

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1841
issued September 2022**

**Archaeological evaluation at Plot 6,
land adjacent to Hillcroft, 114 Braiswick,
Colchester, Essex, CO4 5GB: August 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/08a
CHER code: ECC4745**

**Archaeological evaluation at Plot 6,
land adjacent to Hillcroft, 114 Braiswick,
Colchester, Essex, CO4 5GB
August 2022**

NGR: TL 97685 27141 (centre)

Planning ref.: 200987

**CAT project ref.: 2022/08a
CAT Report 1841**

**ECC code: ECC4745
OASIS id: colchest3-508451**

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**fieldwork by Nigel Rayner
with Ziya Eksen and George Williams**

**commissioned by Alistair Cock
on behalf of Oak Home Developments**

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Issued:	09/09/2022	

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Plot 6 on land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and garage. Located close to a number of cropmarks and to Moat Farm Dyke, archaeological evaluation immediately west of the site in 2020 revealed a medieval/post-medieval pit and modern pit, along with a pit/post-hole and post-hole which could not be dated. However, no archaeological remains were found during the current evaluation.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land at Plot 6, land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex on 22nd August 2022. The work was commissioned by Alistair Cock of Oak Home Developments in advance of the construction of a single dwelling and garage along with alterations to the front wall and formation of access.

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 Archaeological Evaluation* written by Dr Simon Wood (CBCAA 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with the CBCAA (CAT 2022).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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 and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

In June 2020, six evaluation trenches were excavated immediately to the west of the current development site. The evaluation revealed a medieval/post-medieval pit and a modern pit, along with a pit/post-hole and post-hole which could not be dated (CAT Report 1569). Despite these sparse findings, the site is located within an area of archaeological interest.

Situated c 150m north-west is Moat Farm Dyke. 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 P Crummy (1995). Moat Farm Dyke is aligned approximately north north-east/south south-west and is continuation of Lexden Dyke North beyond the River Colne. Although there

has been no excavation of the dyke, the Royal Commission's 1922 map from a survey just prior to WWI showed the dyke marked as far north as Baker's Lane (CAR 11, 34).

Plotted cropmarks, recorded through aerial photography, surround the site. To the south-east, linear features are recorded at Moat Farm cottages (MCC5739). To the south/south-west cropmarks include a rectilinear feature and isolated ring-ditch (MCC7758), and ring-ditch and linear features (MCC7732). To the west cropmarks include rectilinear enclosures, ?pits, trackways and linear features (MCC7720).

A number of archaeological investigations have occurred in fairly close proximity to the site. To the south Oxford Archaeology East (OA Report 2138, ECC4053) had a geophysical survey undertaken followed by an evaluation on land off Baker's Lane. Although their trenches were primarily blank of archaeological features, a couple of shallow charcoal-rich pits are recorded. Archaeological investigations by CAT at the Colchester Northern Gateway project have found numerous examples of this kind of feature that we believe relate to charcoal production. A review of archaeological reports to the north of Colchester has found this type of feature to be quite common and radiocarbon dating has revealed results of mixed periods, see CAT Report 1219 (ECC4112) for an overview.

To the north north-east of the site a large plot has been investigated as part of the Colchester Northern Growth Area Urban Extension (NGAUE/Colchester North) with different areas fieldwalked, evaluated and excavated (CAT Reports 627, ECC2994). During the excavation of Area A, CAT's principal discoveries were over 530kg of medieval pottery and a tile-built rectangular kiln. The pottery included a significant number of wasters and misfired pots, some of which had been thrown into open pits which may have originally been clay quarries. Despite the usual convention that rectangular kilns produced tile or brick, it may be the case that this kiln had a dual purpose of firing Colchester-type ware pots, and also larger ceramic objects such as floor bricks and peg-tiles. The range of pottery products was wide. Apart from the usual pots, jugs and bowls, there were also pitchers, dripping pans, pipkins, sprinklers or bottles, and louvers (CAT Report 1140).

During a watching brief at Playgolf Colchester (south-west of the development site), CAT recorded the remains of two Late Iron Age/early Roman burials or burial-related features (CAT Report 709). The features lay within a large funerary enclosure, initially known from cropmarks. One of the burial features was a Late Iron Age or early Roman unurned cremation, from which an amphora and some worked bone were recovered, as well as a quantity of cremated human bone. Another nearby feature produced fragments of at least five iron spearheads, a couple of sherds of Late Iron Age/early Roman imported pottery, and a small quantity of cremated human bone. The ditch, which formed the western side of the enclosure, was recorded as it crossed the footprint of the extension. The funerary enclosure and the features within it are comparable to the ditched enclosures excavated by CAT at the Stanway gravel quarry between 1987 and 1997 (Crummy 2007)

4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was 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 (Fig 2)

Following on from the 2020 evaluation of six trial-trenches (CAT Report 1569), Trenches 7 and 8 were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench 8 was repositioned c 4m further south than proposed in the WSI as it was too close to a group of trees.



Photograph 1 Trench 7, looking north



Photograph 2 Trench 8, looking south-east

The trenches were 15m long by 1.5m wide, with the stratigraphy of the site as follows:

- modern made-ground (L1, 0.2-0.33m thick) sealed
- buried topsoil (L2, 0.1-0.6m thick) which overlay
- natural sands and gravels (L3, identified at a depth of 0.5-0.95m below current ground level, 42.24-42.67m AOD).

L1 – Modern made-ground, loose/soft, dry, medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silty-loam with common peg-tile, brick, coal/coke fragments and other modern inclusions, and common rooting throughout.

L2 – Buried modern topsoil, firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional peg-tile, red brick and coal/coke fragments.

A sondage was excavated in T7 to confirm the identification of L3 as natural.

There were no archaeological remains in either trench.

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds

7 Conclusion

There were no archaeological remains within the two evaluation trenches at Plot 6 on land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, with buried topsoil sealing natural ground level.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Alistair Cock and Oak Home Developments for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayer with Z Eksen and G Williams. Figures are by S Veasey and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Simon Wood.

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> |
| CAR 11 | 1995 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by CFC Hawkes & P Crummy |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Health & safety policy</i> |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Plot 6, land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5GB</i> |
| CAT Report 627 | 2012 | <i>An archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial-trenching at the Northern Growth Area Urban Extension (NGAUE), Colchester, Essex September-December 2011</i> |
| CAT Report 709 | 2014 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex: January-August 2013</i> |
| CAT Report 1140 | 2018 | <i>Pottery production in Mile End (Colchester) in the 12th to 16th centuries: excavations at 'Colchester North' (formerly NGAUE) Area A, January to March 2017</i> |
| CAT Report 1219 | 2018 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub Plots 2-3, Colchester, Essex – November-December 2017</i> |
| CAT Report 1569 | 2020 | <i>Archaeological evaluation a Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex – June 2020</i> |
| CBCAA | 2021 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at 'Hillcroft', 144 Braiswick, Colchester</i> , by Simon Wood |
| 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 <i>et al</i> | 2007 | <i>Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum</i> . Britannia Monograph Series 24 . |
| Hawkes, CFC & Hull, MR | 1947 | <i>Camulodunum: first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-1939</i> . Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London no. 14 . Oxford: <i>The Society of Antiquaries</i> , |

Historic England	2016	London. <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 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
OA Report 2138	2017	<i>Land off Bakers Lane, Braiswick archaeological evaluation report</i> , by N Cox

10 Abbreviations and glossary

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
EHHER	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
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of digital archive

The report (CAT Report 1841)
 CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
 Site digital photographs and log
 Scans of original sections
 Graphic files
 Site data
 Survey data

12 Archive deposition

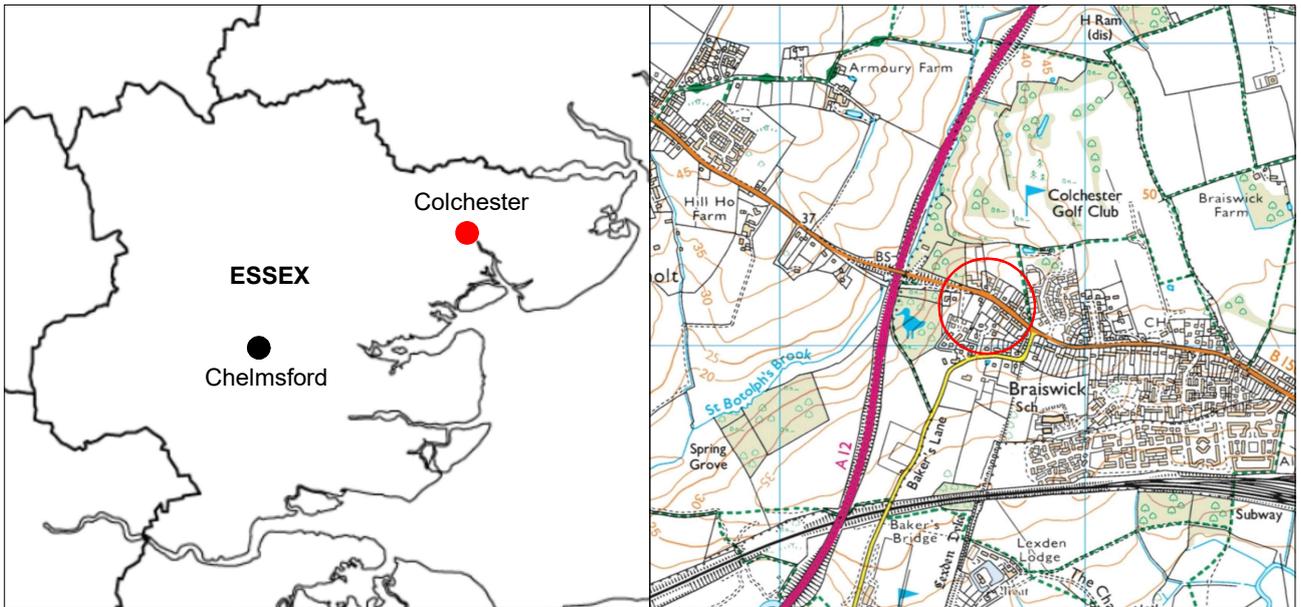
The digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Archaeological Data Service.

Distribution list:

Alistair Cock, Oak Home Developments

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

● = capped well

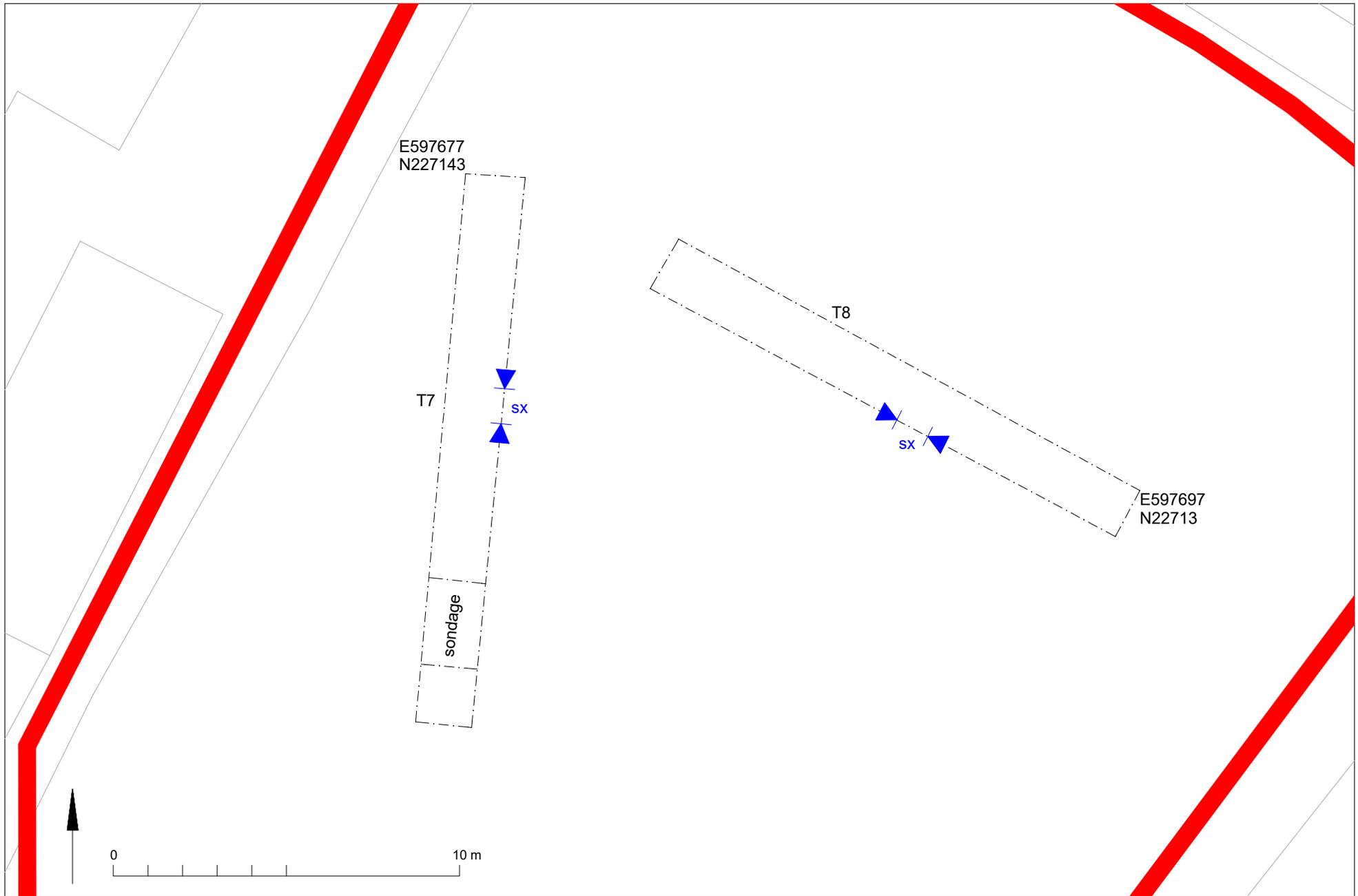


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

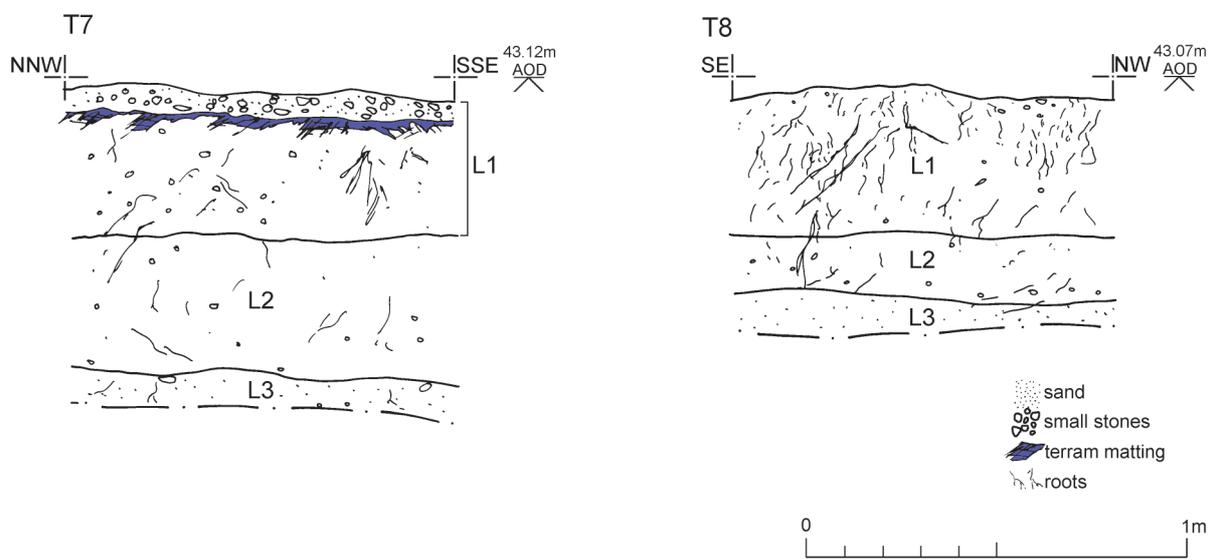


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Plot 6, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5GB	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 97685 27141 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/08a CHER ref: ECC4745 OASIS ref: colchest3-508451
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 22nd August 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.141ha
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Oak Home Developments
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER ECC4401
Final report: CAT Report 1841	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Plot 6 on land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and garage. Located close to a number of cropmarks and to Moat Farm Dyke, archaeological evaluation immediately west of the site in 2020 revealed a medieval/post-medieval pit and modern pit, along with a pit/post-hole and post-hole which could not be dated. However, no archaeological remains were found during the current evaluation.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 1569	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: September 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Plot 6, Land Adjacent to 'Hillcroft', 144 Braiswick, Colchester, CO4 5GB

NGR: TL 97685 27141 (centre)

District: Colchester

Planning references: 200987

Commissioned by: Alistair Cock (OHD)

Client: Oak Home Developments

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: [tbc](#)

CAT project code: 2022/08a

OASIS project number: colchest3-508451

Contracts Manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork Manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation Manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 01/08/2022



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Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2.7km north-east of the main historic centre of Colchester on land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5BG (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 97685 27141.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a single dwellings and garage, with alterations to the front wall and formation of access.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The site is located within an area of archaeological interest, situated c 150m north-west of Moat Farm Dyke. 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). Moat Farm Dyke is aligned approximately north north-east/south south-west and is continuation of Lexden Dyke North beyond the River Colne. Although there has been no excavation of the dyke, the Royal Commission's 1922 map from a survey just prior to WWI showed the dyke marked as far north as Baker's Lane (CAR 11, 34).

Plotted cropmarks, recorded through aerial photography, surround the site. To the south-east, linear features are recorded at Moat Farm cottages (MCC5739). To the south/south-west cropmarks include rectilinear feature and isolated ring-ditch (MCC7758) and ring-ditch and linear features (MCC7732). To the west cropmarks include rectilinear enclosures, ?pits, trackways and linear features (MCC7720).

A number of archaeological investigations have occurred in fairly close proximity to the site. On the adjacent western plot CAT undertook a size-trench evaluation in 2020 (CAT Report 1569). Only four features were encountered: a medieval/post-medieval pit, a modern pit, an undated pit/post-hole and an undated post-hole.

To the south Oxford Archaeology East (OA Report 2138, ECC4053) had a geophysical survey undertaken followed by an evaluation on land off Baker's Lane. Although their trenches were primarily blank of archaeological features, a couple of shallow charcoal-rich pits are recorded. Archaeological investigations by CAT at the Colchester Northern Gateway project have found numerous examples of this kind of feature that we believe relate to charcoal production. A review of archaeological reports to the north of Colchester has found this type of feature to be quite common and carbon-dating has revealed results of mixed periods, see CAT Report 1219 (ECC4112) for an overview.

To the north north-east of the site a large plot has been allocated as the Colchester Northern Growth Area Urban Extension area (NGAUE/Colchester North). The northern areas of this have been fieldwalked, evaluated and excavated by CAT (CAT Reports 627, ECC2994), the southern areas have not been released for development yet. During the excavation of Area A CAT's principal discoveries were over 530 kg of medieval pottery, and a tile-built rectangular kiln. The pottery included a significant number of wasters and misfired pots, some of which had been thrown into open pits which may have originally been clay quarries. Despite the usual convention that rectangular kilns produced tile or brick, it may be the case that this kiln had a dual purpose of firing Colchester-type ware pots, and also larger ceramic objects such

as floor bricks, and peg-tiles. The range of pottery products was wide - apart from the usual pots, jugs and bowls, there were also pitchers, dripping pans, pipkins, sprinklers or bottles, and louvers (CAT Report 1140).

During a watching brief at Playgolf Colchester (south-west of the development site), Bakers Lane CAT recorded the remains of two Late Iron Age/early Roman burials or burial-related features (CAT Report 709). The features lay within a large funerary enclosure, initially known from cropmarks. One of the burial features was a Late Iron Age or early Roman unurned cremation burial, from which an amphora and some worked bone were recovered, as well as a quantity of cremated human bone. Another nearby feature produced fragments of at least five iron spearheads, a couple of sherds of Late Iron Age/early Roman imported pottery, and a small quantity of cremated human bone. The ditch, which formed the western side of the enclosure, was recorded as it crossed the footprint of the extension. The funerary enclosure and the features within it are comparable to the ditched enclosures excavated by CAT at the Stanway gravel quarry between 1987 and 1997 (Crummy, 2007)

Project background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 2020 (application number 200987) for *Erection of Single Detached Dwelling and Garage with alterations to front brick wall and formation of access onto the highway.*

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 as stated in the Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021) was for an archaeological evaluation.

Two linear trenches, 15m long by 1.8m wide, will be positioned within the footprints of the proposed new dwelling and garage. This equate to a length of 30m and covers an area of 54m².

The work is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. 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.
- Establish the potential for the survival and condition of environmental evidence.
- 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.

Contingencies will be included for scientific analysis of significant deposits such as absolute dating, soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits.

Further archaeological investigation 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 & c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)

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 two archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: 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), at least a 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens 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 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 excavation area 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 the 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 Historic England guidance (2018), if the human remains are not to be lifted the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

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 (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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). 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): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

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 / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: 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* (Historic England 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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- 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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible

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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

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.

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
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 627	2012	<i>An archaeological evaluation by fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial-trenching at the Northern Growth Area Urban Extension (NGAUE), Colchester, Essex September-December 2011</i>
CAT Report 709	2014	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex: January-August 2013</i>
CAT Report 1140	2018	<i>Pottery production in Mile End (Colchester) in the 12th to 16th centuries: excavations at 'Colchester North' (formerly NGAUE) Area A, January to March 2017</i>
CAT Report 1219	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub Plots 2-3, Colchester, Essex – November-December 2017</i>
CAT Report 1569	2020	<i>Archaeological evaluation a Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex – June 2020</i>
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for archaeological evaluation at "Hillcroft", 144 Braiswick,</i>

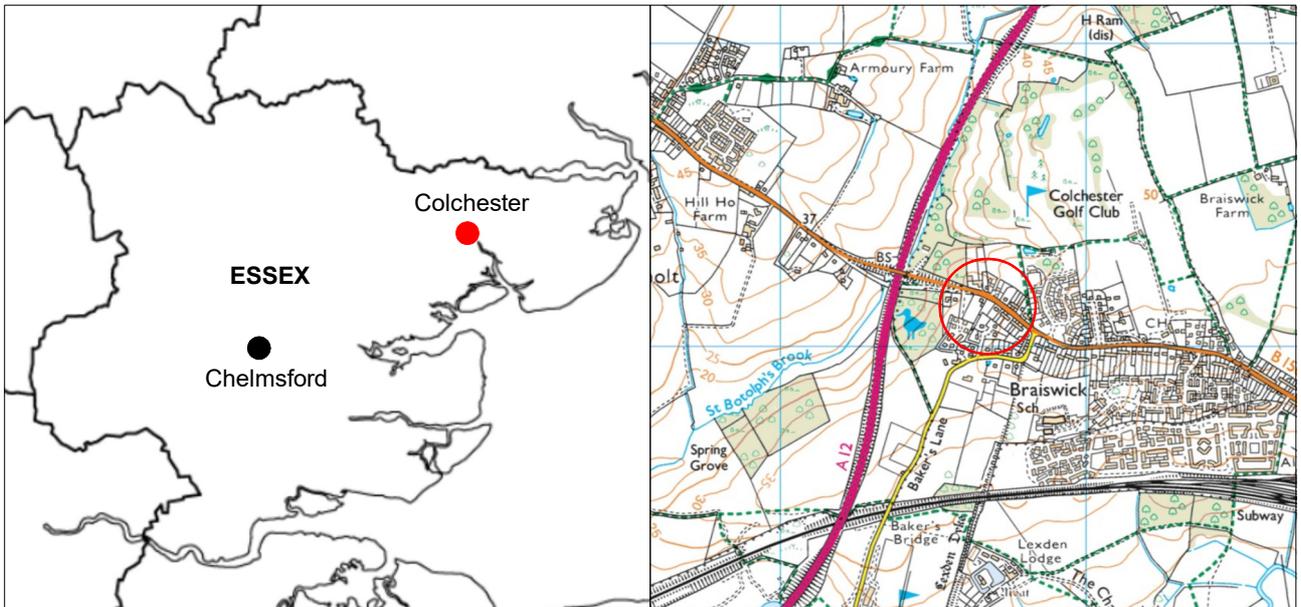
		Colchester by S Wood
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> . Revised Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2021
Crummy, C et al	2007	<i>Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum</i> . <i>Britannia Monograph Series 24</i> .
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	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.
OA Report 2138	2017	<i>Land off Bakers Lane, Braiswick Archaeological Evaluation report</i> . By N Cox

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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines) and arboreal constraints.

● = capped well



Summary for colchest3-508451

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-508451
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5GB
Sitename	land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, CO4 5GB
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/08a
Planning Id	200987
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	22-Aug-2022 - 22-Aug-2022
Location	land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, CO4 5GB NGR : TL 97685 27141 LL : 51.9077166551833, 0.872473424798051 12 Fig : 597685,227141
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches as per the Brief and WSI
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Plot 6 on land adjacent to Hillcroft, 144 Braiswick, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and garage. Located close to a number of cropmarks and to Moat Farm Dyke, archaeological evaluation immediately west of the site in 2020 revealed a medieval/post-medieval pit and modern pit, along with a pit/post-hole and post-hole which could not be dated. However, no archaeological remains were found during the current evaluation.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Z, Eksen, L, Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4745
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;