

# Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0RY

July 2020



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Alexander Smith

**commissioned by Michael Simpson  
on behalf of Michaels Property Consultants**

NGR: TL 96192 23254 (centre)

Planning ref.: 200961

CAT project ref.: 20/07d

ECC code: ECC4537

OASIS ref.: colchest3-399123



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**CAT Report 1582**

August 2020

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new single-storey dwelling with attached garage. The site lies near Gryme's Dyke, one of a series of earthworks which define the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and north of the Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks. A single pit was uncovered but did not yield any dating evidence, and so its relationship to other archaeological deposits in the area is unclear.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on 27th July 2020. The work was commissioned by Michael Simpson on behalf of Michaels Property Consultants in advance of the construction of a new single-storey dwelling with attached garage and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2020).

In addition to the brief and WSI, 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 field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

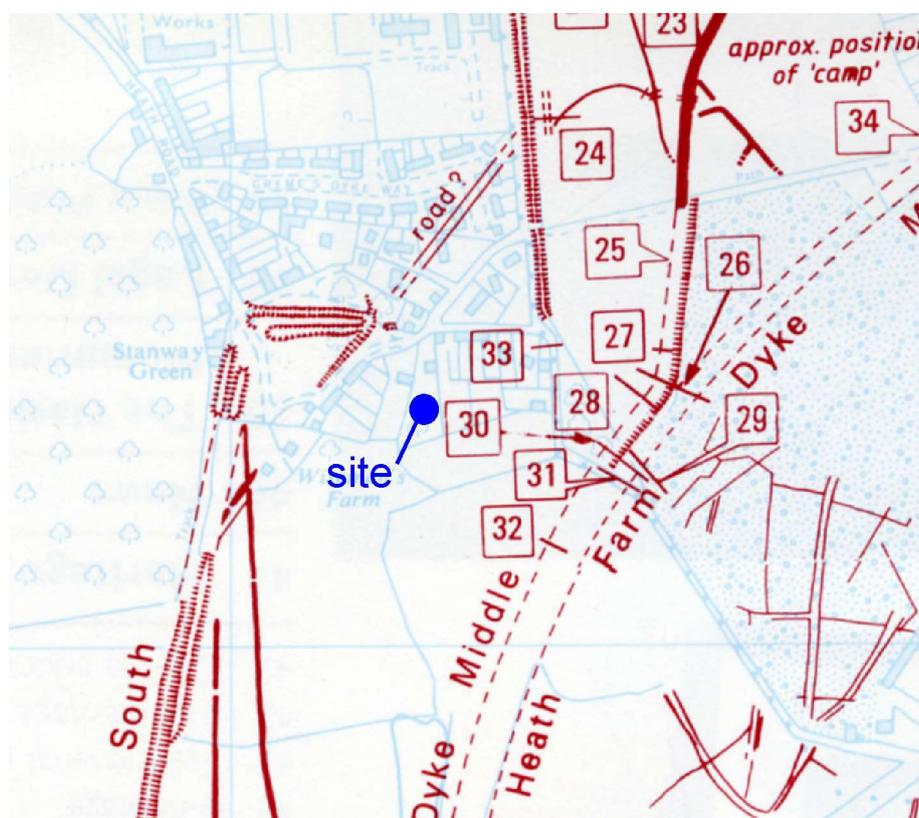
## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological significance. It lies adjacent to Gryme's Dyke (Scheduled Ancient Monument NHLE no. 1019992, MCC7464 & MCC7465). The Colchester dykes and earthworks are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. *Camulodunum* was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11 (CAR 11)*, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995).

Gryme's dyke is the outermost and longest of all the dykes on the western side of the town, and the last to be added. Gryme's Dyke faced westwards and took the form of a deep V-shaped ditch with a steep earth bank behind it. The dyke can be divided into three distinct sections on topographical grounds, i.e. Gryme's Dyke North, South and Middle (CAR 11, 27-9). The dyke survives for much of its length as a visible but badly-

damaged and denuded earthwork. The current site is located adjacent to an area named Gryme's Dyke Middle.



**Map 1** Extract from the general map of Colchester showing the locations of the earthworks and the excavations discussed in CAR 11 (Fig 6.1)

To the immediate south and southeast of the site is the nationally-important Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002180; MCC7470) which is known from aerial photographs, geophysical surveys, and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; CAR 11, 95-105; CAT Reports 30, 45 & 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure which is possibly Cunobelin's farmstead (MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (MCC7472); a Romano-British temple surrounded by a monumental portico (MCC2849, MCC7043); a Roman theatre (MCC2831); a Roman watermain, possibly leading to a bath-house (MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (MCC2529). Many of these remains are located within Gosbecks Archaeological Park.

CAT has carried out a number of evaluations and excavations in advance of development around Fiveways Fruit Farm on both sides of Dyers Road, to the west and southwest of the present site (CAT Reports 493, 506, 996, 1042, 1070 & 1221). An excavation in 2015 revealed extensive Middle Iron Age settlement (mid 4th to late 1st century BC) comprising two interlinked enclosed farmsteads and associated field system with stock control enclosures. Small-scale Neolithic, Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity was evident in the form of worked flints and pottery sherds recovered from treethrows and pits. Field boundary ditches, pits and tree-throws representing medieval, post-medieval and modern agricultural activity were also found across the site (CAT Report 1070).

The Stanway Quarry elite burial site, located just south of the areas investigated at Fiveways Farm, was excavated between 1987 and 2003 (CHER MCC8095). An Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high-status individuals belonging to the Catuvellaunian family were excavated. The remains of two wooden chambers richly adorned with finds including pottery, weapons and game boards known as the 'Warriors

burial' and the 'Doctor's burial' are nationally recognised for their significance (Crummy *et al*, 2007).

The site is also located within Stanway Green, a historic area of common land (MCC9142) which abutts Lexden/Stanway Heath (MCC9143-4).

In 2020 CAT carried out an evaluation at the adjacent Curved Roof House. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered (CAT Report 1511).

#### 4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

One trial-trench, 8m long by 1.8m wide, was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The trench was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.08-0.1m thick, friable, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt), and a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.15-0.18m thick, firm, dry medium grey sandy-silt) onto natural sands (L3, firm dry medium yellow/orange sand, encountered at a depth of 0.25-0.27m below current ground level).

Pit F1 was uncovered at the centre of the trench. It was 0.54m wide and 0.02m deep. Fragments of burnt wood within the pit, which was possibly the base of a modern bonfire pit.



**Photograph 1** Trench shot – looking west

#### 6 Finds

There were no finds.

## 7 Conclusion

Excavations at this site revealed a pit. Due to the absence of dating evidence, however, it is not possible to discern its possible relationship with other archaeological remains in the area.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Michael Simpson for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with A Smith. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

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

- |                     |       |   |
|---------------------|-------|---|
| Brown, D            | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2nd ed.)  |
| CAR 11              | 1995  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy  |
| CAT                 | 2019  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT                 | 2020  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological on land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0RY</i>  |
| CAT Report 30       | 1998  | <i>Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-west area</i> , by S Benfield  |
| CAT Report 45       | 1999  | <i>Excavation at Gosbecks Archaeological Park: July-August 1999</i> , by C Austin   |
| CAT Report 127      | 2008  | <i>Excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex 1995-1996</i> , by S Benfield                                  |
| CAT Report 493      | 2009  | <i>An archaeological evaluation at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex: September-October 2008</i> , by B Holloway & H Brooks                                      |
| CAT Report 506      | 2009  | <i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains on and around a proposed development site at Stanway, Colchester, Essex: March 2009</i> , by H Brooks                              |
| CAT Report 996      | 2016  | <i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains on and around a site at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Essex</i> , by H Brooks  |
| CAT Report 1042     | 2016  | <i>Archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: November 2016</i> , by L Pooley  |
| CAT Report 1070     | 2019  | <i>Middle Iron Age farmsteads: Archaeological excavation on land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: May-December 2015</i> , by P Parmenter, A Wightman & L Pooley |
| CAT Report 1221     | 2018  | <i>Archaeological excavation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Essex – January 2018</i> , by L Pooley  |
| CAT Report 1511     | 2020  | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Curved Roof House, Stanway Green, Stanway, Colchester, Essex: January 2020</i> , by E Hicks   |
| CBCAA               | 2020  | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Oasis, Stanway Green, Stanway, CO3 0RY</i> , by J Tipper   |
| CIfA                | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| CIfA                | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>   |
| Crummy, P et al     | 2007  | <i>Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum</i> . Britannia Monograph Series <b>24</b>  |
| Gurney, D           | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> )  |
| Hawkes, C & Hull, M | 1947  | <i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , RRCSAL <b>14</b>  |
| Historic England    | 2015b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |

Hull, M	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL 20
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
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
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
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>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1582)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheet, sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1582)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

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 project ref. ECC4537.

**Distribution list:**

Michael Simpson

Michaels Property Consultants

Dr Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

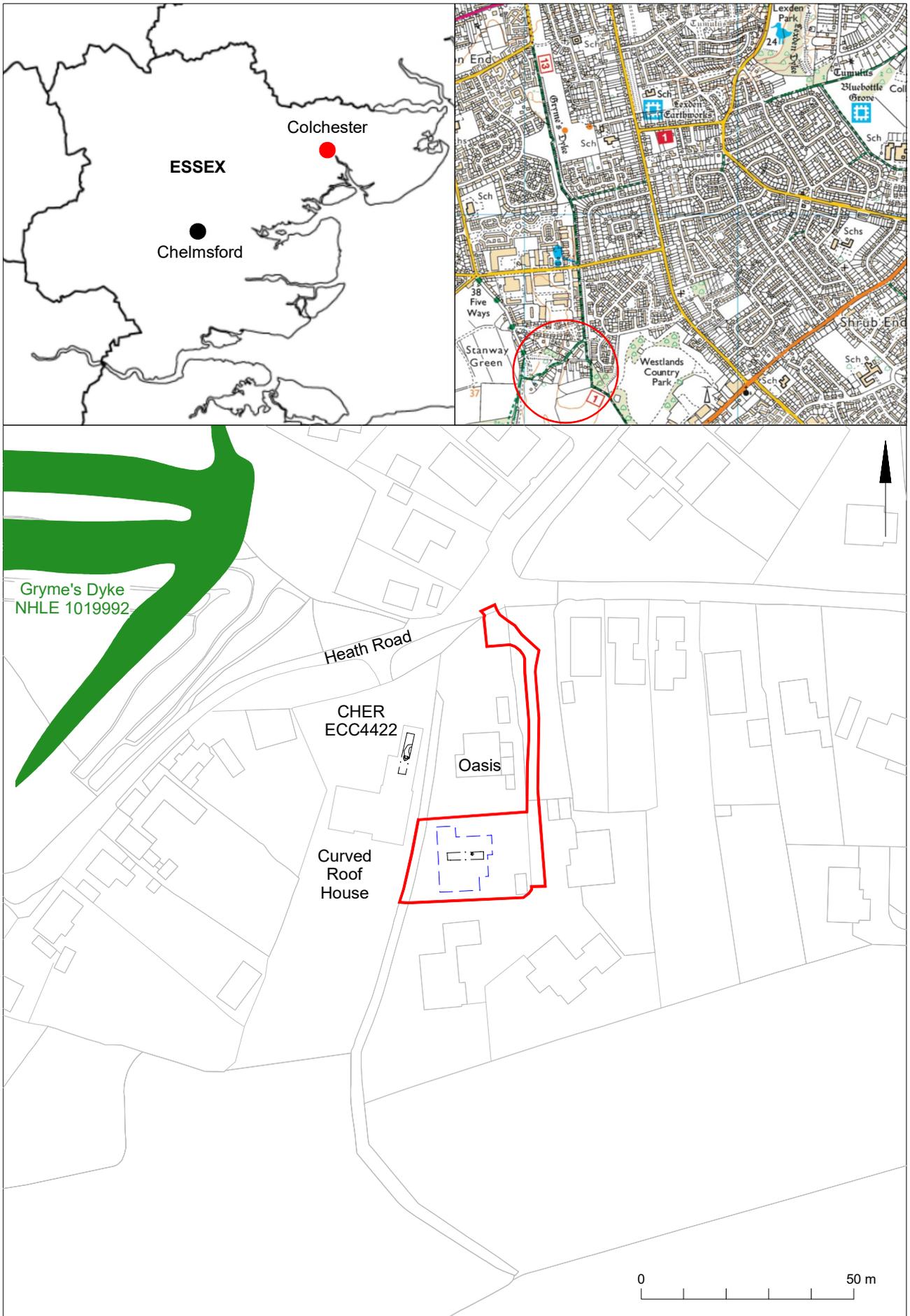
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email: [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

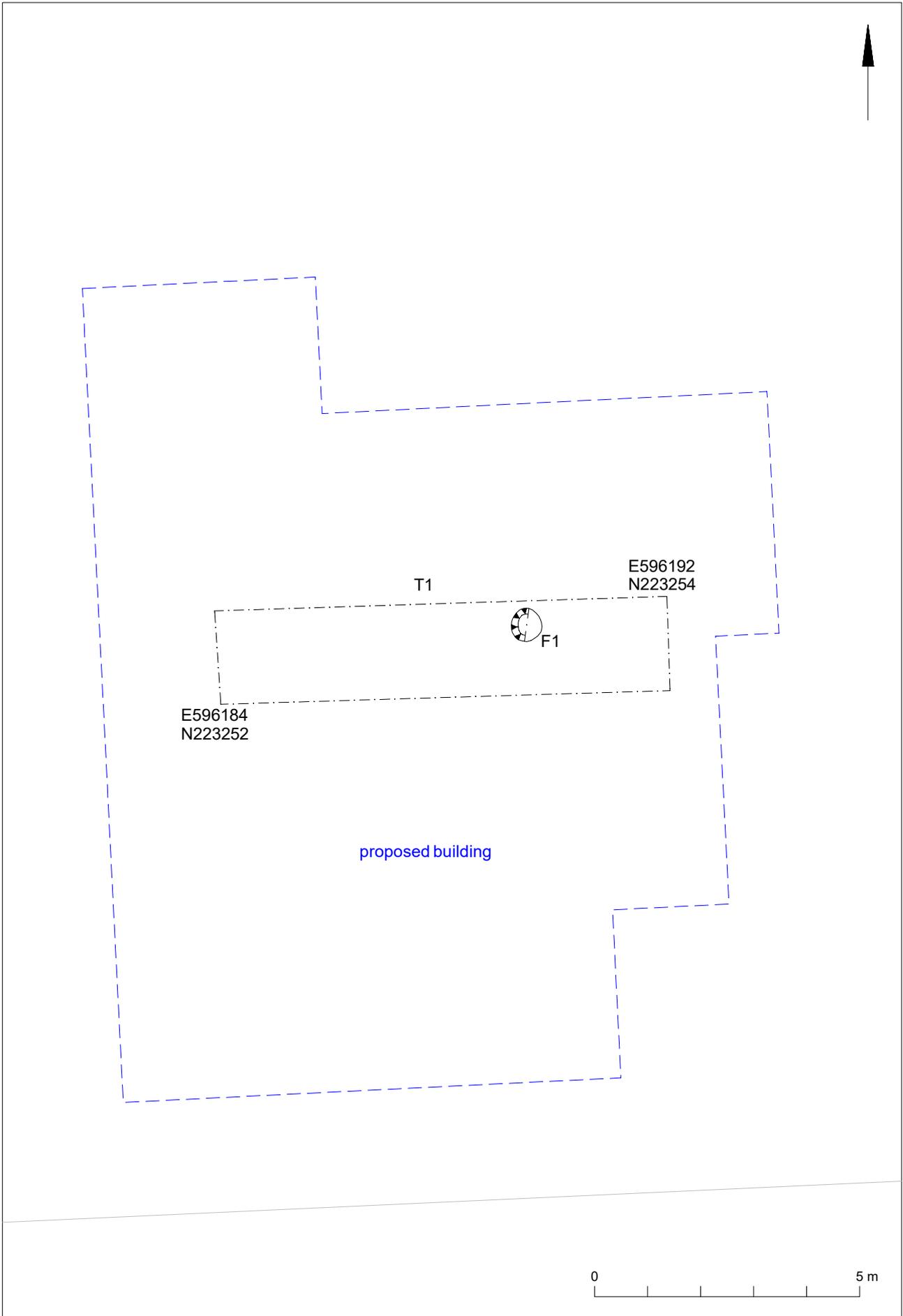
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 13.08.2020



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue line) and recent evaluation at Curved Roof House.



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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

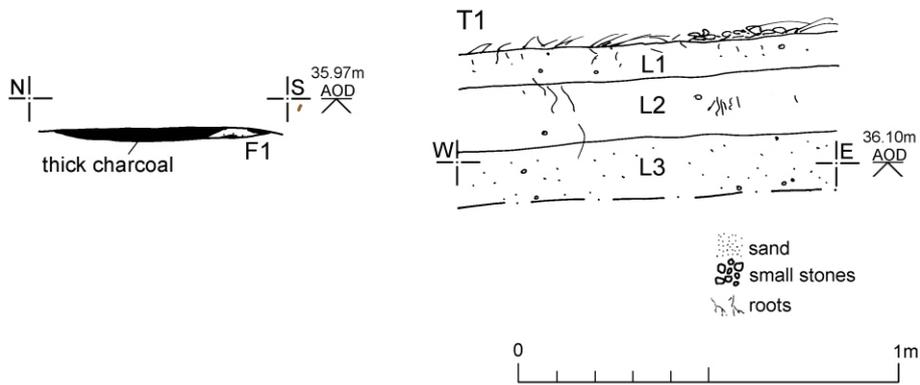


Fig 3 Feature and representative section.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0RY	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 96192 23254 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 20/07d CHER ref: ECC4537 OASIS ref: colchest3-399123
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 27th July 2020	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.08ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC2529, MCC2831, MCC2849, MCC2903, MCC7043, MCC7044, MCC7464, MCC7465, MCC7470, MCC7472, MCC8095, MCC9142, MCC9143, MCC9144
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1582	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new single-storey dwelling with attached garage. The site lies near Gryme' s Dyke one of a series of earthworks which define the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and north of the Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks. A single pit was uncovered but did not yield any dating evidence, and so its relationship to other archaeological deposits in the area is unclear.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> July 2020

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0RY.

**NGR:** TL 96192 23254 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** Stanway

**Planning reference:** 200961

**Commissioned by:** Michael Simpson

**Client:** Michaels Property Consultants

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER project code:** tbc

**CAT project code:** 2020/07d

**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-399123

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 15/07/2020



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is on land to the south of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site measures 515m<sup>2</sup> (0.05 hectares) and is accessed off Heath Road via a private road. The land is currently used as a grassed area surrounded by mature hedgerows. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 96192 23254.

## Proposed work

The project involves the erection of a new single storey dwelling, attached garage, landscaping and any associated groundworks.

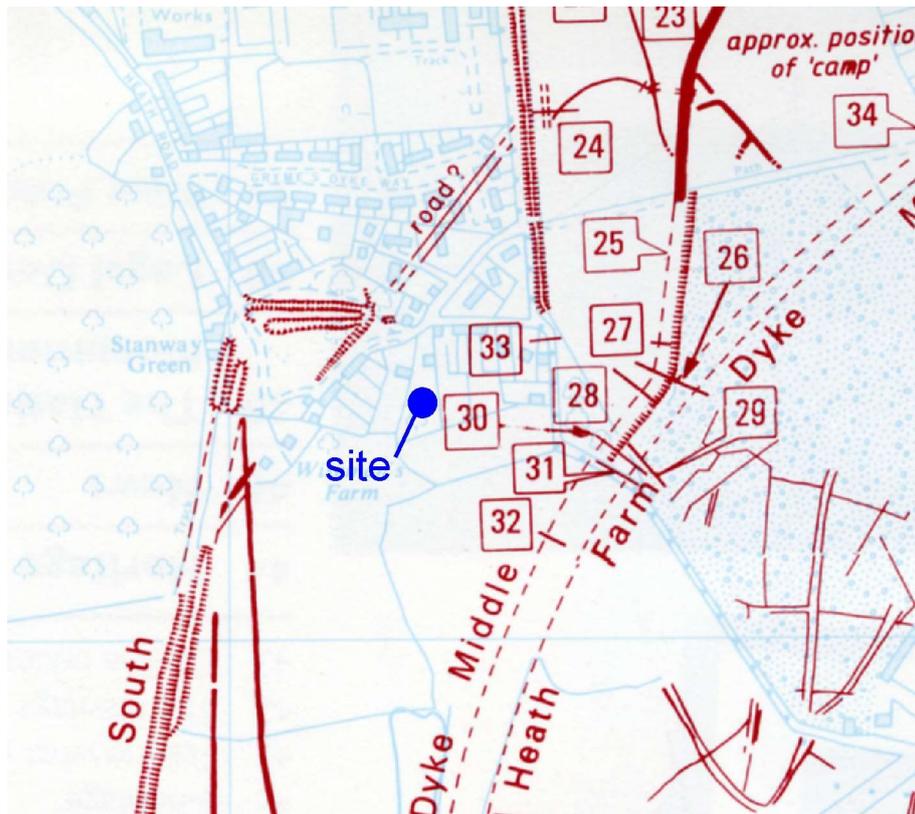
## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on extracts of the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (search MCC/ECC numbers at [www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The following archaeological background is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Records (ECC and MCC numbers) accessible via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The proposed development is situated within an area of archaeological significance. It lies adjacent to Gryme's Dyke (Scheduled Ancient Monument NHLE no. 1019992, MCC7464 & MCC7465). The Colchester dykes and earthworks are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or *oppidum* in Latin) of *Camulodunum*. *Camulodunum* was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably of the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43. There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: *Camulodunum*, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and *Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11 (CAR 11)*, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995).

Gryme's dyke is the outermost, longest and latest of all the dykes on the western side of the town. Gryme's Dyke faced westwards and took the form of a deep V-shaped ditch with a steep earth bank behind it. The dyke can be divided into three distinct sections on topographical grounds, i.e. Gryme's Dyke North, South and Middle (*CAR 11*, 27-9) The dyke survives for much of its length as a visible but badly damaged and denuded earthwork. The current site is located adjacent to an area named in *CAR 11* as Grymes Dyke Middle.



**Map 1:** Extract of the general map of Colchester showing the locations of earthworks and excavations discussed in CAR 11 (Fig 6.1), current site is labelled blue.

To the immediate south/southeast of the site is the nationally important Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002180; MCC7470) which is known from aerial photographs, geophysical surveys, and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; CAR 11, 95-105; CAT Report 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure (MCC7044), possibly Cunobelin's farmstead (MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (MCC7472); a Romano-British temple (MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (MCC7043); a Roman theatre (MCC2831); a Roman watermain, possibly leading to a bath-house (MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (MCC2529). Many of these remains are located within Gosbecks Archaeological Park.

To the west/southwest CAT have carried out a number of evaluations and excavations in advance of development around Fiveways Fruit Farm on both sides of Dyers Road (CAT Reports 493, 506, 996, 1042, 1070 and 1221). An excavation in 2015 revealed extensive Middle Iron Age settlement (mid 4th to late 1st century BC) comprising two interlinked enclosed farmsteads and associated field system with stock control enclosures. Small-scale Neolithic, Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity was evident in the form of worked flints and pottery sherds recovered from tree-throws and pits. Field boundary ditches, pits and tree-throws representing medieval, post-medieval and modern agricultural activity were also found across the site (CAT Report 1070).

Just to the south of the Fiveways investigations CAT excavated the Stanway Quarry elite burial site. The Stanway elite burial site was excavated between 1987 and 2003 prior to the extraction of sands and gravel aggregates (CHER MCC8095). Five enclosures were recorded included an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high status individuals of the Catuvellaunian family. The remains of two wooden chambers richly adorned with finds including pottery, weapons and game boards known as the 'Warriors burial' and the 'Doctor's burial' are nationally recognised for their significance (Crummy *et al*, 2007).

The site is also located within Stanway Green, a historic common area (MCC9142) which abutts onto Lexden/Stanway Heath (MCC9143-4).

CAT carried out an evaluation trench at the adjacent Curved Roof House in January 2020. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered. Topsoil measured between 0.25-0.29m, subsoil c 0.13-0.17m onto natural sands and gravels (CAT Report 1511).

## **Project background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 2020 (application No. 200961) for the *erection of a new single storey residential dwelling with attached garage, landscaping and associated parking.*

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

## **Requirement for work** (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work was for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020).

The brief requires a single trial-trench located within the location of the new dwelling. The trench shall measure 8m long by 1.8m covering an area of 14.4m<sup>2</sup> (see Fig 1). The Trench will be widened in localised areas to facilitate excavation of deep archaeological features if required.

The evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, and will be completed prior to determination of the planning application. It is also required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival, condition and significance of environmental evidence
- Include a contingency for soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits. In addition, particular attention should be given to the collection of micro-remains preserved within and/or directly over floors
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Further archaeological evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2019)

- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2020).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to CHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Nigel Rayner.

## **Evaluation methodology**

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible (see human remains section below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine the trench, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

### **Site surveying**

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of evaluation trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

### **Human remains**

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains *in situ* (i.e. a site visit).

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,  
Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /  
Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015b).

The report will be submitted within three months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

## Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum. If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

## Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

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

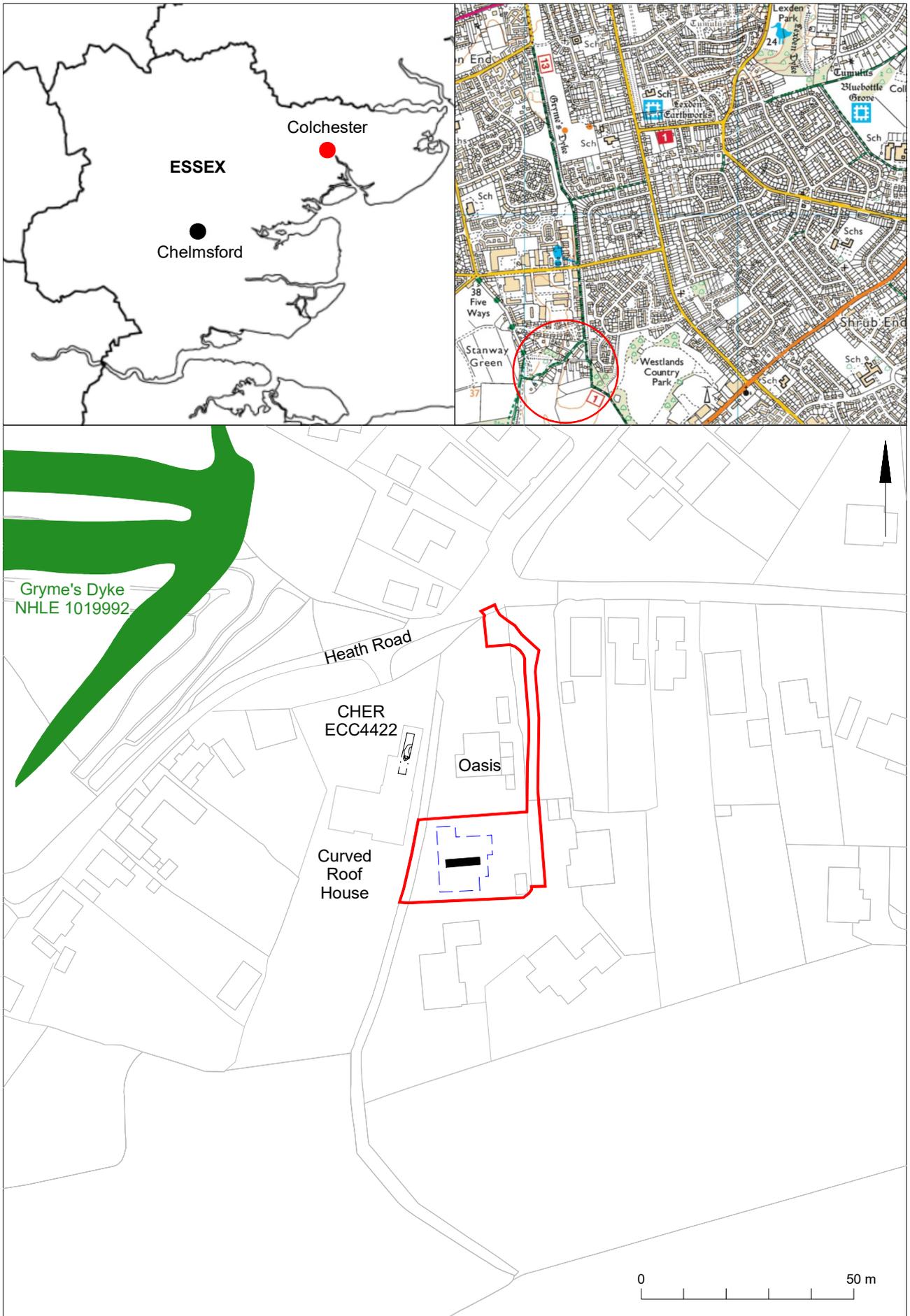
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . 2nd Edition
CAT	2019	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1511	2020	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Curved Roof House, Stanway Green, Stanway, Colchester, Essex – January 2020</i> . By E Hicks
CBCAA	2020	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation Oasis, Stanway Green, Stanway, CO3 0RY</i> . By J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue line) and recent evaluation at Curved Roof House.

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-399123**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0RY.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new single-storey dwelling with attached garage. The site lies near Gryme's Dyke, one of a series of earthworks which define the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and north of the Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks. A single pit was uncovered but did not yield any dating evidence, and so its relationship to other archaeological deposits in the area is unclear.
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2020 End: 27-07-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	200961 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2020/07d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4537 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-399123 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER STANWAY and to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO3 0RY
Study area	0.08 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 96192 23254 51.872776244996 0.85032384996 51 52 21 N 000 51 01 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.87m Max: 36.05m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Michaels Property Consultants

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID ECC4537

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4537

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

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Oasis, Stanway Green, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0RY: July 2020

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.

Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1582

Date 2020

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