

An archaeological watching brief at 4 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex

January 2002

**on behalf of
Colchester Borough Council**

CAT project ref.: 02/1a
NGR: TL 9835 2513
Colchester Museum accession code: 2002.3
Planning permission no: F/COL/01/1217
Scheduled Ancient Monument no: 46



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1 Summary

Observations were made during groundworks for an extension to the front of 4 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex. Although the site lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument area of the Sheepen late Iron Age and Roman site, no finds of archaeological significance were found. The foundations were dug through a modern made-up sandy layer.

2 Introduction

- 2.1** This is the report on an archaeological watching brief carried out at 4 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 7th January 2002, on behalf of Colchester Borough Council. The work was necessitated by the construction of a small extension to the front of the property. Planning permission (no F/COL/01/1217) and Scheduled Ancient Monument consent were given with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried out.
- 2.2** The site is located to the west of Colchester town centre just off Lexden Road, on the southern side of Endsleigh Court. It is centred on National Grid Reference TL 9835 2513 (Fig 1). No 4 is a modern property situated on a gentle south-facing slope.
- 2.3** This report follows the standards set out in the Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1999).

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1** The site is located in an area of Roman pottery- and tile-making, as is shown by the numerous kilns found in the area. In 1877, Joslin excavated five Roman kilns just to the north of the site (EHCR 11693). One Roman kiln has also been found at Kingswode Hoe School nearby.
- 3.2** Occasional Roman burials have also been found in this area. A burial in a lead coffin was found at another house on Endsleigh Court, under the porch (EHCR 12530).
- 3.3** The site lies just within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) area of Sheepen, a late Iron Age settlement and industrial centre established by the Trinovantes tribe and maintained in the years after the Roman conquest (SAM no 46). Extensive excavations in the 1930s and smaller-scale work in 1970 and later have produced evidence of workshops engaged in a range of industrial activities including metal-working, enamelling, pottery-making and leather-working in the areas to the west of the site (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985).

4 Aims and objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features, finds or deposits revealed by the groundworks. Particular attention was paid to the possible presence of Roman inhumations and kilns.

5 Methods

- 5.1** The fieldwork was carried out by a professional archaeologist from CAT who made two visits to the site during the excavation of foundations of the 7th January 2002. The size of the area excavated was 1.35m x 4.15m. Foundations were excavated by hand by the contractors to a width of 350mm and a depth of 1.15m.
- 5.2** A record of the position of the site excavations was made which has been reproduced as Figure 2. Soil types were noted. The spoil heap was checked for finds.

6 Results

The foundations were dug partly through a concrete layer and partly through a thin layer of turf and dark brown sandy loam topsoil (50mm deep) which overlay mid-brown changing to a yellowy-orange sandy layer down to 1.1m. This sand is interpreted as being a made-up layer as it was loose and clean, containing only one struck flint. It was probably brought in from elsewhere and deposited here when the house was built. The contractors had to dig through this made-up layer to reach the natural sands which started at 1.1m below ground-level.

The struck flint (weighing 6g) was found approximately 500mm below ground-level in the sandy layer. It is probably a waste flake. No archaeological features were exposed.

7 Discussion

The watching brief produced negative results. There was no sign of human remains, kilns or any archaeological features. This is due to the previous removal of potential archaeological layers and not necessarily because of a lack of archaeological activity on the site.

8 Archive deposition

A copy of this report will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museum under accession code 2002.3.

9 Acknowledgements

The Colchester Archaeological Trust is grateful to the following for their help and co-operation:

Mr and Mrs Lambeth, the owners of the property
Hemstead Builders
Deborah Priddy - English Heritage Inspector
Martin Winter - Archaeological Officer for Colchester Borough Council

10 References

Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R, 1947

Camulodunum: first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39, RRCSAL, **14**

Niblett, R, 1985

Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum, CBA Research Report, **57**

Kate Orr, January 2002

Distribution list:

Martin Winter, Colchester Borough Council
Deborah Priddy, English Heritage
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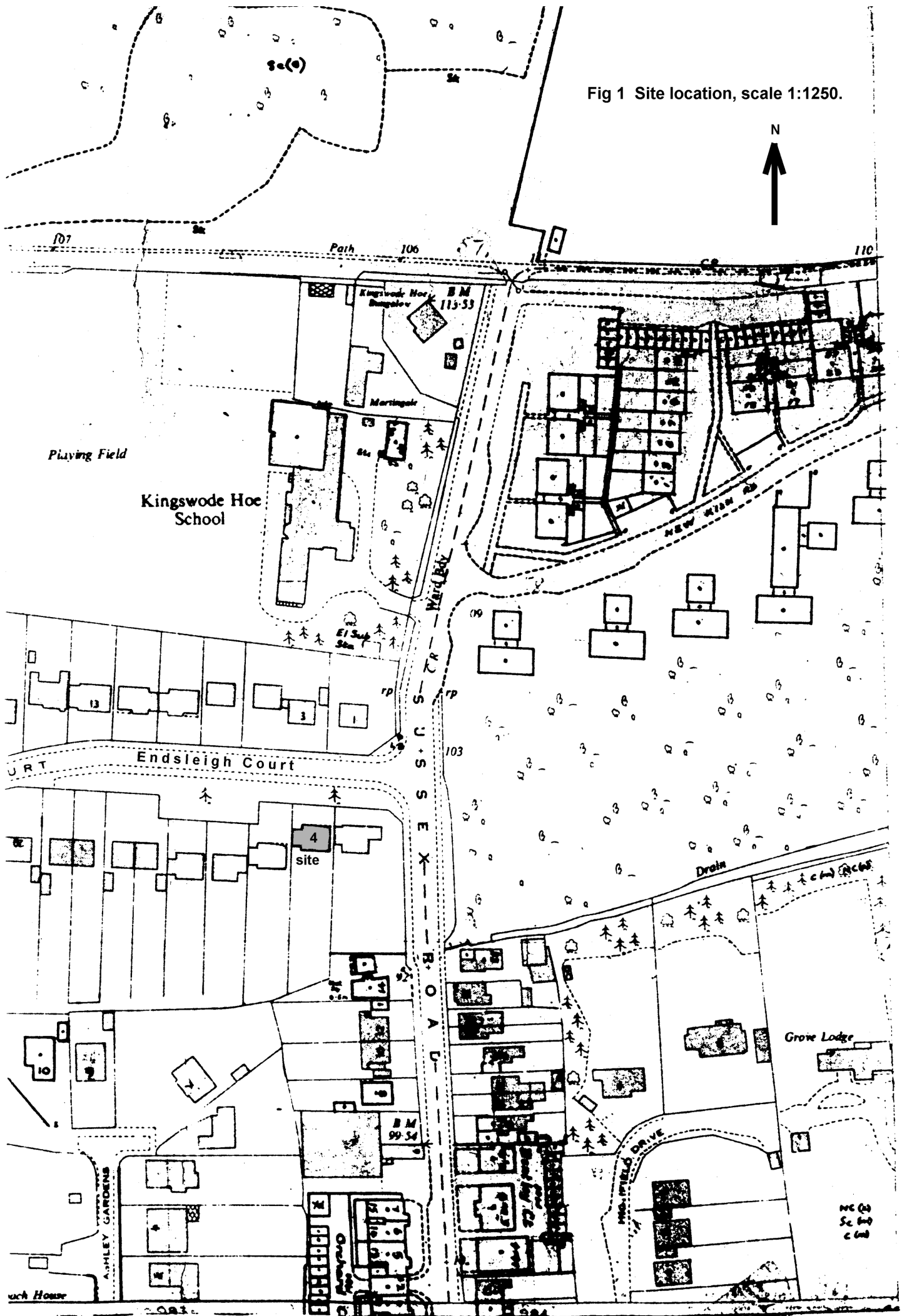
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Fig 1 Site location, scale 1:1250.



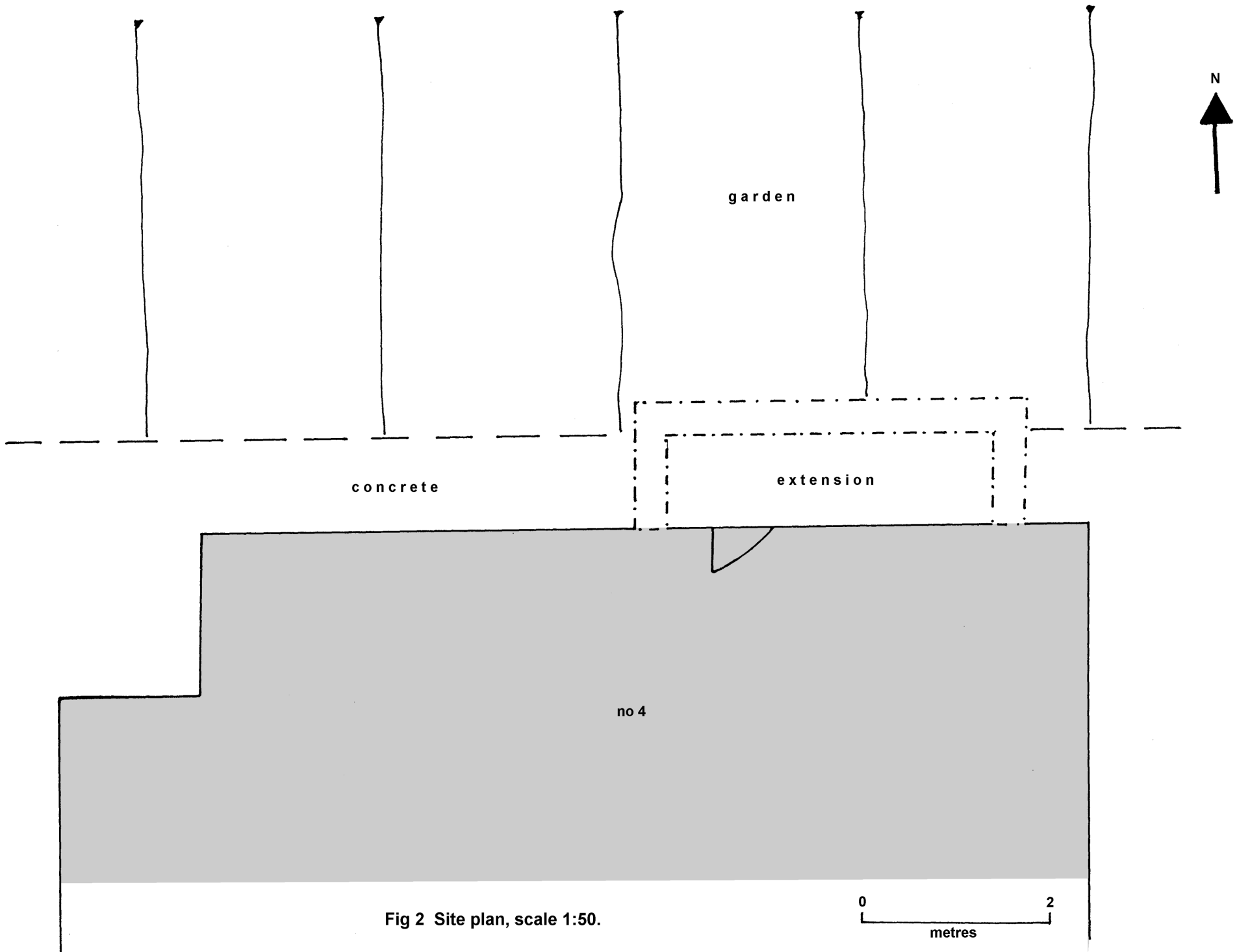


Fig 2 Site plan, scale 1:50.

0 2
metres

Essex Heritage Conservation Record

Summary sheet

Site name/address: 4 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 9835 2513	Site code: 2002.3
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: January 2002	Size of area investigated: 1.35m x 4.15m
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHCR nos: 12530 & 11693
Final report: CAT Report 169 and summary in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i>	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Observations were made during groundworks for an extension to the front of 4 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex. Although the site lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument area of the Sheepen late Iron Age and Roman site, no finds of archaeological significance were found. The foundations were dug through a modern made-up sandy layer.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 140	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: January 2002