

# Archaeological monitoring at Upper Castle Park (Roman wall interpretation panel), High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UG

November 2018



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figure by Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Mark Baister

on behalf of **Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council**

NGR: TL 99910 25543 (centre)

CAT project ref.: 18/10n

Scheduled monument consent: S00128447

Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2018.121

CHER ref: ECC4285

OASIS reference: colchest3-334945



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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**CAT Report 1346**

November 2018

## **Contents**

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	1
5	Results	1
6	Finds	2
7	Conclusion	2
8	Acknowledgements	2
9	References	2
10	Abbreviations and glossary	3
11	Contents of archive	3
12	Archive deposition	3

Figures after p4

Appendix 1 OASIS Summary

## **List of photographs and figures**

Cover: working shot

Photograph 1 Hole for interpretation panel – looking south southwest 2

Fig 1 Site location

## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out in Upper Castle Park to the north northeast of Colchester Castle (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the installation of an interpretation panel. The site is in an area of the highest archaeological importance, located close to the Norman Castle and the Roman Temple of Claudius. No archaeological remains were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate modern topsoil.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at Upper Castle Park, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 22nd November 2018. The work was commissioned by Philip Wise, of Colchester Borough Council, in advance of the installation of a new interpretation panel alongside the Roman wall and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

Located on the site of a scheduled ancient monument, consent was sought and approved by Sarah Poppy, Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England East of England Office, on the condition that all groundworks were supervised by CAT.

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).

The monitoring site is located in Lower Castle Park to the north of Colchester Castle and in an area of outstanding archaeological importance. It is located just to the north of the Roman town walls/precinct of the Temple of Claudius, and within the grounds of the Norman Castle<sup>1</sup>. The archaeological background of the site has been extensively detailed (see, for example, Hull 1958, Crummy 1997).

## 4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to identify and record any archaeological deposits exposed by the groundworks.

## 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

All excavations were carried out by contractors under archaeological supervision. An area measuring 0.5m by 0.5m was excavated to a depth of 0.5m through modern topsoil (L1, firm, wet dark grey/brown sandy-clayey-loam).

No significant archaeological features were encountered.

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<sup>1</sup> The site is a Scheduled Monument (EX 1, HA 1002217).



**Photograph 1** Hole for interpretation panel – looking south southwest

## 6 Finds

Some fragments of peg-tile were recovered from the topsoil during excavations but were not retained.

## 7 Conclusion

No significant archaeological remains were identified during monitoring as groundworks only occurred through 0.5m of modern topsoil.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Philip Wise of Colchester Borough Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister. Fieldwork was carried out by M Baister. Figures were prepared by L Pooley. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</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>
David Gurney	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> ).
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M.R.	1958	<i>Roman Colchester RRCSAL 20</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record (previously UAD, Urban Archaeological Database)
CIfA	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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:  
The report (CAT Report 1346)  
Original site record (feature and layer sheets, plans)  
Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1346)  
CBC brief, CAT wsi  
Graphics  
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log  
Survey data

## 12 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: 2018.121.

**Distribution list**

Philip Wise, Colchester Borough Council

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 28.11.2018

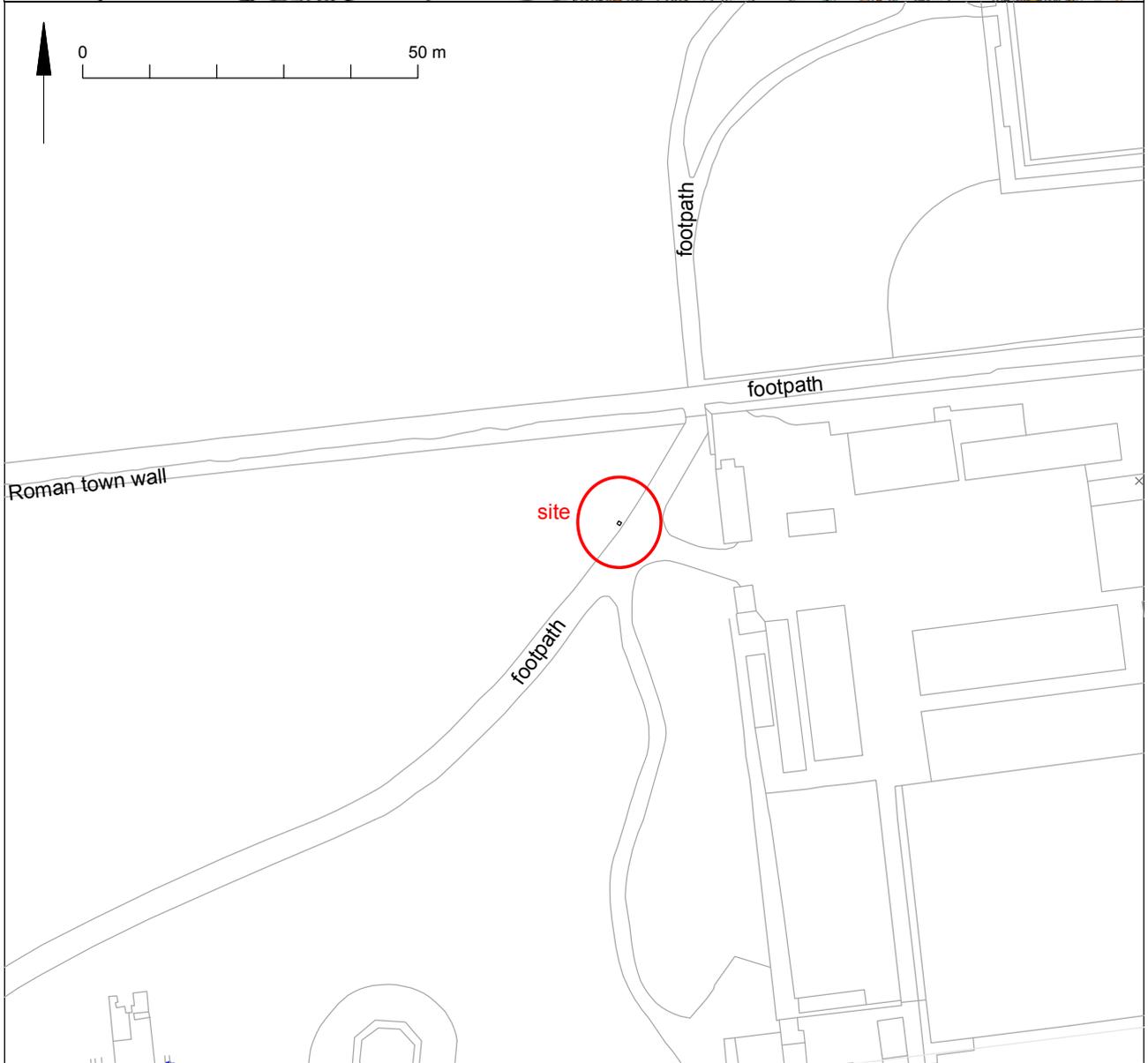
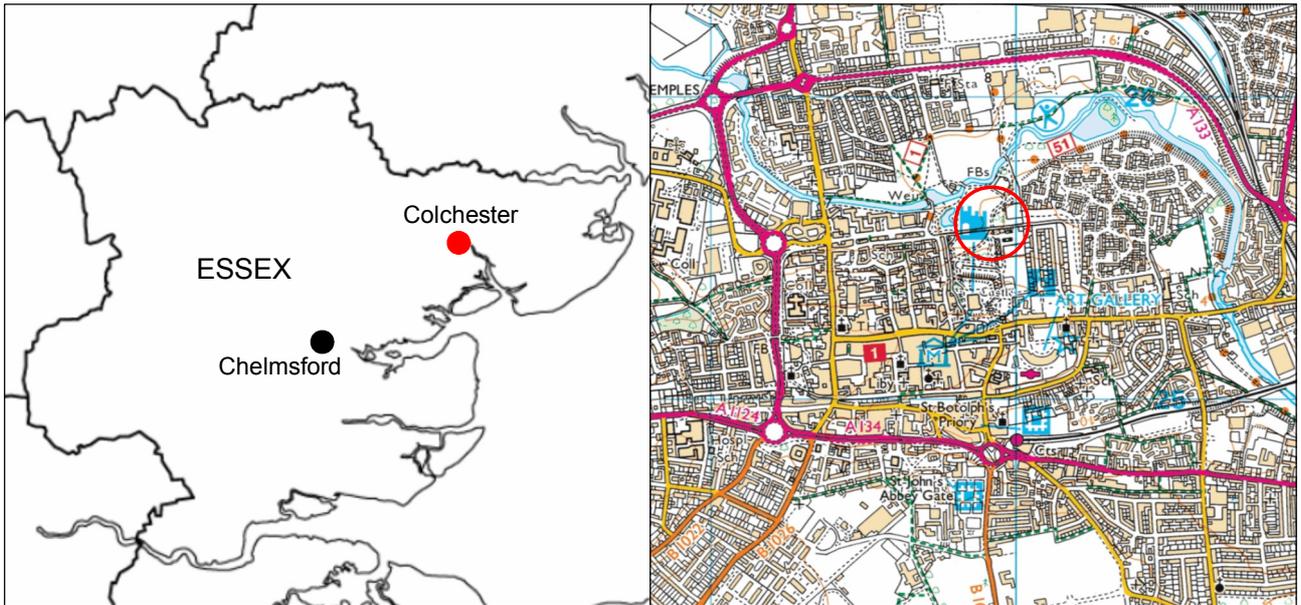


Fig 1 Site location.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Upper Castle Park, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 99910 25543 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 18/10n CHER ref: ECC4285 OASIS ref: colchest3-334945
<b>Type of work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 22nd November 2018	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.25m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.121	<b>Funding source:</b> Colchester Borough Council
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related CHER/SMR numbers:</b> NHLE no. 1002217
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1346	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Archaeological monitoring was carried out in Upper Castle Park to the north northeast of Colchester Castle (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the installation of an interpretation panel. The site is in an area of the highest archaeological importance, located close to the Norman Castle and the Roman Temple of Claudius. No archaeological remains were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate modern topsoil.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> November 2018

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-334945**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Upper Castle Park (Roman wall interpretation panel), Colchester, Essex, CO1 1TJ
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out in Upper Castle Park to the north northeast of Colchester Castle (a Scheduled Monument, NHLE no. 1002217) during the installation of an interpretation panel. The site is in an area of the highest archaeological importance, located close to the Norman Castle and the Roman Temple of Claudius. No archaeological remains were encountered as groundworks did not penetrate modern topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 22-11-2018 End: 22-11-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2018/10n - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4285 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.121 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
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 Upper Castle Park, High Street, Colchester
Postcode	CO1 1UG
Study area	0.25 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 99910 25543 51.892005769612 0.905591733123 51 53 31 N 000 54 20 E Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HISTORIC ENGLAND
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Borough Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Colchester Borough Council

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.121
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.121

Paper Contents "other"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological monitoring at Upper Castle Park (Roman wall interpretation panel), High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1UG: November 2018  
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