says *'The (castle) bailey was formerly encompassed on the south and west sides by a strong wall, in which were two gates. That on the south was the chief. This wall was taken down by Robt. Norfolk Esq. who erected in the room of it a range of houses now standing in the High Street. The west wall reached as far as the east side of St Helen's Lane. On the north and east sides the castle was secured by a deep ditch and strong rampart of earth... This rampart is thrown upon a wall that formerly encompassed either the Castle or Palace of Coel, on the site whereof the Castle is built; the buttress and other parts of which wall have lately been discovered'*. See also EVT3068, EVT3057, EVT3105.

During the excavation of a pipe trench in 1983 (EVT3015), the inner bailey ditch was traced for a total of just over 100 metres. During excavations in 1950 (EVT3121) the ditch inner edge was located where it had removed the metalling of two Roman streets.

In September 1964, demolition of 5 Maidenburgh Street prior to use of the site as a car park made an area of 38m x 10m available for excavation, which was undertaken for 6 weeks in September – October 1964 under the direction of BRK Niblett (Dunnnett) for the Colchester Excavation Committee. Two trenches were cut across the line of the Norman rampart which crossed the east end of the site. Beneath 0.6m of modern rubble and garden soil a series of tips of sand, gravel and Roman tile and mortar. The maximum thickness of the deposit was 0.6m which represents the remnant of the rampart. Immediately in front of the rampart on the edge of the bailey ditch was an inhumation burial, possibly of Saxon date. Several loose bones indicated the possibility of other burials. Eastern lip of Norman bailey ditch was located, immediately in front of rampart.

In 1969 a warehouse at the S end of Ryegate Rd was demolished prior to the construction of the Methodist Church. Four trenches were excavated to a depth of 2m, located so as not to affect the foundations. The east (inner) lip of the bailey trench was revealed as was the western edge. Part of the bailey rampart was also excavated. The lower levels of the rampart remained intact to a depth of up to 1m.

Norman bailey rampart surrounding Colchester Castle (UAD MON 764)

Trenches were dug into the north side of the rampart in 1950 (EVT3121). The Norman bank was found to have been built over structural remains walls of the Roman Temple Precinct (MON713). These remains were covered by a thick level of debris containing occupation material and broken bricks/tile. It was on a layer of chalk which sealed these remains, that the rampart was built. The excavations also showed that the Norman bank had been added to in later medieval times.

2015 Winter Wonderland assessments

The 2015 Winter Wonderland was located in exactly the same place at the 2016 Christmas Market. Two archaeological assessments were carried out on the potential impact of the Winter Wonderland on the buried and standing remains in Castle Park (CAT Report 838 and 850). They showed that the significant archaeological remains were too deeply-buried to be affected by the surface-building of the proposed Winter Wonderland. They also highlighted that the only place where standing remains might be impacted upon was the southeastern corner of the ice rink and the eastern side of the skate exchange which would be close to the Norman rampart.

2015 Winter Wonderland (CAT Report 920)

No significant archaeological horizons were damaged as a result of the 2015 Winter Wonderland as the remains were buried too deeply (c 800mm deep) and temporary floors were constructed at or above ground level. No damage was caused to any standing remains.

4 Results (Fig 2)

The set-up and removal of the 2016 Christmas Market at Castle Park was continuously monitored by CAT staff to ensure that 1) no part of the market impacted upon below archaeology and 2) that no standing remains were compromised or damaged.

The market consisted of a small fairground, catering facilities and market stalls. These were located on grassed areas around the north, east and west sides of Colchester Castle. Heavy-duty ground protection (temporary flooring) was laid on top of the grassed areas in these locations where high levels of foot-fall were anticipated. The funfair was constructed on raised blocks, and the catering facilities and stalls (consisting of different sized marquees) were erected on the grass. A small number of tent pegs and fencing pegs were stuck into the ground, but none were long enough to penetrate below topsoil (200mm).

See Appendix 1 for annotated photographs.

5 Finds

n/a

6 Discussion

Previous assessment (based on excavations in Castle Park) concluded that archaeological remains survived at least 800mm below modern ground level. This meant that no significant archaeological horizons were damaged as a result of the 2016 Christmas Market as they were buried too deeply and, aside from a few tent/fence pegs through topsoil, at no point did works penetrate below ground level. Furthermore, standing remains, like the Norman rampart and the Castle, showed no impact as a direct result of the market.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Will Jenkins and Colchester Borough Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed and carried out by C Lister. Site plans were prepared by CL. The project was monitored for CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

8 References

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

CAT Report 838	2015	<i>An archaeological assessment: Winter Wonderland, Castle Park, Colchester, Essex: June 2015</i>
CAT Report 850	2015	<i>An archaeological assessment: Winter Wonderland, Castle Park, Colchester, Essex: July 2015</i>
CAT Report 920	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording in Colchester Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ: November 2015-February 2016</i>
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) - Monitoring of set up and removal of Christmas Market, Colchester Castle Park</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory: the story of Colchester – Britain's' first Roman town</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M.R.	1958	<i>Roman Colchester RRCSAL 20</i>
Medycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record (previously UAD)
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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database (now CHER)
wsI	written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1054)

Site digital photos and log, attendance register, risk assessment

11 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 accession code: COLEM 2017.3

Distribution list

Will Jenkins, Colchester Borough Council
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: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 9.1.2017

Appendix 1 Annotated photographs



Photograph 1 West side of Castle before the Christmas Market, looking N



Photograph 2 North side of Castle before the Christmas Market, looking E



Photograph 3 West side of Castle before Christmas Market, looking S



Photograph 4 Castle entrance gates boarded for protection, looking NE



Photograph 5 Construction of the funfair, north side of Castle, surrounded by ground protection matting, looking NE



Photograph 6 Funfair constructed on raised blocks, north side of Castle, looking SE



Photograph 7 Construction of funfair and matting, north side of Castle, looking SW



Photograph 8 Funfair open, north side of Castle, looking SE



Photograph 9 Construction of matting for catering facilities, north side of Castle, looking E



Photograph 10 Construction of catering facilities and funfair, north side of Castle, looking SE



Photograph 11 Catering facilities open, north side of Castle, looking NNW



Photograph 12 Market stalls (marquees) and activities, east side of Castle, looking SW



Photograph 13 Market stalls (marquees), east side of Castle, looking NNW



Photograph 14 Market stalls and Snow Dome (erected on footpath), east side of Castle, looking NNE



Photograph 15 Market stalls (marquees), west side of Castle, looking N



Photograph 16 Market stalls (marquees), west side of Castle, looking S



Photograph 17 West side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking N



Photograph 18 West side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking N



Photograph 19 North side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking S



Photograph 20 North side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking W



Photograph 21 Minor damage to grass from funfair, north side of Castle, looking S



Photograph 22 North side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking SE towards Norman rampart



Photograph 23 East side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking W



Photograph 24 East side of Castle after Christmas Market, looking NNW



Photograph 25 East side of Castle after Christmas Market showing no damage to the Norman Rampart, looking E



Photograph 26 East side of Castle after Christmas Market showing no damage to the Norman Rampart, looking E

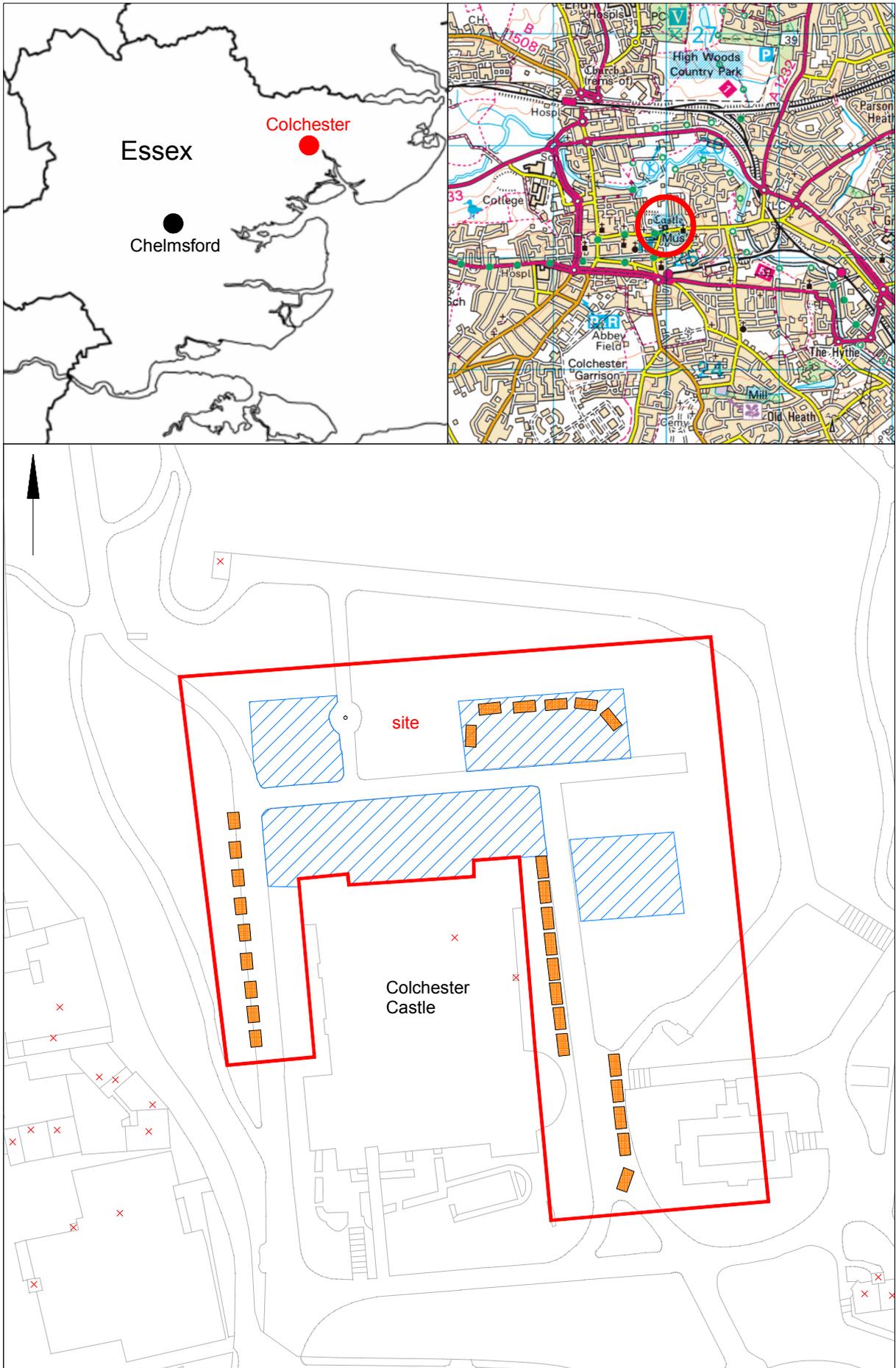


Fig 1 Site location.

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

0 50 m

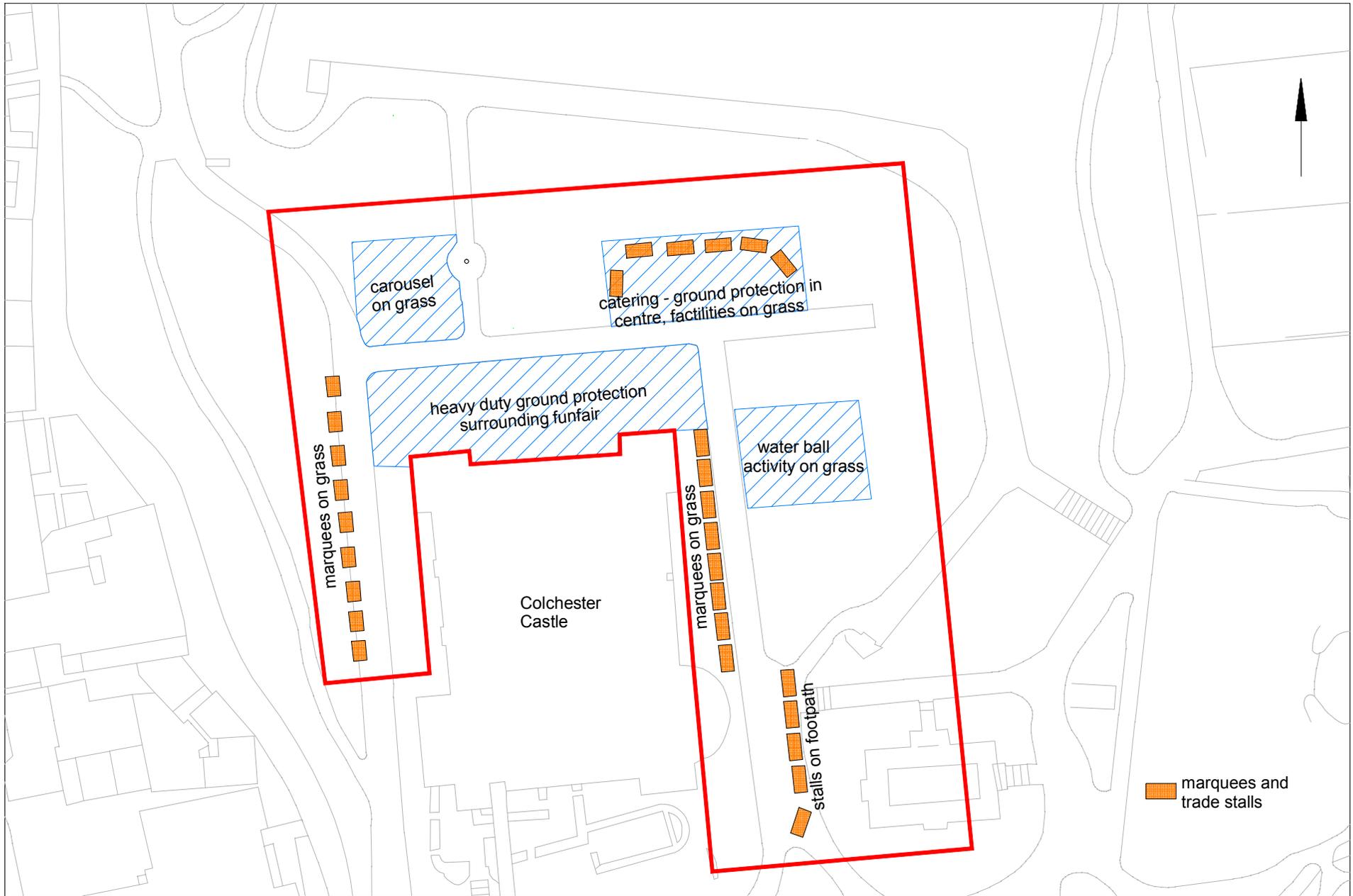


Fig 2 Plan showing layout of 2016 Christmas Market

0 50 m

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Upper Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 99870 25334 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/12d UAD ref: ECC3936 OASIS ref: colchest3-272794
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: December 2016 – January 2017	Size of area investigated:
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.3	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related SM number: SM 1002217
Final report: CAT Report 1054	
Periods represented: –	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in Upper Castle Park to the north, east and west of Colchester Castle (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the set-up and removal of the 2016 Christmas Market. The site is in an area of the highest archaeological importance, surrounding the Norman Castle and the Roman Temple of Claudius in insula 22 of the Roman town. No significant archaeological horizons were damaged as they were buried too deeply (c 800mm deep) and, aside from a few tent/fence pegs through topsoil, at no point did any works penetrate below ground level. No damage was caused to any of the standing remains.	
Previous summaries/reports: –	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: –	Significance: –
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: February 2017

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-272794

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Colchester Castle Park (Christmas Market), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in Upper Castle Park to the north, east and west of Colchester Castle (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the set-up and removal of the 2016 Christmas Market. The site is in an area of the highest archaeological importance, surrounding the Norman Castle and the Roman Temple of Claudius in insula 22 of the Roman town. No significant archaeological horizons were damaged as they were buried too deeply (c 800mm deep) and, aside from a few tent/fence pegs through topsoil, at no point did any works penetrate below ground level. No damage was caused to any of the standing remains.
Project dates	Start: 07-12-2016 End: 03-01-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	16/12d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3936 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.3 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Castle Park (Christmas market)
Postcode	CO1 1TJ
Site coordinates	TL 99870 25334 51.89014330882 0.904890040996 51 53 24 N 000 54 17 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	none
Project design originator	none
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Colchester Castle Park (Christmas Market), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ: December 2016
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1054
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ringbound loose leaf
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	1 February 2017

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), [email](#) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=274914> for this page